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# Sexual and Reproductive Health, Pleasure, and Justice for Women with HIV

*Let's Talk About Sex!*

*The National Reproductive Justice Conference*

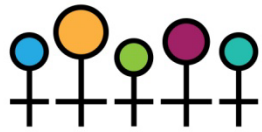
August 26, 2022

*Together, we can change the course of the HIV epidemic...one woman at a time.*

#onewomanatatime

<https://bit.ly/3yy00f5>  
www.thewellproject.org

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# Agenda

- Introductions
- “New Basics of HIV” icebreaker
- Sexual and reproductive lives and HIV
  - Changing the research agenda
  - Reframing approaches
- Storytelling
- Discussion
- Closing



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# The Well Project Ensures That Women Living With HIV Thrive

The Well Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to change the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a unique and comprehensive focus on women and girls. We do this by:

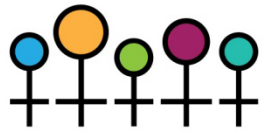
- Building **health literacy**
- Fostering a **global network and support community**
- Building **capacity and leadership** among women living with HIV
- Advancing **research and policy** on women and HIV
- Developing **partnerships** to advance **common goals**

The Well Project reaches almost **4 million** users annually through [www.thewellproject.org](http://www.thewellproject.org) and online platforms



## Special areas of focus

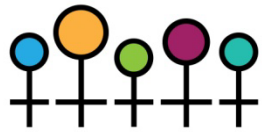
- Breast/chestfeeding and HIV (education, research, policy advancement among community and HCPs)
- Integration of HIV into sexual and reproductive health for women living with and vulnerable to HIV
- Women long-term survivors/aging, including a specific focus on those who acquired HIV at birth



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# Introductions

- Name and pronouns
- Where are you from?
- What is your proximity to HIV, or the relevance of HIV in your life/work?  
(only to the extent that you feel comfortable sharing)



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# Sexual/Reproductive Experience and HIV

- Sexual and reproductive health remains disconnected from HIV prevention, care, research, and policy
- Contributed to failures in reaching and serving clients, supporting their best possible quality of life
- Siloed from other SRHRJ issues such as abortion access, criminalization of oppressed bodies, fertility
- Relevance, resonance, potential shared lessons



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# Women's Research

## Initiative on HIV/AIDS 2021

Highlights from the meeting include:

- **Research and policy around this topic must recognize historical context**, including abuse of Black women and other people of color by medical establishment
- Appropriate, relevant, and holistic sexual and reproductive healthcare for women living with and vulnerable to HIV **must acknowledge and address women's lives in all of their complexities**, including race, socioeconomics, gender identity, motherhood/care provision, geography, etc.



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# Women's Research

## Initiative on HIV/AIDS 2021

- **Metrics of treatment success must center the well-being of women living with HIV across the gender spectrum**, including their sexual health and pleasure
- HIV prevention efforts require an **urgent reframing of the language of "risk" around vulnerability to HIV**
  - Shifting to a framework that prioritizes resilience and strength
  - Discuss HIV relevance, reasons for HIV prevention



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# SHE/HER/THEY

(Sexual Health Education/HIV Empowerment  
Resources/Treating HIV Equally)

- Decrease stigma and desegregate HIV from other women's healthcare
- Center the lives and experiences of the women most impacted by the HIV epidemic (Black women, Latinas, women of trans experience) across all aspects of our programming from development to dissemination
- Integrating sexual and reproductive health, including sex positivity, educational programming for women living with HIV
- Reframing the discussion of "risk" and focusing on the interconnected manifestations of HIV relevance and vulnerability in women's lives to better help women address whether HIV prevention modalities are appropriate for them





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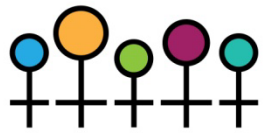
# SHE/HER/THEY

(Sexual Health Education/HIV Empowerment Resources/Treating HIV Equally)

- Develop and disseminate educational tools promoting a whole-woman approach that includes sexual and reproductive health/wellness and sex positivity throughout HIV care and prevention programming
- Expand leadership development opportunities for women living with HIV
- Create resources to increase cultural humility for providers, in order to improve communications with women living with and vulnerable to HIV and break down barriers that impact testing, treatment, and quality of engagement in care

**SHE/HER/THEY**

SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION / HIV EMPOWERMENT RESOURCES / TREATING HIV EQUALLY



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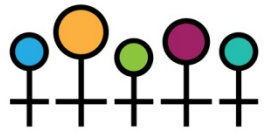
# Storytelling Circle

*Together, we can change the course of the HIV epidemic...one woman at a time.*

#onewomanatotime

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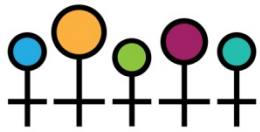
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# Storytelling Questions ...

- Where do Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, Pleasure, and Justice come into your own story? Into your work?
- What is the impact that you hope to see in your communities/in the wider world as a result of integrating SRHRPJ into HIV care and prevention?



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# Thank You!

- **Kim Canady**, Community Advisory Board
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- **Olivia G. Ford**, Editorial Director
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