

GOVERNMENT DISAPPEARING ACT

Where are Women Living with AIDS and HIV on the Government Agenda?

INVISIBLE NO LONGER!

JOIN AIDS ACTION NOW! AND OUR FRIENDS ON WORLD AIDS DAY, SATURDAY DECEMBER 1st AT 1:00 p.m. AT THE 519 CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR A RALLY WITH SPEAKERS AND A MARCH TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICES AT BAY AND WELLESLEY.

Women Living with AIDS and HIV Demand:

- **Equal Access to Treatments for HIV and AIDS:** We know little about how treatments for AIDS and HIV affect women's bodies. More treatments are needed for symptoms specific to women living with HIV and AIDS. Women and men are forced into drug trials in order to receive treatment. Women continue to receive diagnosis and treatment for HIV illnesses later than men. Women diagnosed with AIDS live a shorter time than similarly diagnosed men. Equal access to treatment is a particular concern of immigrant women, native women and women of colour.
- **No Restrictions on Our Reproductive Choices:** HIV+ women are denied access to abortions in some areas. Our access to clinical trials is often blocked by our "reproductive potential". We need better information about pregnancy and HIV, so that we can make informed decisions. We need services that support us in any decision that we make about reproduction.
- **No Exclusion From Clinical Trials:** HIV+ women are excluded from clinical trials, often our only way of getting treatment, because of our "reproductive potential". We may be forced to use birth control methods, we may be sterilized or forced to take pregnancy tests as conditions of entering drug trials.
- **Equal Access to Community-based Support Programs:** Where are the support programs in our communities which recognise the specific issues of women living with AIDS and HIV in health care, housing, home services, day care, coping with addictions, etc.?
- **Equal Access To Anonymous Testing and Comprehensive Counselling:** Women, especially lesbians, are discouraged from testing because we are told that we are not at risk for HIV. We know that early intervention prolongs the lives of HIV+ women. Women still do not know why to ask for anonymous testing, where to get it, where to get good counselling. They are unprepared for a positive HIV test.
- **No Harassment of Sex Trade Workers:** Sex trade workers are safe sex pros but they are scapegoated as "vectors of infection" and harassed by police for carrying condoms.

LE GROUPE D'ACTION-SIDA

AIDS ACTION NOW!

