

# AIDS DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE- OUR GOVERNMENT DOES!

The HHS and the FDA must be held accountable for the exclusion of women and people of color from access to treatment and drug protocols.

## FACTS/REALITY:

- ▲ People of color account for only 17% of the total enrollment in 29 active protocols, while 54% of all PWAs are people of color, according to the CDC.
- ▲ The CDC has no transmission categories for lesbians or bisexual women with AIDS, making these women's lives invisible.
- ▲ Women are excluded from AIDS drug trials simply on the basis of sex, or are forced to be sterilized in order to receive drugs while men are not.
- ▲ When women and people of color can get into trials, they are often forced into placebo trials, historically often the only source of care for poor people.
- ▲ Women's deaths from pneumonia in many urban areas have increased as much as 100% while this and other potential AIDS connections are ignored.
- ▲ Drug protocols require potential participants to have a primary physician, effectively disqualifying women and people of color who can't afford one.
- ▲ The FDA still supports the enrollment of babies, mostly children of color, in painful, dangerous and prolonged placebo trials. IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin) placebo trials expose babies to opportunistic infections, hastening their deaths. The FDA will soon approve another placebo trial for children.
- ▲ As the AIDS crisis changes, cases of women infected with HIV are increasing; at the same time, women continue to die sooner after diagnosis than the average man with AIDS.
- ▲ HHS-funded AIDS research almost completely ignores any co-factors in AIDS other than HIV. Risk factors that especially affect poor people and people of color—such as the skyrocketing syphilis and tuberculosis epidemics in inner cities, nutritional aspects, and the full range of drug use (not just IV-drugs)—are barely studied.
- ▲ The FDA is responsible for every drug trial's Institutional Review Board (IRB). These IRBs are usually made up of professionals, thus closing off access to groups who are working in affected communities, and self-help groups of women, people of color, and PWAs. People who are affected by AIDS have a right to be part of determining drug protocols and trial participants.
- ▲ Prisoners deserve access to treatment, and for full informed consent to experimental drugs. Of New York state prison deaths last year, 2 out of 3 were AIDS-related. The survival time for prisoners is only half as long as for those in the same demographic categories (like IV drug users) outside.

**IT'S NOT JUST A VIRUS THAT'S KILLING US!!**

**FDA = INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM & SEXISM  
IN THE AIDS CRISIS.**

**SILENCE=DEATH**

**ACT UP/NY WOMEN'S CAUCUS & MAJORITY ACTION COMMITTEE**

We recognize that every AIDS death is an act of racist, sexist and homophobic violence!