

UN Commission on the Status of Women

****Save the Date: Parallel Event****

THE EQUAL SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, INCLUDING CARE-GIVING IN THE CONTEXT OF HIV/AIDS

When: 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 4 March 2009

Where: Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, United Nations Headquarters (NYC)

We would like to invite you to join us for a panel discussion on care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Women and girls have seen their household and community burdens grow as a result of HIV and AIDS in effect compromising their health, their ability to generate income, their chance to get an education, their leisure time and other markers of well-being.¹ The inability of health systems to care for people living with HIV and AIDS has led many governments to rely on home-based care to fill the gap, provided mostly by women – older and younger-- and girls.

The panel will discuss:

- key issues, strategies and entry points for those on the front-line of care-giving, such as caregivers themselves or their networks, to fully engage as key participants in the formation of the national response and the decision-making processes that affect them;
- efforts taken to change deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men within the family and society at large in providing care; and
- innovative mechanisms established to reduce women's disproportionate burden of care in the context of HIV/AIDS, emphasizing different forms of support for caregivers as well as national strategies that seek to institute a broad response, with specific attention to the provision of basic social services through health care and other services.

Organizers: The Permanent Mission of Estonia to the UN and UNIFEM

Co-Sponsoring organizations: CIRDDOC(Nigeria) CORDAID (Netherlands), Gender Links/GEMSA, GROOTS International, HelpAge International, Huairou Commission, ILO International Women's Health Coalition, Sonke Gender Justice, UNAIDS/Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, VSO International, World YWCA

¹ UNAIDS, Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2008, page 169.