In This Issue

- From the President: New Year, New Opportunities
- The Female Condom is Back!
- Supreme Court to Hear Case on PEPFAR and Sex Work: Why it Matters
- Institute of Medicine: PEPFAR Still ‘ad hoc’ on Gender
- CHANGE and the Global Health Initiative in Guatemala
- CHANGE in the Media: Searching for the Soul of Politics 40 Years After Roe

From the President: New Year, New Opportunities

Dear Supporter,

We’re happy to unveil a new look for our newsletter this month! Now that we’re a month into President Obama’s new administration, we’re committed to making 2013 a year of opportunity. This administration has already given us a ground-breaking array of policies that address gender inequality globally, and we plan to leverage these new tools to make meaningful changes for women and girls worldwide.

Here’s to a new year full of new opportunities—thank you as always for your support.

Serra Sippel

Donate Today

Even a small contribution can change lives.

Serra Sippel
President, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
The Female Condom is Back!

Check out and share our new infographic!

Studies found that female condoms, when programmed alongside male condoms, increase the number of protected sex acts. A female condom program in Washington, D.C., prevented enough infections in its first year to save more than $8 million in future medical costs. Female condoms give women something they may have never had before — a woman-initiated tool to protect their health.


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PEPFAR and Sex Work: Supreme Court to Hear Case—Why it Matters

The Supreme Court announced last month it will hear a case that will decide the basic rights of groups fighting HIV/AIDS. The case centers around the anti-prostitution loyalty oath, the same policy that in 2005 prompted Brazil to reject $40 million in U.S. HIV funding because of its potential to damage effective HIV prevention and treatment programs. Read CHANGE’s media brief

Institute of Medicine: PEPFAR Still 'ad hoc' on Gender

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is still taking an “ad hoc” approach to gender, according to an evaluation of the initiative released today by the Institute of Medicine. The 700-page report, commissioned by Congress in 2008, also noted that a shift away from abstinence-focused prevention programs has benefitted PEPFAR overall; though concerns about the impact of other policy restrictions remain. Read more
CHANGE and the Global Health Initiative in Guatemala

In Guatemala, more than 3,000 girls ages 10 – 14 became mothers in 2011 alone. To address this staggering health risk, CHANGE is working with civil society organizations in Guatemala to spark stakeholder commitments on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Armed with the U.S. Global Health Initiative supplemental guidance on women and girls and the recently released USAID youth health policy, CHANGE hopes to create greater understanding and partnerships to advance adolescent SRHR. In a recent visit to Guatemala, CHANGE Vice President Mary Beth Hastings found widespread support for greater collaboration between civil society, the Guatemalan government, USAID and other donors to develop a common agenda for adolescent SRHR. Over the coming months, CHANGE partners in Guatemala will mobilize adolescents and youth from diverse regions to ensure their voices are central to the discussion.