
Preface

In November 1999, during a Commonwealth GMS and Health Sector Workshop hosted by Health Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, the idea for a co-publication on Gender Mainstreaming in HIV/AIDS first emerged. We are extremely grateful for the funding support and commitment of the Women's Health Bureau, Health Canada, throughout the co-publication's development.

In July 2000, the project was further expanded to include the concept of a 'transformative' International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS. When it comes on stream in 2003, the training institute – to be co-hosted by the Maritime (Atlantic) Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre) and the Commonwealth Secretariat – will provide comprehensive gender training in HIV/AIDS for Commonwealth country middle-level managers and 'change agents'. The Institute will enable participants from government, voluntary and clinical sectors to design and deliver gender-sensitive approaches to national HIV/AIDS policy in the campaign against the pandemic. This co-publication is intended to serve as the 'jewel in the crown' – the first in a series of core curriculum reference materials for the Institute.

To assess the feasibility of the Institute, an International Design Workshop on Gender and HIV/AIDS was convened in Halifax, Canada by the project partners, 16–18 January 2002. We are very grateful to the Women's Health Bureau and International Affairs Directorate, Health Canada; the International Development Research Agency (IDRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for their generous contributions to this initiative. Thirty-one participants from 10 countries participated in the workshop and endorsed the concept of an international training institute. These participants also pledged their personal commitment to advance the International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS from concept to reality.

We are also most grateful to Nancy Spence, Director of the Gender and Youth Affairs Division of the Commonwealth

Secretariat, and to Dr Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen, GMS Series Co-ordinator, for their personal commitment, leadership and support for this co-publication and the training initiative. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the Commonwealth Secretariat, IDRC, the CIHR and to Health Canada's International Affairs Directorate and Women's Health Bureau for the opportunity to participate in the global HIV/AIDS campaign through this co-publication and the International Design Workshop on Gender and HIV/AIDS. We are also grateful to the Canadian authors, peer review group and editorial team for their time, dedication and commitment in preparing this co-publication. Special thanks to Tina Johnson, Contributing Editor, for her contributions, synthesis and patient editing of the final version.

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