



Plenary Speaker Bios

Zonibel WOODS (Canada)

Investing in Gender Equality: Why Women and Girls Matter in the AIDS Response

Born in El Salvador, Zonibel Woods is a feminist advocate with over 18 years of experience in the women's movement. She has extensive and diverse expertise with women's organizations and has worked on issues related to youth, human rights, sexual rights, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. She has worked as an advocate for women's rights in many intergovernmental processes. From 1993 to 1995 Ms. Woods served as the youth coordinator for the NGO Forum for the UN Fourth World Conference in Beijing. In 1997, she was profiled by *Ms. Magazine* in "21 for the 21st: Leaders for the Next Century". In 2005, as the Senior Advisor for the International Women's Health Coalition, Ms. Woods launched and coordinated an initiative aimed at focusing global attention to the increasing feminization of the AIDS epidemic. Since then she has worked tirelessly to make gender equality and women's empowerment an explicit part of the global HIV response. She is currently a member of the nongovernmental organization delegation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board.