

The New School Practicum in International Affairs
Terms of Reference

Client: ATHENA NETWORK

Client contact: E. Tyler Crone

New School Consultant Team Member: Marzena Szewczyk

New School Faculty Supervisor: Mark Johnson

Date: March 8th, 2007

I. Background:

As gender inequity fuels HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS fuels gender inequity, it is imperative that women and girls speak out, set priorities for action, and lead the global response to the crisis. The Athena Network is initiating a civil society process to prepare for the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in 2008. The Athena Network will undertake initiatives to promote the leadership of women living with HIV and AIDS; facilitate regional coalition building around gender, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS; raise the visibility of regional priorities; create vehicles for the central participation of community-based women leaders; and, build a robust, coordinated gender, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS presence at AIDS 2008.

II. The Project's Goals

In order to prepare for International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in 2008, the main goal of this project is to build regional coalition of key Latin American stakeholders and women leaders from Mexico City working in the field of HIV and AIDS through Internet research, meetings and in-depth interviews during the Commission on the Status of Women.

III. Objectives:

To obtain knowledge about Athena's work and involvement in the process of preparation for Mexico City

To prepare a coalition of key regional stakeholders (organizations and individuals) and of key regional initiatives around women and HIV in Latin America, which will be compiled in the form of data base.

To produce a list of interview questions approved by the client as well as a list of interviewees approved by the client

To prepare analysis and assessment of regional priorities through in-depth interviews

IV. Methodology:

In order to achieve these objectives, I will employ the following activities:

- a) I will do a preliminary literature review of the connection between women's rights and HIV/AIDS

- b) During week 2/5 to 2/19, I will prepare a list of interview questions for the potential interviewees
- c) I will participate in all the email exchange on preparation for Mexico City from week 2/12 until April
- d) During the Commission of the Status of Women, week 2/26 to 3/9, I will take part in meetings regarding Latin America and HIV and Aids.
- e) During the CSW, I will conduct the interviews with the Latin American activists during on site visits
- f) During the week 3/5, I will meet with the client (E. Tyler Crone) to discuss the all the findings and talk about further progress of the project
- g) Between weeks 3/19 and 4/09, I will conduct online and phone interviews with Latin American activists who did not participate in the CSW event.
- h) Between weeks 3/19 and 4/16, I will prepare a list of key Latin American stakeholders and women leaders from Mexico City and Latin America. I will also prepare in-depth analysis of stakeholders' activities based on the interviews.
- i) Between weeks 3/19 and 4/16, I will do in-depth Internet research on Latin American women's organizations and networks working in the field of HIV and AIDS.

V. Deliverables:

The final deliverable for Mexico City will be a nascent coalition of key Latin American stakeholders and women leaders from Mexico City working in the field of HIV and AIDS compiled in the form of a data base; a compilation of all field research including research notes and interviews conducted; and a framework for building toward AIDS 2008 in Mexico City.

VI. Signature: