

**POSITIVELY WOMEN**

positive women . . . reclaiming the future

# Engaging with Research from a Community Perspective

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## Positively Women

**Support for women & families living with  
HIV by women living with HIV**

- Multiple medical and social research requests focusing on HIV positive women in the UK
- Targeting women from Africa in particular

Possible difficulties:

*a small population being over-researched  
a drain on Positively Women's resources.  
exploitation of the participants.*

## Why women ?

**Women are not very visible in:**

- **Social Research**
- **Treatment research**
- **Policy setting**

## Why involve HIV positive women in research?

- In some African communities, twice as many women diagnosed with HIV, why?
- HIV disproportionately affects women
- Nature of women's bodies
- Social and economic inequalities
- Inability to negotiate safer sex
- Effect of ARTs on women

## PW's Responsibilities

Positively Women endorses research that is:

- Sensitive to the needs and feelings of the participants
- Accounts for confidentiality
- Participation is voluntary and has full and explicit consent
- Results in direct improvements in the opportunities of the participants
- PW has the staff capacity to undertake such collaboration

## **PW does not promote**

- Research for individual higher degree purposes
- Interviews taking place at interviewee's homes
- Approaching individuals

## **PW will always ask for**

- Participants to be given a fee and childcare costs

## Working together

**If PW agrees to collaborate, assistance is given with:**

- Advertising the research
- Discussing the project with possible participants
- Making premises available for research interviews
- Giving researchers presentation time at group meetings

## PW promotes research participation by:

- Promoting the benefits of research

*Services*

*Treatment*

*Resources*

*Reduced stigma*

- Participating role models
- Confidence building programmes

## Research PW has been involved in

- **My heart is loaded. J.Anderson. 2003**
- **SHIBAH Research Project. M.Chinouya, W. Sseruma, A Kwok. 2003**
- **Project NASAH. Sigma Research. 2003**
- **‘This is my home now’. J Sutherland.2003**
- **Antenatal testing issues for asylum seekers in the UK. C Pellow, THT. 2002**
- **The MAYISHA study. K Fenton, M Chinouya, O Davies, A Copas. 2002**
- **What do you need ? Sigma Research. 2002**
- **Proceeding with care. Sigma Research. 2000**
- **Piloting research questionnaires**