

## **NEWS LETTER**

**SALVAGE** supports the Civil Society Declaration and presents 6 non-negotiable to achieve points 1.5 Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and 1.6 Ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV, before, during and after pregnancy.

**Women are members of key populations. Salvage's feminism is an inter sectional and inclusive to all self- identifying women and children who use drugs in Tanzania.**

1. Urgently Invest in Gendered Research & Gender Dis aggregated Data: SALVAGE calls on governments to increase investment in research and dis aggregated data collection that accurately reflects the real situation of women living with HIV in all our diversity -if we don't measure it - we can't act on it! Requiring gender dis-aggregated data and gender analysis can ensure that policy and practice are always evidence-based and promote gender equity.
2. Respect Protect and Fulfil Women's Human Rights: SALVAGE calls on governments to take urgent action to ensure women's rights to bodily integrity, autonomy and violence-free, respectful health care including sexual, reproductive, and maternal health care; end discriminatory policies that discourage or criminalize breastfeeding and/or disproportionately criminalize women living with HIV, sex workers, women who use drugs and migrant women and their loved ones; and acknowledge and immediately end the practices of forced and coerced sterilization, contraception and abortion.
3. Scale-up Efforts to Achieve Gender Equality & Equity in the HIV Response: SALVAGE calls on governments to recognize that gender equality has been a secondary consideration across the HIV response for too long; to take action to support women's leadership; to scale-up community-led monitoring efforts; and, to ensure meaningful participation of women's networks and organizations in decision-making spaces at national, regional and global levels!
4. Advance Woman-Centered Approaches: SALVAGE calls on Tanzanian and African leaders to respond to women's needs along our life span - girls and adolescents, women in their reproductive years and pre and post-menopausal women - and to recognize the special challenges of women in key populations and other groups of vulnerable women! Programs must be tailored to focus on the needs of women including and BEYOND prevention of vertical transmission, services must extend to mental health, aging, cancer, co-morbidity and violence prevention and supporting survivors of violence. Tailoring interventions to the most vulnerable women's needs will ensure that strategies are successful!
5. Promote and Invest in Women-led, Community-Led Responses: The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed our collective reliance on the often unpaid or underpaid labor of women, including within the HIV response! We call on governments to ensure women's organizations are capacitated, supported & prioritized to lead community responses to HIV.
6. Urgently invest in SRHR for all: Prioritize and amplify comprehensive sexuality education curricula and acknowledge all sexual and reproductive health and rights inclusive of safe and legal abortion for all women living with HIV. Reform age of consent laws that deprive young women of access to SRHR care and invest in youth friendly services that confront outdated and harmful gender norms about promiscuity and girl's value.

[SALVAE is here to make sure the women and youth girls voices are well heard.](#)

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