

*Invitation to the Launch of*  
**The AIDS Accountability Scorecard on Women**

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*Are governments keeping their promises?*

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to the launch of the *AIDS Accountability Scorecard on Women*, on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2009. The presentation of the new rating initiative will feature prominent speakers within the fields of HIV/AIDS and gender:

**Mr. Joakim Stymne**, State Secretary to the Minister of International Development Cooperation;

**Ms. Maud Edgren-Schori**, President, UNIFEM Sweden;

**Ms. Åsa Regner**, Secretary General, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU);

**Mrs. Ophelia Haanyama Ørum**, Senior Advisor, Noak's Ark Foundation

**Professor Lars O. Kallings**, Former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and founding Chairman AAI;

**Dr. Per Strand**, Scientific Director, AIDS Accountability International.

**Venue:** Kungliga Biblioteket, Humlegården, Hörsalen

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 9.00-11.00am

Coffee & Tea served from 8:30am

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#### Background

More than twenty-five years into the global AIDS pandemic, gender inequality and unequal power relations between women and men are still major obstacles for an effective HIV/AIDS response. Significant international commitments, as well as national policies and programmes have over the years emphasized a critical need to strengthen the gender dimension of the global response, in order to better address the needs of women and girls. But what have countries and governments actually done so far?

#### The AIDS Accountability Scorecard on Women

AIDS Accountability International has the ambition to generate evidence-based research that can empower key stakeholders at local, national and global levels to effectively hold political leaders accountable for unfulfilled commitments in the response to HIV/AIDS.

**The AIDS Accountability Scorecard on Women** analyses to what degree countries are fulfilling the commitments they have made in the *2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS*, to respond effectively to women in the context of HIV/AIDS. The Scorecard has been developed through an advisory process in collaboration with globally acknowledged experts from civil society, UN agencies, and recognized research and public health institutions. A similar scorecard on sexual diversity will be launched in 2010.

We sincerely hope you will consider this invitation. Please confirm your participation by email at [wad2009@aidsaccountability.org](mailto:wad2009@aidsaccountability.org) or by phone to Anita Krug at 08-700 4614 at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Rodrigo Garay,  
Executive Director  
AIDS Accountability International



Dr. Gustaaf Wolvaardt  
Acting Chairman  
AIDS Accountability International

# AIDS Accountability International

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## Our Approach

AIDS Accountability International (AAI) is an independent non-profit organization established to increase accountability and inspire bolder leadership in the response to HIV/AIDS. We do so by rating and comparing the degree to which governments are fulfilling the formal agreements they have made to respond to the epidemic. Through these means, AAI strives to encourage those who are delivering on their commitments, put pressure on those who are under-performing and stimulate a constructive debate on what can be learned from different approaches.

AAI's work has been made possible by unrestricted grants from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Sida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the Ford Foundation.

### *Why is greater accountability and leadership needed?*

One of the most significant obstacles to responding effectively to the AIDS epidemic is inadequate accountability and leadership. While political commitments, human and financial resources are all essential to support implementation efforts, they do not themselves guarantee results. In order to achieve more rapid progress in the global response to HIV/AIDS, key stakeholders must be held accountable for their promises and performance and leaders must be both pressured and inspired to prioritize an appropriate response.

### *How can ratings and scorecards make a difference?*

Rating instruments have proven to be powerful tools for ensuring accountability and advancing knowledge of good and bad practice. For instance, aid flows are influenced by the Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme and Transparency International's Corruptions Perception Index has an impact on levels of public and private investment in countries.

The AIDS Accountability Country Scorecard was launched in December 2008 after a two year comprehensive consultative process involving global experts in the fields of monitoring and evaluation of public health and development, of policy ratings, as well as civil society representatives from across the world. The Country Scorecard is the first independent global rating of country performance in the response to HIV/AIDS. It presents UN data on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in a uniquely analytical, detailed and transparent fashion that is easy to use.

For more information on our rating initiatives please visit: [www.aidsaccountability.org](http://www.aidsaccountability.org)



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