



Presentation of the *Young Investigator Prize for Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS*

Geeta Rao Gupta

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

Washington, D.C.

Aug. 14, 2006

**XVI International AIDS Conference
Toronto**

On behalf of the International Center of Research on Women I am honored to present the *Young Investigator Prize for Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS* to Penelope Campbell of Jamaica.

The prize recognizes a young woman investigator from a resource limited setting whose work demonstrates excellence in research and/or in practice to address gender related issues and the special vulnerabilities of women and girls in the AIDS epidemic.

Ms. Campbell, working with UNICEF in Jamaica, has successfully planned and implemented HIV prevention programs targeting high risk behavior among key groups, including at-risk adolescents and sex workers. She has developed prevention services, including drop in center for sex workers and youth information centers and youth friendly spaces for adolescents to access information, services and skills-based counseling.

ICRW sponsored the prize to highlight the need for women to play a central role in developing an understanding of this epidemic – an epidemic in which women are now at the center of the vortex – attaining equality in illness and death – an equality that was denied to them in life. Penelope epitomizes the hard work, commitment and skill that thousands of women researchers demonstrate in order to shed some light on ways to reduce women's vulnerability in this epidemic.