

# The Canadian Webinar Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women Living with HIV

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## Background

In February 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the **Global Consolidated Guideline on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Women Living with HIV<sup>1</sup> (WLWH)**, which:

- ❖ Outlines evidence-based recommendations and best practice statements to uphold human rights and promote gender equality;
- ❖ Centres the values and perspectives of WLWH for the first time;
- ❖ Emphasizes the influence of constraining and enabling social environments on SRHR;
- ❖ Provides guidance for countries to implement quality services for advancing SRHR of WLWH.

## Methods

As a Canadian response to the Consolidated Guideline, the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS) partnered with the WHO and five leading Canadian HIV and women organizations to design & deliver a four-part webinar series.

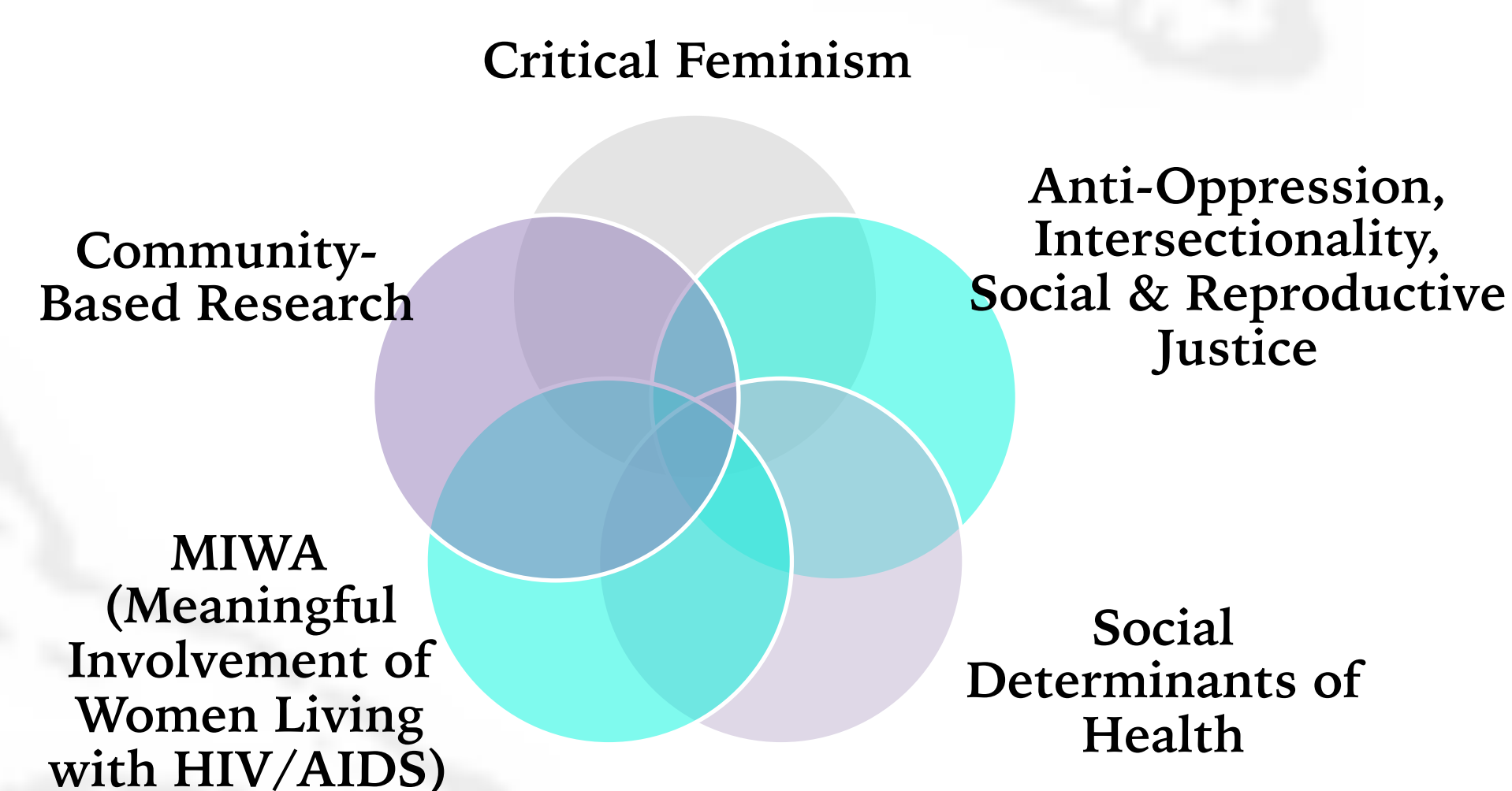
The webinar series explored the intersecting social positions and structural inequities that influence women's experiences of SRHR in Canada. Webinar discussions aimed to centre the voices, perspectives, and priorities of WLWH.

Learning objectives for the webinar series included:

- ❖ Define **constraining and enabling environments** that shape WLWH's SRHR;
- ❖ Present key **Canadian research findings**;
- ❖ Disseminate **Canadian best practices in implementation** for addressing SRHR;
- ❖ Showcase the importance of community-academic partnerships and a commitment to the **Meaningful Involvement of Women living with HIV (MIWA principle)** in practice;
- ❖ Offer recommendations for a **national action plan** to advance SRHR for WLWH.

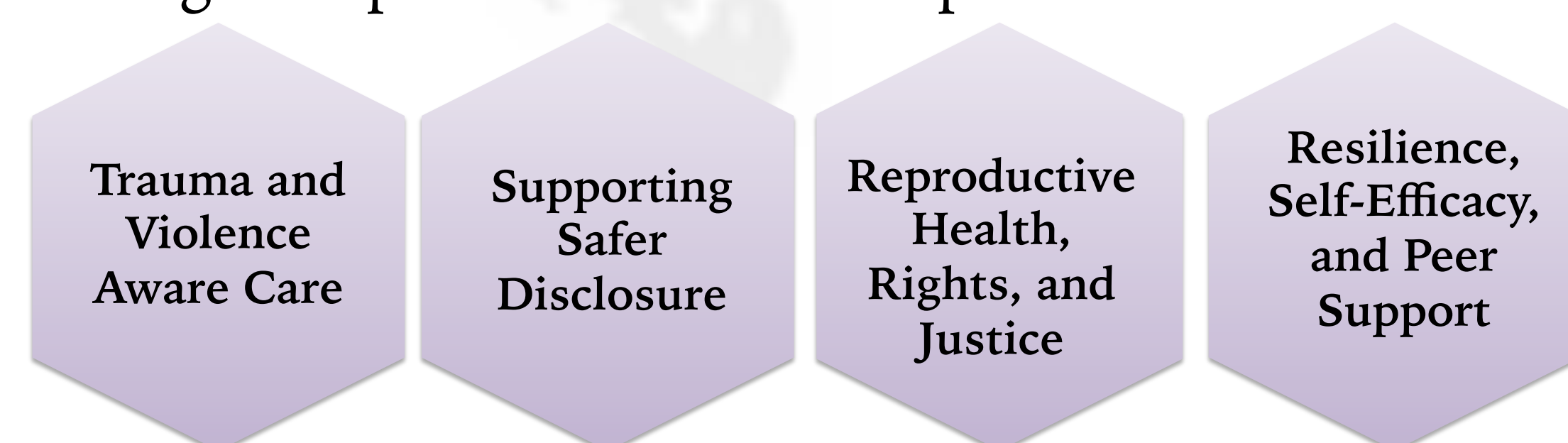
We collaborated with the Implementing Best Practice (IBP) initiative to advertise the webinar series to a large national and international stakeholder audience, through email, partner websites, and social media.

**Figure 1.** Guiding principles of the Canadian Webinar Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women Living with HIV



## Results

❖ Between October 2017 and March 2018, we hosted four **inter-disciplinary bimonthly webinars** on the following four prioritized SRHR topics:



## Results (continued)

Each webinar adhered to a similar structure, including:



The webinar series featured **24 presenters from across Canada**, including WLWH, representatives from AIDS Service Organizations, frontline health and social care providers, clinicians, and researchers.

**Attendees included a national and international audience** of WLWH, academic, community, practitioner, government, and funder stakeholders from **62 countries**.

**Key priorities** emerging from presentations and discussions were captured to inform a national action plan to advance the SRHR of WLWH, including:

- ❖ Address the social realities of inequity and how it shapes the opportunity of 'choice';
- ❖ Foster enabling environments by creating opportunities for peer support & leadership;
- ❖ Implement and integrate trauma and violence aware care within all levels of intervention.

Webinars were recorded and are publicly available online at the WHO HRP Library and the IBP Initiative Library. Links to all four webinar recordings and other webinar materials can be found at: [www.chiwos.ca](http://www.chiwos.ca).

**Table 1.** Global participation on the Canadian webinar series on SRHR of women living with HIV (September 2017-March 2018)

Webinar	Registrants	Attendees	Total Views*
Trauma and Violence Aware Care	209	106	514
Supporting Safer HIV Disclosure	190	76	169
Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice	170	79	291
Resilience, Self-Efficacy, and Peer Support	256	100	182
<b>TOTAL across the webinar series</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1,156</b>

\*Includes webinar attendees and viewers who accessed webinars through WHO HRP Library as of April 06, 2018

*"[The most valuable part of the webinar was] engaging peers to share the info they helped collect. It gives us our voices and signifies we are valued and have something to give."* - Webinar attendee

## Discussion

Through an international and national academic-community partnership, this webinar series created an essential opportunity for Canada to demonstrate global leadership in prioritizing women-centred approaches to advancing actions to improve the SRHR by, with, and for WLWH. A diverse audience of WLWH, academic, community, practitioner, and government stakeholders came together to learn from, liaise, and share with one another.

Building on this webinar series, we hosted an ancillary event at CAHR 2018 with key stakeholders to discuss policy, programming, and research considerations to lay the foundation for a **national action plan to advance the SRHR of WLWH**. Further opportunities will be provided to offer feedback online in order to integrate diverse perspectives from across Canada.

Presenters have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

For more information about the Canadian Webinar Series please contact the webinar coordinator: Sarah Watt: sawatt@sfu.ca

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