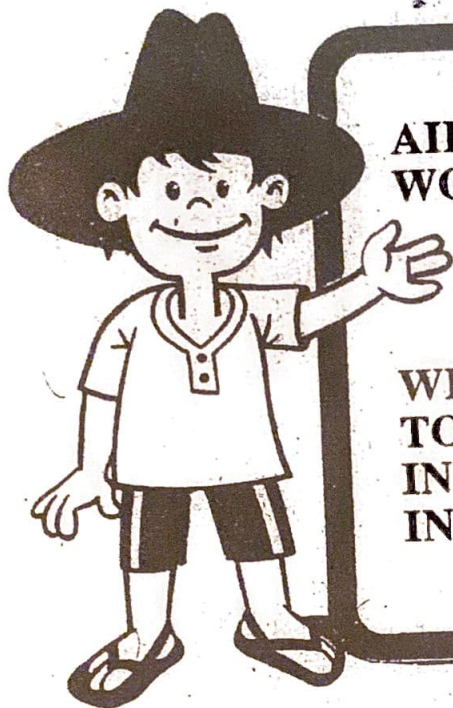


# Nicaragua

THE FIGHT GOES ON



**AIDS AND  
WOMEN'S ISSUES:**

**WHAT IT'S LIKE  
TO WORK  
IN THESE FIELDS  
IN NICARAGUA**

**IN NICARAGUA, WOMEN HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE  
BATTLE AGAINST AIDS. COME HEAR THE STORY OF THEIR  
STRUGGLE UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT FROM  
NICARAGUAN ACTIVIST AND EDUCATOR**

**GUADALUPE SEQUEIRA-MALESPIN**

Popular Education Collective for the Prevention of AIDS

**PLUS a guest speaker from the  
LATINO/LATINA CAUCUS OF ACT-UP**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 16th 7PM  
LOCAL 1199**

**310 WEST 43rd ST. OFF 8TH AVE  
Room: to be announced**

**AND STAY FOR THE BENEFIT DANCE FOR THE SANDINISTA  
FRONT OF NICARAGUA (FSLN) AT 9PM !**

**SPONSORS: NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY NETWORK, LATINO/LATINA CAUCUS OF ACT-UP.**

674-9499

## NICARAGUAN WOMEN AIDS EDUCATORS PLAN TRIP TO U.S.

Two Nicaraguan women from Managua are planning to be in the U.S. during the month of June. They hope to visit San Francisco, Boston and New York City, although specific dates have not been set. Although they are going ahead with plans, there is a possibility they may not be able to enter the country for more than ten days because of U.S. immigration policy directed against Nicaraguans. Currently they are planning to attend the International AIDS Conference in San Francisco, and are therefore able to enter the U.S. under the 10 day visa exception implemented by the immigration department for those wanting to attend the AIDS conference.

The two, Rita and Lupita, have been involved in a popular AIDS education project in Managua since 1985 called Colectivo del Educacion Popular para la Prevencion del Sida (Popular Education Collective for the prevention of AIDS). The Collective recognized the worldwide AIDS crisis at a time when Nicaragua had no reported cases of AIDS. This group had the backing of the former Sandinista government Ministry of Health (MINSa). This is in stark contrast to the U.S. government's dismal response to AIDS, and its lack of support for grassroots organizing and education.

The Collective carried out popular education about safer sex and HIV transmission. They went to known cruising areas, handing out condoms and talking with people about the prevention of AIDS. These popular health educators or brigadistas, also went into private homes, barrios, high schools, universities, hospitals, and government ministries. They used the educational video "Ojos que no ven" ("Eyes that don't see") produced by San Francisco's AIDS Latino Project.

Based on an interview in the end of January 1990 with Doctor Alba Albarado Largaespada of the Ministry of Health in Managua, there have been a total of 6 identified cases of AIDS since 1987 to January 1990. One of these cases was a foreigner, and as of January 1990 there have been 5 deaths caused by AIDS. There have been 36 people in Nicaragua who have tested positive for HIV antibodies. Of these 36 people, the majority were identified as heterosexual, and 15 were Nicaraguan. The most common opportunistic infections seen in Nicaragua are TB, cryptococcal meningitis, and candida according to Doctor Albarado Largaespada. There have been no identified cases of PCP (Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia) and only one case of Kaposi's Sarcoma. HIV Antibody testing is available in Nicaragua for free and is not mandatory for anyone.

Presently the Popular Education Collective for the Prevention of AIDS has become a part of an autonomous foundation called NIMEHUATZIN. This is a word of indigenous origin which means "those moving forward together in a noble cause". The foundation's work includes AIDS prevention education among prostitutes and the formation of an AIDS hotline. They are also working with the Pan American Health Organization on a project to organize teams of doctors and members of NIMEHUATZIN to enter the contra camps and carry out AIDS education. Foundation members also carry out popular education about STD's (sexually transmitted diseases), HIV, and AIDS in schools, neighborhoods, the gay community and with prostitutes. They also do condom distribution. NIMEHUATZIN members are currently doing research on STD prevalence in Managua and also are doing education on lesser known STD's such as Chlamydia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE OF THE  
NICARAGUAN WOMEN TO MEET WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION, PLEASE  
CALL HANK DEVINE AT (212) 924-8427

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