

Press Release



People Living with HIV Statement on 2020 World AIDS Day

Harare; 1 December 2020

The Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) and Zimbabwe Young Positives (ZY+) join the rest of the world in commemorating the 2020 International World AIDS Day running under the theme “Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility”. As people living with HIV, we are in solidarity with the rest of the world in fighting the global health threat posed by COVID-19. We equally share the responsibility to act and effectively deal with this health emergency which has impacted on every aspect of society.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, it has become apparent that there is need to introspect and take definitive action to ensure that the gains made in the global and national response to HIV are not lost. COVID-19 has taught us that now more than any time there is need to double our efforts to ensure that we reach epidemic control and guarantee quality HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people living with HIV in Zimbabwe. We can only achieve our desired 95, 95, 95 targets if we address the structural and social barriers that militate against people living with HIV accessing HIV testing, treatment and diagnostic services. We call upon all stakeholders including the government, donors, policy makers, civil society organizations, community based organizations, religious and traditional leaders and communities to work together to address the existing barriers. Some of the barriers include user fees, punitive policies such as section 79 of the Criminal Code and Codification Act which criminalizes HIV transmission, stigma and discrimination, avoidable ART drug shortages and stock-outs, sexual and gender based violence and harmful religious and cultural practices.

To effectively end the epidemic, we need to focus on cost effective solutions which include the full roll- out of differentiated models of care including multi-month dispensing of ART for a minimum of six month for stable clients, increased viral load coverage, localization of the production of anti-retroviral medicines and diagnostic equipment including point of care machines and the repealing of punitive and retrogressive laws and policies.

As COVID-19 continues to take its toll, we urge all people living with HIV to remain vigilant and continue to comply with the all set regulations on containing the virus.

For More Information

Press contacts:

Tonderai MWAREKA phone +263 (0) 776 906 943

General public inquiries: phone +263 (0) 774 151 276 or email info@znnp.org

Toll Free Kutabila PLHIV and Communities Platform: 08080441