

1 December 2020



WORLD AIDS DAY | GLOBAL SOLIDARITY, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Every year on 1 December the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and to remember those who lost their lives to this condition.

As a result of COVID-19, in 2020, the world's attention has been focused on health and how pandemics affect our lives and livelihoods. COVID-19 is showing once again how health is interlinked with other critical issues, such as gender, social inequality, human rights, social protection and economic growth. With this in mind, this year the theme of World AIDS Day is "Global solidarity, shared responsibility".

COVID-19 has demonstrated that, during a pandemic, **no one** is safe until **everyone** is safe. Leaving people behind is not an option if we are to succeed. Eliminating stigma and discrimination, putting people at the centre and grounding our responses in human rights and gender-responsive approaches are key to ending the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID-19.

We have seen how the COVID-19 crisis has worsened the challenges faced by people living with HIV, women, children and other key populations; including their access to lifesaving healthcare and how the crisis has widened the social and economic inequalities that increase the vulnerability of marginalised groups to HIV.

This crisis has also been a wake-up call, an opportunity to do things differently, better, and together. In many respects, the defeat of AIDS as a public health threat depends on how the world responds to COVID-19.

Now is the moment for bold leadership, equal societies, the right to health for all and a robust and equitable global recovery.

THIS WORLD AIDS DAY, JOIN US IN CALLING ON COUNTRIES TO STEP UP THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE HEALTHIER SOCIETIES. THIS WORLD AIDS DAY LET US DEMAND GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY!

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***Let us stay mindful of caring for
one another and ourselves***



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