



People Living with HIV Statement on World AIDS Day 2024

Rusape; 1 December 2024

The Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) proudly joins the global community in commemorating World AIDS Day 2024. This year's theme, "Taking the Rights Path," underscores the critical need for advocating health rights while emphasizing accountability; commitment to support and empower the millions of people living with HIV in their diversity.

ZNNP+ recognizes the resilience and strength of our diverse community. Central to our mission is the empowerment of communities to lead in designing and implementing HIV and AIDS programs. We firmly believe that those most affected by this epidemic are best positioned to identify and address its challenges.

We advocate for:

- Policies that uphold the rights of individuals living with HIV
- Ring-fencing of funds to cover human resources for health
- Robust programmes to address HIV -related stigma and discrimination
- Equitable healthcare access
- Comprehensive education

As we observe World AIDS Day 2024, we lament that pediatric HIV remains a pressing concern. Around 1.3 million live with HIV in Zimbabwe, and more than 10 per cent of those are under 19 years-of-age. The complexities of diagnosing and treating HIV in infants and young children pose unique challenges that require specialized pediatric care.

We must also recognize the implications for those who have lived with the virus for years. Many individuals are at risk of developing opportunistic infections and other health complications, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive healthcare that addresses both HIV and associated conditions.

Press Release



Furthermore, we acknowledge the critical interplay between mental health and nutrition for individuals living with HIV. By prioritizing these areas, we can enhance quality of life, improve health outcomes, and support the overall well-being of those affected. Comprehensive care addressing physical, emotional, and nutritional needs is essential for fostering resilience and promoting healthier lives.

We call upon the Government of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Health and Child Care, National AIDS Council, development partners, civil society organizations, and individuals to join us in eradicating stigma and discrimination and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilling life.

For More Information

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