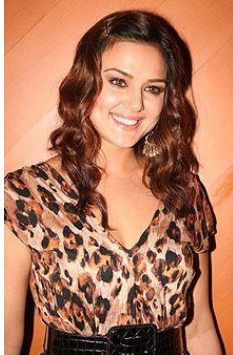


National UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador Preity Zinta (India)



Bollywood actress Preity Zinta is National Goodwill Ambassador in India for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

In her role as UNAIDS National Goodwill Ambassador, Preity Zinta raises awareness in India on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, with particular focus on women, children and vulnerable populations.

When appointed, Priety Zinta assured her support to UNAIDS and especially to priority area of women and HIV: "Gender inequities, stigma and discrimination still make women very vulnerable to HIV at a time when we are facing an increasingly female face of the epidemic; over 40% of adolescents and adults living with HIV in India are women."

As well as a leading actress, Ms Zinta is a well-known voice in Indian media, admired for speaking out against social inequality and discrimination.

She is a long-time supporter of women and girls, including protesting against infanticide. She also participates in HIV awareness and prevention campaigns, and has called for better access to prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services.

"Many pregnant women do not know their HIV status and inadvertently pass on HIV to their newborn infants, or if they do know they are infected may not receive the most effective services."

The UNAIDS National Goodwill Ambassador is also a co-owner of the Indian Premier League cricket team *Kings XI*. During the 2010 Indian Premier League, the team joined UNAIDS in advocating against stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV.

"Discrimination against people living with HIV is unacceptable and must not be tolerated," said Ms Zinta. "We must not judge people whether they are sex workers, injecting drug users or men having sex with men. We must not rob people of their dignity."

Priety was appointed UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador for India on 11 March 2010.