

OUR WAKE- UP CALL



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MILES TO GO

We all want to live in a world of inclusive and healthy societies.

But, in reality, our world is struggling with growing inequalities and intolerance for diversity.

As Nelson Mandela said, it always seems impossible until it is done.

The AIDS movement—in all its diversity—knows this.

We have defied our critics over and over.

We have shown compassion for the most vulnerable among us.

We have embraced innovation.

As a result, many countries have made huge gains.

So, let us not be distracted from our urgency.

Because we all know that our work is not done.

AIDS is not over.

That is why today I am sounding the alarm.

- 1. We must close gaps.**
- 2. We must break barriers.**
- 3. We must right injustices.**

The new report from UNAIDS shows our pace of progress is not fast enough to match our ambition.

We have come so far, but we have miles to go.

CLOSING GAPS

First, we have gaps to close.

In Melbourne, we launched 90–90–90 to close the treatment gap.

Today, nearly 22 million people are on treatment.

But 15 million are still waiting, including more than 800 000 children.

We cannot lose our focus on families and keeping them healthy.

We are facing a prevention crisis.





We know that the prevention dividends from treatment are not as big as we would have liked.

We don't yet have a vaccine or a functional cure.

That is why the Global HIV Prevention Coalition is critical, because we have the tools, but not the political will to use them.

As the young people say: don't compromise—condomize.

In 2018, it is unacceptable that in 49 countries new HIV infections are going up.

BREAKING BARRIERS

Second, we need to break the barriers that exclude people from their rights. This includes:

- ▶ **Our right to sexual and reproductive health.**
- ▶ **And our right to comprehensive sexuality education.**

As Jonathan Mann said, to control the epidemic we must confront inequity, unfairness and discrimination—not in the abstract, but in their concrete manifestations.

Key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who use drugs and prisoners and their partners—make up 47% of all new infections and they are not being reached.

Too often children and people ageing with HIV and people with disabilities are left out.



Fragile communities, including indigenous people and people on the move, do not have the social, political or economic capital to get the services they need.

We need prevention pacesetters to break stubborn structural barriers.

- ▶ **Let us end punitive laws.**
- ▶ **Let us end child marriage.**
- ▶ **Let us end criminalization.**

RIGHTING INJUSTICES

Third, those of us who are privileged to be in this room have an obligation to right injustices.

Our sisters have called upon us to come together to support the #MeToo movement, which is leading a social transformation that is dismantling a male-dominated culture.

Oppression and power imbalances must be reversed and women and girls—in all their diversity—must be empowered.

What the AIDS movement has done for HIV we must also do to end gender-based violence in all its forms.

We need a shock to the system to overcome our collective complacency.

To prevent and address HIV and violence against women, UNAIDS will champion the ARISE commitments





FULLY FUNDED RESPONSE

Ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 is by no means a forgone conclusion.

Like all of you, I worry about the money.

We need all countries to invest more in HIV, including in communities and young people.

Because it is communities and today's young leaders who will end this epidemic.

There is a persistent 20% gap between what is needed and what is available.

We know small cuts can have big consequences.

A fully funded AIDS response is non-negotiable.

THE HEART OF OUR RESPONSE

Tonight, like many of you, I am thinking of my sister Prudence Mabele.

Too many people living with HIV are dying from tuberculosis (TB).

These are senseless deaths.

The upcoming United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis is a huge opportunity to bring AIDS out of isolation and push for HIV and TB integration.

People living with HIV are the heart of our response.

We all have a right to know our HIV status.







All people have a right to be linked to care quickly.

People's HIV can be undetectable and untransmittable and let us all make sure that people are unforgettable.

As Prudence reminded us, living with HIV should not be a lonely life and no one should be forgotten.

WAKE-UP CALL

At the halfway point to the 2020 targets, this is our wake-up call. Let us quicken our pace. We have come so far. But we have miles to go.

In closing, let me borrow from Robert Kennedy.

With nearly 1 million AIDS-related deaths every year, what we need now in the AIDS movement is not division.

What we need now in the AIDS movement is love, wisdom, compassion. And a feeling of justice for all who suffer.

Thank you.

