

Candlelight Memorial Day: Supporting the future



The 2015 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day will take place on 17 May. The theme this year is 'Supporting the future' and calls on leaders to support the future of people living with HIV & AIDS. Candlelight Memorial Day has taken place globally since 1983 to shine a light on those living with and affected by HIV & AIDS.

Executive director of the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP) Suzette Moses-Burton says that worldwide, people living with HIV need to demand a sustainable response to HIV & AIDS. "They need to demand 'Where is the respect for our rights? Where is the support for community action? Where is the money?'"

Financing is big concern, as many countries are not meeting the World Health Organisation's (WHO) antiretroviral treatment guidelines and face the risk of treatment interruptions from drugs being out of stock from poorly financed health systems, says Burton.

Fight stigma, fight victimisation

We can all do our part to stand together against stigma, discrimination, and violence enacted against people living with HIV & AIDS.

By keeping HIV & AIDS awareness levels high we can expose injustice and discrimination and move towards a more equal, inclusive society; one where we all demand a sustainable response for those living with and affected by HIV & AIDS.

Advances in HIV & AIDS treatment

WHO says that HIV & AIDS remains one of the most significant challenges to public health in the world. However, advances in the treatment of HIV & AIDS means that people living with the virus are now living longer and healthier lives.

Furthermore, the roll-out of antiretroviral therapy across the world has improved significantly, although access to treatment still remains a challenge.

Future thinking

Although great advancements have been made, not only in treating and preventing the spread of HIV but also in lifestyle management of the disease and in fighting the stigma attached to HIV & AIDS, more progress is needed.

Do your part

This Candlelight Memorial Day, keep the light on HIV by supporting the future of those living with and affected by HIV & AIDS.