



News Release

US MEDIA CONTACT:

Ged Kenslea, Senior Director, Communications, AHF
+1 323 308 1833 work +1.323.791.5526 mobile
gedk@aidshhealth.org

Denys Nazarov, Director of Global Policy &
Communication, AHF
+1 323.308.1829
denys.nazarov@aidshhealth.org

On World AIDS Day, AHF Urges Everyone to Keep Fighting “The Other Pandemic”

While COVID-19 has devastated communities worldwide and remained in the spotlight since last year, the world must keep fighting to protect gains made against HIV/AIDS—a pandemic that has been raging for over 30 years and remains a global public health crisis.

LOS ANGELES (Nov. 16, 2020) Ahead of the Dec. 1 commemoration of World AIDS Day 2020, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) unveiled a timely new theme – “AIDS: The Other Pandemic.” This theme and corresponding logo serve as a reminder to the world that even in times of COVID-19, HIV/AIDS must be kept high on the global public health agenda because it still claims hundreds of thousands of lives every year.

Continuing a longstanding tradition, AHF will be hosting a multitude of commemorations, including virtual and a few social-distanced live events to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses, to raise public awareness about the importance of HIV testing, prevention and treatment, and to rally advocates to carry on this vital fight.

“COVID-19 has justifiably stolen the headlines, but we must not forget the pandemic that has been raging for more than three decades and still affects millions of people globally,” said Terri Ford, AHF Chief of Global Advocacy and Policy. “It’s absolutely vital that world leaders also keep their attention on HIV this World AIDS Day and beyond—and campaigns like ‘AIDS: The Other Pandemic’ are just one way to urge them to keep the promise on AIDS.”

The global AIDS response still consistently falls short each year by up to \$6 billion of what is needed to sufficiently fund efforts around the world – this gap will likely widen further with the COVID-19 pandemic. Government donors must give their fair share to improve on and continue HIV prevention efforts and ensure everyone who needs it has equitable access to lifesaving care and treatment.

In light of social distancing requirements and other COVID-19 infection control measures mandated across most of the 45 countries where AHF works, this year the majority of commemorative events will focus on engaging the public via interactive media, such as social media campaigns, TV and radio talk shows and concerts, webinars and press conferences.

“Even though we have made great strides in the fight against HIV/AIDS around the world, we still have a long way to go,” said Dr. Penninah Lutung, AHF Africa Bureau Chief. “It is simply unacceptable that people living with HIV in many parts of the world still struggle to get free or affordable testing and antiretroviral therapy. Even condoms are difficult to come by in many countries, though they are the most effective way to stop HIV transmission and extremely cost effective. As there is still no HIV vaccine on the horizon, guaranteeing prevention and treatment for all is the only way we’ll bring the virus under control.”

A full list of AHF’s U.S. and international World AIDS Day events can be accessed at: <https://ahfwad.org/>

About AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)

AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the largest global AIDS organization, currently provides medical care and/or services to over 1.47 million people in 45 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, the Asia/Pacific Region and Europe. To learn more about AHF, please visit our website: www.aidshealth.org, find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/aidshealth and follow us on Twitter: [@aidshealthcare](https://twitter.com/aidshealthcare) and Instagram: [@aidshealthcare](https://www.instagram.com/aidshealthcare).

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