



Under the Office of the President

2018 World AIDS Day Press Release

December 1, 2018 is World AIDS Day, and Ghana joins the world to mark the Day. World AIDS Day is a day set aside by UNAIDS to inspire global solidarity for persons infected with and affected by HIV as well as commemorate those who have lost their lives to the epidemic. It is a day set aside to assess the impact of the epidemic on nations and join hands to plan strategies to minimize its impact.

The global theme for the occasion is "**Know Your Status.**" Ghana has selected the sub-theme "**Test, Treat to Suppress and Stop New HIV Infections.**" HIV testing is an essential step in accessing HIV services. Even though HIV does not have a cure, there is treatment thanks to advancement in science, and, in Ghana, medication for HIV treatment is free.

Scientific evidence shows that adherence to treatment affords persons living with HIV (PLHIV) the necessary health to live a normal life and go about their duties like everyone else. Sustained adherence to treatment leads to viral suppression and protects the infected person from opportunistic infections. Additionally, a PLHIV who is virally suppressed has a significantly reduced risk of transmitting the virus to others. To get to this state, one has to take the first step to test for HIV and know one's status. This step is necessary to achieve the 90-90-90 targets with the ultimate goal to ending AIDS in 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ghana launched this year's World AIDS Day on **1st November 2018** at the **Information Services Department Conference Room, Accra**. This was followed by month-long media and community related activities to sensitize the public to HIV and encourage all to adopt preventive habits or live positively if already infected. This will culminate in the grand national durbar which will be held at Ho on Saturday, December 1, 2018. There will also be regional and sub-regional commemoration of the day across the country.

Be bold, get tested, **Know Your Status** today, and help stop new HIV infections

Ghana AIDS Commission - Working actively and in partnership towards elimination of HIV and AIDS