



WORLD AIDS DAY

NGÀY THẾ GIỚI PHÒNG CHỐNG AIDS

WORLD AIDS DAY 2022 STATEMENT AND CALL TO ACTION OF THE VIETNAMESE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY

*4th Annual National LGBTIQ+ Stronger Together Summit: Inclusion = Solution
Hanoi, November 22, 2022.*

In the 4th Annual National LGBTIQ+ Summit, we gather over 160 activists, entrepreneurs, health and advocacy experts, influencers, thought leaders, and young representatives from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inquiring community to reflect on our progress and priorities. On the occasion of World AIDS Day 2022 with the themes of “Equalize” (UNAIDS) and “Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV” (PEPFAR), we release this statement of solidarity and a call to action.

We honor and remember all those who have lost their lives to this global pandemic and recognize that the twin blow of the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional vulnerabilities and slowed down progress towards a healthier, more inclusive society. In Vietnam, over 112.368 number of people died of HIV/AIDS, and in 2021, 45.15% of those diagnosed with HIV are men who have sex with men, and this group is making up the majority of new cases in Vietnam. The 2021 Vietnam Stigma Index found that 1 in 2 transgender women experienced stigma due to their gender identity and HIV status. 1 in 3 men who have sex with men experienced stigma in seeking HIV health services. We must do and give more to the HIV response focusing on LGBTIQ+ to end AIDS by 2030, and meet the goals of the National HIV Strategy. We can only do this if we act together and we act now.

CALL TO ACTION

LGBTQI+ Community in Viet Nam

We must stand together as a united community with a common purpose; we must join our voices and our collective strengths to advocate for action for HIV under the framework of ‘Nothing for us without us.’ We can and should hold ourselves, our society, and our country accountable for our full inclusion in decision-making structures. We can do this by strengthening partnerships and collaboration across all sectors with a measurable roadmap that promotes equity and equality and gives the LGBTQI+ the convening power to track progress and success.

Government of Vietnam, including the Vietnam Authority for AIDS Control/ Ministry of Health

We call on the Government of Vietnam to foster true community leadership to address needs and gaps in the National HIV response. Continue to scale up evidence-based, person-centered, and key populations- competent HIV prevention and care through opening up political, fiscal, and technical spaces to LGBTQI+ experts and organizations. Through empowerment of community organizations, you will continue to uphold Vietnam’s commitment to an AIDS-free generation through innovation, cutting edge-science, and universal health access. Inclusion of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and HIV treatment (ARV) long-acting injectables, and other biomedical innovations, in national guidelines and financing policies will fulfill the promise of the K=K and Status Neutral stigma-free flourishing LGBTQI+ community.

Development Partners

We call on multi-lateral and bilateral agencies to increase funding efforts to offset the inequities and inequalities intensified by COVID-19 and other social and health disparities that LGBTQI+ face. Scale-up accountability mechanisms based on criteria and milestones set out by the LGBTQI+ community.

We call on international and local HIV organizations to center LGBTQI+ in every aspect of HIV programming relevant to us. Ensure our leadership and engagement in research, policy, technical, and social justice activities. Open up your spaces and your access to promote our ownership in our inclusion = solution.