

June 17, 2021

Undetectable = Untransmittable Endorsed by United Nations

Prevention Access Campaign (PAC) commends the United Nations (UN) for endorsing Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) in a [political declaration](#) adopted at the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS (June 8-10, 2021). This is a significant milestone toward improving the lives of people with HIV and ending the HIV epidemic. U=U means that people living with HIV who are on treatment and have an undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV sexually. U=U is a powerful and proven fact extensively supported by science and endorsed by over 1,000 medical, research, and public health organizations from 102 countries, yet still, U=U is widely unknown.

We have an opportunity to change the narrative about HIV by ensuring U=U becomes common knowledge. U=U education can reduce stigma and discrimination, improve the well-being of people living with HIV, increase demand for HIV testing and treatment, and improve adherence and viral suppression. Ensuring people with HIV have access to quality treatment and care will save lives and stop new transmissions -- it is the foundation of ending the epidemic. We are calling on the global HIV community to step up and do more.

The politicalized responses from the UN member states that weakened or refused to adopt the declaration demonstrate that there is much more to do to support people with HIV living in oppressive, racist, homophobic, misogynistic, and deeply conservative regimes. Our work to end the epidemic is undermined if we ignore the rights and needs of LGBTQ individuals, sex workers, people who inject drugs, people in prisons, and other oppressed communities.

The hopeful endorsement from 165 UN member states positions us to further mobilize for the health and well-being of all people with HIV. We thank the global community for endorsing the groundbreaking message of the U=U movement, particularly as we soon celebrate the 5th anniversary of the launch of the U=U campaign. Together, we can dismantle stigma, improve the lives of people with HIV and propel us toward our shared goal of ending the epidemic.

Prevention Access Campaign
Brooklyn, NY USA
www.preventionaccess.org

Source: [Political Declaration of HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030](#)

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39. Welcome the recent scientific evidence related to the preventative benefits of ARV drug therapy, demonstrating **no evidence of sexual transmission of HIV within adult couples when the HIV-positive partner is on effective and sustained treatment, with undetectable viral loads**, confirmed by routine testing in intervals as recommended by the World Health Organisation and reflected in the updated 2021 WHO guidelines, **which is known as "Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U)**, also recognizing the continued need for further research;

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e. Work towards the vision of zero stigma toward and discrimination against people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, by ensuring that less than 10% experience stigma and discrimination by 2025, including by leveraging the potential of U=U;