



New ways to engage youth to reach UNAIDS Fast-Track Targets through Edutainment

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Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure to be here with you and I really appreciate the invitation. I'm gay, HIV-positive, and Latin American but also the official delegate of Brazil, because I work in the department of STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis of the Ministry of Health.

First of all, I want to start my speech by calling each authority here and say that it is very important that you include young people in official delegations of their countries, to ensure the participation and voice of these young people in key spaces, as example High Level Meeting.

I'm very excited with this section, because this side event presents new strategies for youth. I discovered my HIV with 18 (eighteen) years and, at that time, I don't knew the difference between HIV and AIDS and the only reflexion was: I DO NOT WANT TO DIE WITHOUT HAVING MADE Great Things.

After a few years, I understand that could not only change my life and my perspective on HIV, but also change the lives of several other people diagnosed, providing support, information and care. I became a young leader, breaking several barriers. This years HIVplus Magazine selected me as one of 16 (sixteen) global leaders for HIV for watching for 2016.

When we talk about breaking down the barriers, we must understand that not everyone wants or can do it, especially when we are talking about youth.

In this context, Brazil is committed to prioritize actions youth to empower new leaders, especially in the context of key populations, which are the populations most in need of intervention strategies for HIV. In Brazil, we looking at the priority populations that have increased risk of infection HIV. The response for AIDS of the Ministry of Health involves all populations considered vulnerable and key to the AIDS epidemic.

None of these people will be left behind or will be excluded in actions related to the end of the AIDS epidemic to 2030. The Brazil has invested heavily in the training of new young leaders in the context of key and vulnerable populations, in order to accelerate the global response to HIV proposal for fast track. Brazil has developed, in partnership with UNAIDS and other UN agencies, a strategy for training of young leaders with focused on peer communication.

The purpose of this strategy was to empower these young leaders to work in different areas of social control and public policy. They also became young multipliers of information on prevention, diagnosis, treatment and improving the quality of life of people living with HIV.

Finally, it is necessary to mention that the Ministry of Health of Brazil is changing the way of doing politics, prevention, innovation and funding, providing opportunities for young people and their community-based organizations.

These young multipliers can work in social control and with a dialogue among peers help to fight against AIDS in Brazil and ensure the representation of different segments of the youth population most affected by HIV, as people living with HIV, women, youth, blacks, Indigenous people, gay men, men who have sex with men, sex workers, drug users and transgender people.

I would like to close using a paraphrase of Nelson Mandela:

Leaders in all spheres who are living with HIV should be encouraged, not coerced, to lead by example and disclose their HIV status. Zero discrimination, this is our struggle!