



EMBARGOED UNTIL 13.00 CET 1 DECEMBER 2021

World AIDS Day video narrated by Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex and Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS Executive Director makes urgent call to end HIV and COVID-19 pandemics

On World AIDS Day, and as a potentially dangerous new COVID-19 variant has captured global attention, a new People's Vaccine film narrated by Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex, and UNAIDS Executive Director and People's Vaccine Alliance Co-Chair, Winnie Byanyima, is highlighting the striking parallels between the struggles for access to HIV medicines and the glaring inequalities in access to COVID-19 vaccines.

As the pandemics of HIV and COVID-19 collide worldwide, the film highlights the global failure to learn the lessons from the first antiretroviral treatments—when millions died before monopolies were broken and affordable generic versions of AIDS drugs were produced. If the monopoly of a few companies over COVID-19 vaccines were eliminated, they could be made in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to help end global vaccine inequity. So too could the newest drugs to fight HIV.

More than 5 million people have died so far from COVID-19 around the globe. Rich countries are approving vaccine boosters and vaccinating school children, while frontline health workers are dying in low- and middle-income countries because they cannot get a first dose of the vaccine. In Africa just 6 percent of people are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. And the UN has warned that AIDS will kill 7.7 million people in the next decade if the inequalities which drive it are not ended.

Highlighting the parallels between COVID-19 and HIV, The Duke of Sussex and Winnie Byanyima narrate how both have caused millions of deaths and how, because of scientific breakthroughs, for many, life could begin again. But, because of injustice, not for all. This is a story about how corporate greed and political failure have prolonged both pandemics. And what we can do to stop it.

The Duke of Sussex, who co-founded Sentebale in memory of his mother's charitable work in combating the HIV crisis, is helping connect the response to both pandemics at a moment when world leaders are struggling to respond to COVID-19, when progress in the AIDS response is under strain, and when the world is not yet building the preparedness needed for future pandemics.

Today's video sends a clear message on World AIDS Day to not allow life-saving medicines to be monopolized, not to put profits before people, and to be courageous in working to end inequalities, end AIDS and end pandemics.

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For more information or to arrange an interview please email:
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