



1 DECEMBER

WORLD AIDS DAY

"What society judged was not the severity of the disease
but the social acceptability of the individuals affected with it."
- Randy Shilts -



Why do We Mark This Day?



Do you know someone living with HIV? How do stigma and discrimination affect these people living with HIV? HIV-related stigma and discrimination refer to prejudice, negative attitudes, and abuse directed at people living with HIV and AIDS. In 35% of the countries worldwide, over 50% of people report having discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV. As a result, people living with HIV and AIDS are reluctant to get tested, disclose their HIV status, and take antiretroviral drugs.

Moreover, internalized stigma has an equally damaging effect on the mental wellbeing of people living with HIV. This fear of discrimination breaks down confidence to seek help and medical care. To emphasize the importance of raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and calling out against HIV stigma, the world commemorates World AIDS Day.



Questions for Discussion

✓ What kind of discrimination is being made on people with HIV? And is it fair to team them with discriminatory attitudes?

✓ Do people with HIV have equal human rights? What kind of rights are violated if they are treated unfairly in the society?



Meet Today's Global Citizens



Winnie
Byanyima

She is the UNAIDS Director General. She calls on the public to work together with UNAIDS in fighting against HIV during the time of the pandemic.



Avin Tan

He is HIV positive and the Singapore's most prominent HIV advocate, who calls for a less discriminative society. He stands for the equal rights and support for people living with HIV as well as for better access to care and treatment.

