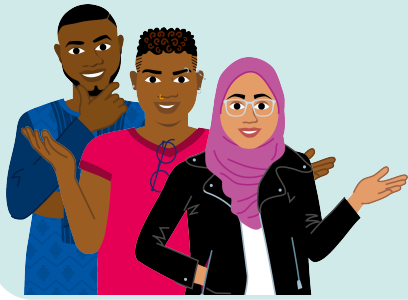


# Terminology Guide



The words we use have an impact. When discussing or talking about HIV, certain words and language may have a negative connotation for people who are at high risk of contracting HIV or who are living with HIV.

To avoid offending and spreading misinformation about people living with HIV, consider using the preferred terms listed below.

## DO NOT SAY:



## DO SAY:



AIDS virus when referring to the virus, HIV

HIV (AIDS is a diagnosis, not a virus; it cannot be transmitted)

To pass on HIV

To transmit HIV

AIDS patient, HIV patient, Patient, Positives, HIV carrier(s), HIV Victims, HIV Sufferers, HIV Contaminated, Sick people, HIV-infected person

People/person living with HIV

Died of AIDS, to die of AIDS

Died of AIDS-related illness

Zero new infections

Zero new HIV transmissions

HIV virus

HIV

Became infected, To catch AIDS, To catch HIV,

Diagnosed with HIV

Mother-to-child transmission

Vertical transmission or perinatal transmission

Compliant to treatment

Adherent to treatment

To contract AIDS, To catch AIDS

Developed AIDS

Prostitute or prostitution

Sex worker

Promiscuous

Having multiple sex partners

Unprotected sex

Sex without barriers or treatment-as prevention methods  
Condomless sex  
Condomless sex with (or without) PrEP

HIV risk, at risk for HIV

Vulnerable to HIV, chance of acquiring HIV;  
likelihood of acquiring HIV, risk of exposure to HIV

End HIV, End AIDS

End HIV transmission, end AIDS-related deaths  
(Be specific on what we are ending)

AIDS test

HIV test

Drug addicts; drug abusers

Person/people who use/inject(s) drugs

High(er) - risk group; vulnerable groups

Key and Vulnerable population or key populations

HIV Medicine

Antiretroviral therapy (ART)/Antiretrovirals

HIV infection

HIV acquisition

PLHIV

People living with HIV

AYPLHIV

Adolescents and Young People living with HIV

