



## PAN CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HIV AND AIDS (PANCAP)

# WORLD AIDS DAY 2018 THEME ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO "KNOW THEIR HIV STATUS"

### Brief for Launch of World AIDS Day 2018 Theme and 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence

This year's theme for World AIDS Day, which will be marking its 30th anniversary on 1 December, will be "**Know your status**".

Significant progress has been made in the AIDS response since 1988, and today three in four people living with HIV know their status. But there is still work to be done, as the latest UNAIDS report shows, and that includes reaching people living with HIV who do not know their status and ensuring that they are linked to **quality care and prevention services**.

HIV testing is essential for expanding treatment and ensuring that all people living with HIV can lead healthy and productive lives. It is also crucial to achieving the **90–90–90 targets** and empowering people to make choices about HIV prevention so they can protect themselves and their loved ones. Unfortunately, many barriers to HIV testing remain. Stigma and discrimination still deters people from taking an HIV test. Access to confidential HIV testing is still an issue of concern. Many people still only get tested after becoming ill and symptomatic.

The good news is that there are many new ways of expanding access to HIV testing. **Self-testing, community-based testing and multidisease testing** are all helping people to know their HIV status. HIV testing programmes must be expanded. For this, we need political will and investment, as well as novel and innovative approaches to HIV testing that are fully leveraged and taken to scale.

**This World AIDS Day, PANCAP encourages the faith community to collaborate on raising awareness about the importance of knowing one's status and calling for the removal of all barriers to accessing HIV testing.**

#### About World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Since then, every year United Nations agencies, governments and civil society join together to campaign around specific themes related to AIDS.

## HELP FIGHT HIV, NOT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT!