It’s all connected

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Numbers Game
(Our silence won’t protect us)

BY BAHTA KG

It’s more than just numbers for us
As our vowels run through our lives,
we count birthdays, diagnosis anniversaries,
love ones, moments.
how we’ll make it through the day.
This life, running through our veins goes beyond lives
beyond statistics, percentages
If we only see 90% of us, where does that leave the 10-10-10?
It’s greater than quarterly and annually, more than
overs and undernourished occasions - this is daily

It’s more than just events for us
Do you only count the ones who look a certain way
who sound a certain way
move according certain way
pray a certain type of way
were born in a certain kind place
live in a restricted way
even when they don’t think your way.
Global gaps, silencing. Separating us from ourselves
taking our movement. Letting us down
Legislations let us slip away
We are pushed aside by policy
laws leave us behind
laws that struggle us that break us
keeping us out of your systems
fixing streams that don’t touch us.
You speak in a language we don’t understand
and you don’t try to earn our trust
Scrutinizing our behavior, overlooking how you have us
backed into a corner
when we do let us in, we run into ourselves and crash

It’s more than just speeches to us
Meet us where we are
legislations that let us breathe
policies that protect the person
laws that flog our lives
we have travelled days to swallow
we are more than pills a day, we deserve dignity
on our third line to life
Instead of holding up numbers, hold up people
we will enlighten you
You have a lot to learn from us
Advocacy background
Representation is not the end goal

(Arnstein, S.)
Focus

• Enabling factors
• Challenges
• My hopes for the future

(with a particular focus on young people and women living with HIV)
The Landscape:
Challenges (to overcome):
The Landscape: Enabling Factors
GLOBAL NETWORK OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV
Looking ahead

• Experience meets theory:
  – Intergenerational
  – Interdisciplinary
  – Inter-regional

• Expertise within the community
References

• INTUIT Study (Northumbria University) – https://intuitproject.org/
• Ladder of Citizen Participation (Arnstein, S.) - https://catcomm.org/ladder-participation/
• Microbicides (HIV.org) https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-prevention/potential-future-options/microbicides
• READY+ tools (Global Network of Young People Living with HIV) - http://www.yplusnetwork.org/resources/
• Reassuringly Restless (Kasadha, B.) – www.bakitakk.com/mediacoverage
• Youth Advocates and Activists Scoping Project (YAASP) - http://www.yplusnetwork.org/blog/strengthening-youth-leadership/