U=U: A Motivational Message for HIV Treatment Adherence

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• The impact of the U=U message as far as adherence is concerned (Motivational Message for adherence)
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William Matovu is a youth born and living with HIV aged 26 working with Love To Love Organization as an HIV educator a Nonprofit organization based in Uganda that is creating awareness on HIV/AIDS and supporting youth and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

In the year of 2010 at the age of 16 years, William started advocating for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS because he had experienced a lot of stigma and discrimination after the death of his parents who pass on due to AIDS.

He is so passionate about social media activism. He uses his social media platforms to communicate accurate and meaningful information about HIV/AIDS and he dedicated his entire life to doing this. In 2017 William started championing the U=U message in his community to ensure that people living with HIV have access to treatment and fighting stigma and discrimination among people living with HIV and the general public.

He has been participating in several conferences to present U=U. In the year 2018, he presented the state of U=U in Uganda at the U=U pre-conference during AIDS 2018 in Amsterdam and in 2019 he was the Keynote Speaker at first U=U conference in Africa which took place in Uganda on 16th of February 2019.
WHAT IS U=U & IT’S MEANING?

U=U in full is Undetectable Equals Untransmittable. It means that someone (HIV+) who achieves and maintains Undetectable viral load of less than 200 copies/ml **CAN’T** pass on the virus to their negative partners sexually.

ZERO RISK = ZERO EXCUSES
GLANCING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

Dr. Julio Montaner
TasP

Bruce Richman
U=U
WHY IS IT A MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGE?
( IT’S IMPACT)

❖ Dismantles the internal and external stigma (FEAR)
❖ Creates harmony among discordant couples
❖ U=U prevents clients from defaulting their Treatment
CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED WHILE PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF U=U

➢ HIV colonialism
➢ Financial Support
➢ Dogma and Naysayers
➢ Most people think that this campaign is only in the favor of the LGBTQI community
If we embrace the U=U message We can end HIV/AIDS before a cure comes

**HOW?**

Let us use the message to advocate for treatment access for all, HIV testing and routine viral load testing, this means that those on treatment will remain happily positive and those who are negative will never get infected.

**Chief Sensitization tool**

U=U should be used as chief sensitization tool, this will help a lot in cubing down new infections, stigma, discrimination and Criminalization.
CONTACTS AND LINKS

https://web.facebook.com/william.matovu.52 (William Matovu)

https://twitter.com/Matovuwilliam1 (@Matovuwilliam1)

https://twitter.com/LTLORGUG (@LTLORGUG)

https://web.facebook.com/LTLORGUG/ (Love To Love Organization Facebook Page)

www.lovetolove-ug.org (Organization’s Website)

https://www.preventionaccess.org/ (Prevention Access Campaign’s Website)
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