

13/07/2018 15:00

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U=U gains support at the highest levels

Today, the statement released by the World Health Organization [WHO | Viral suppression for HIV treatment success and prevention of sexual transmission of HIV](#) could not be clearer, “*The science related to the use of ART as an additional prevention tool is clear: there is no evidence that individuals who have successfully achieved and maintained viral suppression through ART transmit the virus sexually to their HIV-negative partner(s).*”

“This message is coming from the most senior health body in the world. It is a call to action to anyone who continues to exaggerate risk or wilfully ignore the U=U message to reconsider their thinking and their messages to others,” says Bruce Richman, founding Executive Director of the Prevention Access Campaign and U=U movement globally. “People living with HIV have been needlessly suffering and silenced because their health ministries are waiting for the WHO to support the science. Now there are no more excuses. It’s time to urgently share the news!”

Called a “[game changer](#)” by the NIH Office of AIDS Research, the U=U movement is having a transformative effect on lives and the field by bringing the science into civil society.

U=U’s pronounced impact challenging HIV stigma cannot be underestimated. U=U has reframed the fundamental messages we provide to both people living with HIV and those affected by HIV. For far too long people living with HIV have been seen as “the potential infectious agent” and have had to challenge and come to grips with this as a lifelong identity.

The U=U message offers a strong personal and public health argument for access to optimal treatment and care. Maintaining a suppressed or undetectable viral load keeps people living with HIV healthy and stops new transmissions, bringing us closer to ending the epidemic.

“This statement from the WHO is about celebrating not only the science behind U=U but is a successful example of effective knowledge translation (science into practice and into policy) done at a global level” says Mary Ann Torres, Executive Director of the ICASO which authored the [U=U Community Brief](#) (October 2017).

Prevention Access Campaign, ICASO and a partnership of global organizations will convene at the U=U 2018 preconference in advance of the International AIDS Conference on July 22, 2018. For more information visit www.preventionaccess.org/aids2018.

ENDS

For more information contact:

Cameron Kinker

Prevention Access Campaign cameron@preventionaccess.org +1 9149600464

Brent Allan

International Council of AIDS Service Organizations brenta@icaso.org +6 1427682867