



1 December 2025

Statement on World AIDS Day 2025

The global trend in the HIV situation shows that after decades of progress, the HIV response stands at a crossroads. Life-saving services are being disrupted, and many communities face heightened risks and vulnerabilities. However, it is also heartening to note that even amidst such challenges, hope endures in the determination, resilience, and innovation of communities who strive to end AIDS.

In 2024, an estimated 40.8 million people were living with HIV worldwide, with 1.3 million new infections and 630,000 AIDS-related deaths. These figures estimated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) underscore that the epidemic continues to affect millions of lives. Across Asia, the HIV response is at a critical juncture. Reductions in international funding have placed decades of progress at risk, straining healthcare systems and community-led programmes that are vital for reaching those most at risk. In many countries, these pressures are deepening inequalities, particularly for key populations who continue to face stigma, discrimination, and legal barriers that limit access to essential services.

World AIDS Day, observed every year on 1 December, is an opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved, the challenges that persist, and the path towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. This year's theme, "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response," highlights the resilience of communities and countries as they confront significant setbacks in the global HIV response.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) urges global leaders and governments to reaffirm global solidarity and maintain funding for countries most affected by HIV. We call for investment in innovation, including expanded access to long-acting prevention and treatment options, and urge governments to uphold human rights and empower communities. Removing structural inequalities of stigma, discrimination, and punitive laws remains essential, as these continue to fuel the epidemic and restrict access to life-saving care. Ending AIDS is a moral commitment to safeguard equity, justice, and human dignity. The Church and other faith communities have a key responsibility in promoting these essential values and working to dismantle the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV and AIDS. The Church can contribute significantly to HIV prevention and education through culturally sensitive awareness initiatives, encouraging voluntary testing, and linking communities to vital services. We must continue to lead with commitment, mobilising our resources and influence to support local HIV programmes and ensure that no one is left behind.

May this World AIDS Day remind us of our shared responsibility to uphold dignity, inclusion, and care, and to work together towards a future where AIDS is eradicated.

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