



William

Who is William Matovu?

- William is from Uganda.
- William is born with HIV.
- He has been an activist since 2010, working as a community educator at Love to Love organization.
- He has been championing the U=U message via social media and music.
- He's passionate about changing lives of children affected by and infected with HIV.

HIV IS NOT A GHOST, IT'S A VIRUS

In Uganda there are Born Again Faith Churches who are spreading a doctrine that HIV is a ghost. Which is of course not true, HIV is a virus. Although I'm also a Born Again Christian, there is something that needs to be addressed. Many churches mislead their followers who are HIV positive by saying that once they put their trust in our Lord Jesus Christ and having faith, they can get cured from HIV or AIDS.

Some of these so-called Men and Women of God are HIV positive themselves, and are on medication. But still, they are doing hurtful acts to their followers who are at risk of losing their lives. They perform fake miracles to attract a large number of the congregation in their churches, and to make huge sums of money.

The most shocking part of this problem is that these people truly don't care about People Living With HIV or AIDS, and are just doing it for themselves. And our government is just watching and doing nothing regarding this matter. Which I find very infuriating.

How will we end the high rates of AIDS related deaths and new HIV infections when as a country we are still seeing these kind of shams? My fellow brothers and sister stop falling in traps of these heartless people, you will get sick and eventually die. And for them? They will continue living. By taking your medication and becoming undetectable it does not mean that you have been cured from HIV or AIDS. However it does mean that you can live a healthy life with HIV and that you cannot pass on the virus to others.

When you reach that level (Undetectable) that means that your treatment is effective but the virus is still within your body. It's hiding in the reservoirs (bone marrows and the brain). So once you stop your treatment the virus will become active again and will start attacking your immune system. This also means that there is a possibility that the virus will become immune to your medication, hence leading to HIV drug resistance or treatment failure.

In conclusion, I call upon all my fellow advocates in Uganda to keep telling our government to take action regarding this subject. If we won't do this, many of our brothers and sisters will continue to lose their lives day by day.

Hiv Vereniging

The Dutch Association of People Living with HIV (Hiv Vereniging) represents the interests of all people with HIV in the Netherlands, irrespective of background.

We provide information about living with HIV and organise all kinds of meet-ups.

Servicepunt

Our team of expert volunteers can be contacted for any question about living with HIV, by telephone on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 14:00 – 22:00 hrs, or by email: servicepunt@hivvereniging.nl.

See www.hivvereniging.nl