

# Call to action on engagement of ALHIV and YPLHIV in HIV and Health.

'SAUTI SKIKA' is an initiative 'for and by young people' whose goal is to promote the voices and visibility of adolescents (10-18) and young people (19-24) living with HIV. The initiative aims to empower adolescents and young people living with HIV to increase involvement in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support interventions, increase demand for access to sexual reproductive health services and improve their quality of life.

The 'Sauti Skika' team welcomes the global 'ALL IN' Campaign to #EndAdolescentAIDS whose launch in Kenya was presided over by the H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta and calls on the National and County Governments, CSOs, development partners, donors, parents and all stakeholders especially in education and health to listen, involve and include adolescents and young people in the design and execution of interventions aimed at reducing new HIV infections, AIDS-related Stigma and discrimination, AIDS and TB related deaths amongst adolescents and young people.

'Sauti Skika' team is disheartened by the statistics that continue to

highlight the high and increasing new cases of HIV amongst their peers especially adolescent-girls aged 10-19 and are committing to be agents of change to reverse this trend. This will be realized through mentorship and peer support to enable adoption of safer sexual and reproductive health behaviours and uptake of comprehensive HIV and AIDS services among adolescents and young people.

'Sauti Skika' members believe that for any concrete achievements to be made in addressing HIV and ensuring that adolescents and young people live better productive lives, it is imperative that ALHIV and YPLHIV are meaningfully involved and are contributing to policy and programming.

'Sauti Skika' team understands that this is a new and learning experience for country leadership, GOK agencies, policy makers and stakeholders and has agreed on a set of recommendations including an urgent need to develop a rights based mechanism for engaging adolescents and young people born and living with HIV;-

- 1. Listen to what Adolescents and young people are saying;** - in one way or another you all relate with adolescents or young people at household, in institutions of learning, health facilities, other public service institutions, in church and communities. We urge parents/guardians; leaders and stakeholders to take some time to listen to what adolescents and young people have to say.
- 2. Capacity build, mentor and build our confidence and esteem;** - to be able to effectively talk to parents/guardians, leaders, policy makers and stakeholders and share our experiences, opinions and insight which are all useful to the development of effective policies and programs. Engage ALHIV and YPLHIV as change agents and to create demand for HIV and Sexual Reproductive health services and rights.
- 3. Prioritize implementation of comprehensive HIV services for adolescents and young people;** - Develop and implement strategies that ensure no more children, adolescents and young people are infected with HIV.
- 4. Support the provision of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education;**- for young people in line with existing policies.
- 5. Prioritize the implementation of Youth Friendly Services;**- Allocate resources within budget settings to have youth friendly services from which adolescents and youth can seek HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health needs.
- 6. Address HIV & Aids Stigma;**- of adolescents and young people living with HIV by:
  - i. Enhancing adolescents knowledge about the forms, causes and effects of HIV-related stigma and discrimination
  - ii. Creating opportunities for adolescents to examine their prejudices and address fears and misconceptions about transmission of HIV
  - iii. Involving political, religious and community leaders, including teachers in challenging HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
  - iv. Reforming policies and practices to make learning institutions conducive to learners living with HIV



**NEPHAK** *say yes to life*

NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT NETWORK OF  
PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN KENYA

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