

1 March 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
on Zero Discrimination Day**

On 1 March, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly joins UNAIDS in marking Zero Discrimination Day for the first time.

Discrimination is a violation of human rights. It is immoral, cruel and dehumanizing. Yet too many people around the world continue to face unfair, harmful or violent treatment simply because of the circumstances of their birth, gender, physical appearance, color of their skin, arbitrary social norms or their physical environment.

By joining together on the basis of our shared hopes and convictions, individuals, communities and societies can transform the world every day and everywhere. On Zero Discrimination Day, I call on Member States to promote tolerance, compassion and peace toward all – today, and every other day of the year.