

News

Patient reports at World Health Assembly

Only a few patients have the courage to face up to the stigma and tell their story in public. One of them is 22-year-old patient Loyce Maturu, who was recently invited by the WHO to talk about her experiences and her work as a counsellor for young people who are HIV-positive. We met her in Geneva.



Loyce Maturu speaking at the World Health Assembly in Geneva (23 May 2014).

Loyce Maturu is a self-assured young woman who exudes confidence and courage. This should by no means be taken for granted: she lost her father when she was just five years old, and her mother and younger brother when she was ten. All of them died of AIDS.



But amid the misfortune, Loyce had some luck: at the end of 2004, when she was aged 13, she came to Newlands Clinic with a serious case of tuberculosis. There she began the HIV therapy. She is now a healthy, if delicate, young woman, and the HIV virus can no longer be detected in her blood. Loyce's life is still a daily struggle, however. She earns too little to be independent, and still moves from one relative to another.

Committed to helping young people with HIV

Our partner organisation Africaid has taken Loyce under their wing, and she has been doing volunteer work for them since 2004, helping other young people with HIV in Zimbabwe. She tries to encourage them to take an HIV test, explains the therapy to them, and tells them of her life. She was also able to share her experience and talk about her work at the World Health Assembly 2014 in Geneva on 21 and 23 May. The WHO recently launched a

programme to raise awareness among healthcare specialists and the broader public of the special needs of young people.

For more informationen:

Article Le Matin (in French):

www.swissaidscare.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/redakteure/medienecho/LeMatin_23-05-2014.pdf

Column by Ruedi Lüthy:

www.swissaidscare.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/redakteure/medienecho/NZZ_26-05-2014.pdf

Partner organisation Africaid Zvandiri: www.africaid-zvandiri.org

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