



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

WORLD AIDS DAY

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, as we continue to recover from the pervasive and deadly worldwide pandemic of COVID, it is now time to focus our efforts on another serious and continuing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day provides an opportunity for all of us to focus local, national, and international attention on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and to disseminate information on how to prevent the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, started in 1988 and recognized annually on December 1st, World AIDS Day is a global event to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS, and to honor and support those living with and affected by HIV; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that we recognize that HIV is treatable, and that modern treatment is very effective. It is also essential that we continue to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to help prevent further transmission of HIV with proven interventions such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs). We must do this by collaborating with partners locally, nationally, and internationally to prevent the spread of HIV; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2022 observance of this Day is "Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV." World AIDS Day encourages people to unite globally to eliminate the disparities and inequities that create barriers to HIV testing, prevention, and access to HIV care; and

WHEREAS, despite recent improvements in treatment, the AIDS epidemic still claims an estimated two million lives each year, of which more than 250,000 are children; and

WHEREAS, globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS-related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history; and

WHEREAS, the global epidemic of HIV infection and AIDS requires a worldwide effort to increase communication, education, and united action to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, this is a day to educate and destigmatize and for voices to unite by sharing experiences, remembering those lost, and standing together in the fight against HIV.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert J. Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby **proclaim Thursday, December 1, 2022**, as "*World AIDS Day*" in the United States Virgin Islands. I urge all citizens to take part in activities and observances designed to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS in our community and as a global challenge, to take part in HIV/AIDS prevention activities and programs in the Territory, and to join the global effort to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 29th day of November, A. D. 2022.




Denise N. George, Esq.
Acting Governor

Attest:


Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Acting Lieutenant Governor