



## **NCD Alliance UN Statement for Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing for the 2026 High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS**

Hello, my name is Daniel Koch, and I am here to share my lived experience on behalf of the NCD Alliance. HIV, noncommunicable diseases, and mental health conditions are interlinked, and we cannot end AIDS or realise the right to health for all without addressing these issues together. I am a living example that harmonised care saves lives. I stand here today, undetectable, housed, employed, and 4 ½ years sober.

Because of the work that is done in spaces like this, I had access to care that recognised these issues were interconnected. I was able to access HIV treatment alongside mental health support, addiction recovery services, and trauma therapy, allowing me to heal as a whole person. I have been undetectable since receiving treatment after my diagnosis 13 years ago.

Today, that would not be the case. The organisation that provided free testing and arranged all of my initial medical appointments no longer exists. The group that paid my rent at a sober house while I found employment and fostered my financial independence has lost so much funding that it cannot provide that service. Everywhere we are seeing the erosion of the systems that people with HIV rely on to survive. Without these resources, I'm seeing younger people coming into the rooms of recovery, lost and unsupported.

With funding cuts and global health architecture reform, integrated and people-centred care is more important than ever. Integration must strengthen health systems and community responses so people can access care that reflects the realities of their lives, and the NCD Alliance calls for rights-based, gender-responsive, and person-centred services that reduce stigma, exclusion, and inequities. In my sobriety, I have been to many treatment facilities that had zero

understanding of HIV, places where I have been isolated by people who were afraid to catch a disease that I cannot transmit.

But I also know what is possible when care is compassionate, coordinated, and community-led, and I urge Member States to strengthen these commitments in the Political Declaration so that people living with HIV everywhere have that same possibility.

Thank you for my life.