

Media



Avert can provide information and comment to journalists and the media on global aspects of HIV and AIDS, and on Avert's work to empower people through knowledge on HIV.

Journalists looking for information, comments or interviews for print and online media can contact us on +44 (0)1273 947749 or info@avert.org.

Other useful resources:

- Use our interactive [HIV timeline](#) for your research
- Search our [infographics hub](#)
- Find the latest [country and regional](#) HIV information
- See [where we work](#)
- Find out about our [strategy and impact](#)
- Sign up for our [monthly HIV news](#)

Press Advisory

21 July, 2018 - for immediate release

What young people in southern Africa really want to know

about HIV sex and relationships

Ahead of the International AIDS conference – being held in Amsterdam from 23-27 July – HIV charity Avert has launched *Young Voices Africa* – an interactive package of sexual and reproductive health information. Created by, and for, young people in southern Africa, the materials are about engaging young people (between the ages of 15 and 24) to gain the knowledge and skills to make informed choices and take control of their own sexual health.

Globally, a young person dies every 10 minutes because of AIDS-related illness. While, every day around 1600 young people are newly infected with HIV, nearly half of these are young people from eastern and southern Africa. With effective and targeted information on HIV and sexual health for this age group sorely lacking in the region, it is no surprise that knowledge about HIV prevention among young people has remained stagnant over the past 20 years.

The *Young Voices Africa* project is a small step in filling this knowledge gap. The character-led materials – including videos, a comic-creator which allows people to create their own ending to the character's stories and printable support materials – address themes prioritised by young people themselves. The first batch of materials focus on sex and relationships.

The co-creation process ensures these materials resonate with young people in southern Africa. Designed to spark online and face-to-face discussions, these materials help young people think through their own situations and those of their peers.

Avert will be showcasing *Young Voices Africa* at AIDS 2018, where young people from the project will lead a range of activities including guided discussions and co-creation activities.

Want to know more?

Take a look at the [Young Voices Africa Hub](#) to see the videos and comic strip creator plus supporting materials which can be used on and offline, by individuals or in groups.

Learn more about the [Young Voices Africa project](#) and co-creation process.

Get information about [Avert activities at AIDS 2018](#).

Contact us

Journalists looking for information, comments or interviews from Avert representatives and project participants can contact Simon Moore (Tel: +44 (0) 7843208017 / emails: simone.moore@avert.org) or Caitlin Mahon (email: caitlin.mahon@avert.org).

Suggested tweets:

> Get creative! Make a #comic with @Avert_org's new comic creator. #YoungVoices, have your say on #HIV, Sex and #Relationships. <https://comic.avert.org/>

> Do you work with young people in Southern #Africa? Check out @Avert_org's new resources on #HIV, #sex & #relationships – created for & by young people. #YoungVoices, have your say. <https://www.avert.org/hubs/young-voices-africa>

> Check out #HIV sex & relationship resources created by young for young people @Avert_org's #YoungVoices <https://www.avert.org/hubs/young-voices-africa>

> Young people get to have their say on #HIV sex and relationships @Avert_org's #YoungVoices hub <https://www.avert.org/hubs/young-voices-africa>

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