



**2021 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service  
Message from Labour Leader Jacinda Ardern**

I'd like to send a message of care and support to everyone gathered for the 2021 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Today, we remember all of those – loved ones, friends, whānau – who are no longer with us as a result of AIDS. And we join our voices to honour those who are working to help those affected by HIV.

This year, research has been released showing that the number of people diagnosed with HIV in Aotearoa New Zealand halved from 2016 to 2020 – a dramatic drop.

This news is encouraging, but there is still more to do. We're committed to continuing to work alongside dedicated organisations to end the transmission of HIV and make sure everyone is able to receive the healthcare and support they need.

To all of the people providing healthcare or taking part in advocacy and education on this issue, thank you. To those New Zealanders living with HIV, I hope that the changes we're making are already positively impacting your lives – and I hope that the perspectives you contribute can help to bring about more positive change in the future. Thank you for sharing your experiences.

I'm proud of the work our Government has done in this space, including supporting the decision by PHARMAC to fund PrEP and investing in behavioural research to guide the roll-out of HIV and STI prevention services across the country.

I look forward to continuing this important mahi in the year ahead. Together, we can change attitudes and save lives.

Jacinda Ardern  
Labour Leader