

Mr Simon Casal, Director, SomosGay, Paraguay

Mr Casal, data show us that to be successful, we need to specifically focus on prevention among gay men and other men who have sex with men. What kind of leadership is needed to scale up key population-led prevention and how is this playing out?

Responding to the first part of the question, scaling responses to HIV in gay and bisexual men requires creative, honest, and courageous leadership.

The HIV epidemic continues to be a public health problem simply because the western norm imposed through the colony in all the territories of the world is reluctant to recognize that its conception of sexuality, pleasure and the way in which it organizes society in Around these issues, it is the main reason why our populations are more vulnerable to several converging epidemics that continue to rob us of community well-being and continue to cost us lives throughout the world.

The leadership needed is one that recognizes the damage that has been caused historically, the consequences of that damage at a global level, this recognition is essential to think about how to respond and solve the consequences of that damage.

How is this working now? Unfortunately the options are very limited.

The way of approaching programs continues hold a from an extractivist vision, it continues to be a colonial vision that ignores intersectionalities that the corporalities of gay men, bisexuals and other MSM live and suffer throughout the world. What appears as most urgent?

Necessarily recognizing that there is damage that has to be repaired, without that damage repaired it is difficult to look to a sustainable future in which HIV is no longer a public health problem.

Thank you