HIV Prevention Ambassador Toolkit

for Adolescent Girls and Young Women









This training package was made possible by the generous assistance from the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Financial assistance was provided by USAID to FHI 360, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (Wits RHI), and AVAC under the terms of Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-15-00035. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.







Welcome to the OPTIONS HIV Prevention Ambassador Training! I'm an HIV Prevention Ambassador, and you'll see me throughout this toolkit. I'm here to help you learn and guide you through the activities.

This training will prepare you to:

- Give your peers information about oral PrEP and answer their questions
- Support your peers to make decisions about what HIV prevention options are best for them
- Help your peers get oral PrEP, use it correctly and continue using it while they are vulnerable to HIV
- Support your peers to decide who they want to tell they are using oral PrEP
- Raise awareness and build community support for oral PrEP

You may also learn how to:

- · Give your peers information about how HIV is transmitted and prevented
- Identify the links between gender norms and inequalities, HIV vulnerability and violence against women and girls
- Support your peers who are experiencing violence by using active listening and by empowering them to access services

The first part of this toolkit contains Ambassador Tools. These tools give you information about HIV, oral PrEP and other topics, which you can use while working in your community. You can also show them to others to get them excited about oral PrEP and the work that you're doing!

The second part of this toolkit contains <u>Worksheets</u>. These are for you to use for brainstorming, taking notes, problem solving and more! You'll be completing these throughout the training.

Good luck with the training – I'm excited that you'll be joining me as an Ambassador! As an Ambassador, you have the information and power to help your peers stay HIV-negative. Together, we can make our communities stronger, healthier and safer. We are the generation that will end HIV!

Ambassador:

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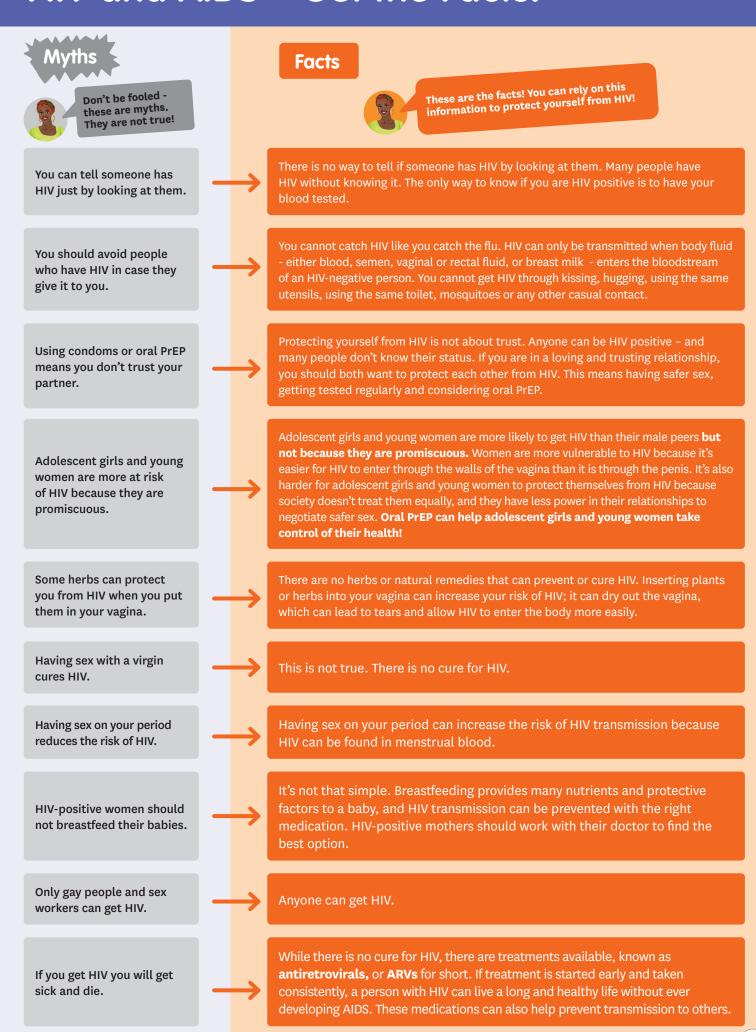








HIV and AIDS – Get the Facts!



HIV TRANSMISSION

from one person to another and breast milk. This can vaginal fluid, rectal fluid, **HIV can be transmitted** through blood, semen, happen during:



- Vaginal sex
- Anal sex
- Oral sex



- Pregnancy
- Breastfeeding Childbirth
- - Injecting drugs with a shared needle
- Direct contact with blood

HIV PREVENTION



Oral PrEP

protect yourself by taking anti-HIV medication called oral PrEP If you don't have HIV you can



called PEP within 72 hours of exposure prevent infection by taking HIV medication If you've been exposed to HIV you can



ART

prevent transmission to others by taking HIV medication If you're HIV positive you can

can use to reduce the risk sex are: of HIV transmission during Additional methods you



Using male or female anal and oral sex. condoms every time you have sex - including vaginal,



Using water-based lubricant condoms from breaking and dry sex or silicone-based to prevent



Regularly testing for STIs and treating them immediately



to prevent unintended pregnancy become pregnant can use family planning HIV-positive women who do not wish to Taking HIV medication during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding

of HIV transmission to their baby by: Mothers with HIV can reduce the risk



medication



Treating their baby with HIV



a doctor about the best way to reduce the risk of transmission thinking of having a baby, talk to If you are HIV positive and

You can reduce the risk of HIV transmission through blood by:



Avoiding contact with other people's blood



Never using a needle that has been used by someone else



number of sexual partners and

knowing your partner's status Abstaining, reducing your

HIV can be transmitted during blood transfusions, but most hospitals now test blood for HIV before using it in a transfusion. If you're worried, ask your doctor!





Gender Inequality Problem Tree



talk about sex

CARE Response

Create a safe space

A safe space is both physically and emotionally safe. Make sure you're somewhere private, where she feels physically safe. Explain that you're just there to listen – you won't judge her or tell her what to do. Let her know she can trust you to protect her confidentiality.

Actively listen

Show her you're listening deeply and with empathy. Use your body language to communicate that you're paying attention. Give her space to talk, and acknowledge and validate her feelings.

Reassure

Reassure her by letting her know she's not alone, you're there for her and her feelings are valid. If she's shared an experience of violence, let her know that you believe her and it's not her fault.

Empower and support

Let her know she's in control of what happens next. Help her to identify her needs and consider her options. Be ready to provide her with information about support services she can access.

lest and Prevent

Everybody has a responsibility to contribute to the prevention of HIV in our community!

and do it regularly! Test for HIV and STIs

your partner's status is also important for prevent transmission to others. Knowing Knowing you're HIV positive gives you who don't know they're HIV positive. making decisions about HIV prevention. the power to protect your health and Most HIV transmissions come from people

STIs also make you vulnerable to HIV – so can be treated, but if they go untreated, When you're getting tested for HIV, you testing regularly and treating STIs helps to they can cause serious health problems. can also test for other STIs. Most STIs



PREVENT

every time you have sex! **HIV transmission** Protect yourself from



Male condoms and female condoms

fluids that may contain HIV and other between the most delicate skin and body Male and female condoms put a barrier



Oral PrEP (preexposure

prophylaxis)

PrEP every day and they're exposed to HIV, them from HIV. When a person takes oral around a person's blood cells to protect Oral PrEP is a medication that an HIVdoesn't protect you against STIs, so it's best die, and the person won't get HIV. Oral PrEP it can't infect their blood cells. The virus will themselves from HIV. It creates a shield to always use a condom. negative person can take to protect

Abstinence, reducing your number of sexual circumcision can also help prevent HIV. partners, and voluntary medical male

RESPOND

to HIV, act quickly! If you've been exposed

exposed to HIV, you can take emergency get HIV. medication to reduce the risk that you'll If you're worried you might have been



prophylaxis) PEP (post-exposure

every day for 4 weeks. within 72 hours of exposure and taker HIV positive. PEP must be started may prevent a person from becoming When HIV can't spread, it dies. This stop it from spreading to other cells



If HIV makes it into the body, PEP car

TREAT

stay healthy and prevent as soon as possible to transmission. with HIV, start treatment If you've been diagnosed

spreading and developing into AIDS – the risk that you'll transmit HIV to others. healthy life. HIV treatment also reduces meaning that you can live a long and cure HIV, but it can stop the virus from to start treatment right away. It won't If you find out you have HIV, it's important



therapy) **ART (Antiretroviral**

undetectable viral load to pass on to others. This is called an that there's not enough of the virus every day, the amount of HIV in a treatment is started early and taken and boost their immune system. If amount of HIV in a person's body that work together to reduce the ART is a combination of medications person's blood can become so low

Oral PrEP, PEP and ART

Antiretrovirals are a type of medication that make it harder for HIV to attack the cells in a person's body and to spread to other cells. Oral PrEP, PEP and ART use different combinations of antiretrovirals that work in different ways to fight the virus at different stages. Oral PrEP, PEP and ART cannot be swapped – they only work when used as prescribed.

ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICATION

Oral PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)

WHO IS IT FOR?

People who don't have HIV and want to protect themselves from getting it.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Oral PrEP protects a person from HIV by creating a shield around the cells that HIV tries to attack.

WHEN IS IT USED?

During periods in a person's life when they're vulnerable to HIV.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

Oral PrEP has to be taken every day. Once it builds up in the body, it can be over 90% effective at preventing HIV. PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis)

WHO IS IT FOR?

People who are worried they've been exposed to HIV in the past 72 hours.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It stops HIV from spreading to other cells. When HIV can't spread, it dies.

WHEN IS IT USED?

PEP must be started within 72 hours of exposure and taken every day for 4 weeks.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

It depends on a lot of things, but if someone starts taking PEP straight away and they take it every day for 4 weeks, there's a high chance it will prevent them from becoming HIV positive. ART (Antiretroviral Therapy)

WHO IS IT FOR?

People who are HIV positive.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

ART involves taking a combination of HIV medication (antiretrovirals) that reduces the amount of HIV in a person's body and boosts their immune system.

WHEN IS IT USED?

People with HIV should start ART as soon as possible.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

It's different for everyone, but if a person begins ART soon after they get HIV, they have the best chance of living a long and healthy life. It can also stop the virus from being transmitted to others.

Oral PrEP – Answering Your Questions

Hi! I'm an HIV Prevention Ambassador. Do you have any questions about oral PrEP?

What is oral PrEP?

It's a medication that an HIV-negative person can take to protect themselves from HIV.

The word PrEP stands for Pre (before) Exposure (coming into contact with the virus) Prophylaxis (medication to prevent an infection from happening).

How does it work?

Oral PrEP creates a shield around your blood cells to protect them from HIV. Because HIV cannot infect these blood cells, the virus dies.

How effective is it?

If you take it every day, it will build up in your system and become over 90% effective at preventing HIV. Talk to your health care provider to find out how long you need to take it before it will protect you from HIV.

Is oral PrEP right for me?

That's your decision. It's your body, so it's your choice! You might consider oral PrEP if you're having sex and you want an additional method to protect yourself from HIV. Oral PrEP only needs to be taken during periods in your life when you are vulnerable to HIV.

Will oral PrEP protect me from other STIs and pregnancy?

No! Oral PrEP will not prevent other STIs or pregnancy. It's best to use condoms and contraception with oral PrEP.

Are there any side effects?

Oral PrEP is just like any other medication. A small number of people experience minor side effects like headaches, weight loss, nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain, but these will likely go away in a few weeks.

Can I take oral PrEP if I'm taking other medications?

Yes. Oral PrEP does not interact with most other medications. But let your health care provider know about all the medications you are taking.

If I take oral PrEP, does that mean I can't drink or take drugs?

Alcohol and other drugs won't affect oral PrEP. But make sure to keep yourself safe when drinking or using drugs. If you're having sex, make sure to use condoms to protect yourself from other STIs and pregnancy.

What do I need to do if I want to take oral PrEP?

The first step is to see a health care provider. They will help you take the next steps.

10 Tips for Using Oral PrEP

Keep your pills in a place that's easy to find

children and in a dry area. spot, away from small Make sure you pick a safe



2 Use a daily pill box

the pill you need to take each day. This can help you keep track of





3 Keep a back-up supply with you

to keep them dry and safe! one at work, school, or if you travel. Make sure you'll have them with you if you need to take keep it in your backpack or handbag. That way, Put some pills into a makeup bag or purse and



















about things you want to tell your health care provider. your refills. You can also use the app to keep notes a free pill app to remind you take your pills and get Set a repeating alarm on your phone or download







time each day, like when

Take the pill at the same

of your daily routine

Take the pill as part

or at bedtime. you brush your teeth

before swallowing.

bending your head forward taking a sip of water and Try placing it on your tongue. swallowing the pill Try different ways of



others use social media or WhatsApp. Some support groups meet in person, women so you can support each other Connect with other girls and young You're not the only one using oral PrEP



Taking your pill



if you're having trouble taking the pill every day them. Your health care provider can also help care provider about how to reduce or manage If you're having side effects, talk to your health









your pill today Don't forget

Ask someone to remind you

you to take your pill. Ask a partner, family member or friend to remind







Telling Others Role Play 1: Deciding



Do I have to tell my partner if I want to use oral PrEP?

You don't have to tell anyone. Your body belongs to you, and you have the right to make your own decisions about your health.

Some women use oral PrEP without their partner knowing, and some choose to tell their partner. It's your decision. It might be helpful to think about the reasons you would like to tell him and the reasons you don't want to.



Well, it would be nice to have his support.

Lots of women who use oral PrEP say it really helps to have their partner's support. It also makes them feel more comfortable taking it.

If I don't tell him, I might feel guilty or worried about him finding out.

I understand why you might worry about that. It's normal to feel guilty about keeping something a secret. We grow up being told that keeping secrets is a bad thing. I want you to know that it's your choice if you want to tell your partner. You don't need to feel guilty about making a decision to protect your health. If you choose not to tell him, I can support you to keep it private.

Are there any reasons you don't want to tell him?

I'm not sure if he will be supportive! What if he thinks I'm cheating on him or that I don't trust him? What if he doesn't want me to use it?

These are really common concerns. You could try talking to him about oral PrEP without telling him you're thinking about using it. For example, you could explain that other women your age are using it. This might give you an idea of what he thinks about oral PrEP and whether he's likely to be supportive.

If you do decide to tell him, we can practice responding to his concerns.

Don't forget, if you tell him and he's not supportive, you can still make your own decision about whether you want to use it.

Telling Others Role Play 2: Telling Your Partner



've decided to tell my partner about oral PrEP; do you have any advice about how I should do that?

I'm glad to hear you're interested in talking to your partner. Many women say it's helpful to have their partner's support.

Your partner is most likely to be supportive if he has accurate information about oral PrEP. Without it, he may believe some of the myths, which might make him less supportive.

Do you know if your partner knows much about oral PrEP?



I don't think so.

It might be helpful to talk to your partner about oral PrEP before you tell him you're using it. Try mentioning it casually a few times to start a conversation so you can provide him with accurate information. These conversations might also help you understand what he thinks about oral PrEP.

Okay, great I'll try that. When I'm ready to tell him, what should I say?

The first decision you'll need to make is whether you'll tell him that you're *considering* using oral PrEP, or you're *using* oral PrEP.

I'm not sure yet.

If you choose to tell him you're considering using oral PrEP, you could think about saying:

- · Did you know that HIV rates among girls and young women in our community are very high?
- · I've been thinking about using oral PrEP just to make sure I'm protected against HIV.
- · It's being recommended for girls/women to help prevent HIV.
- · I've heard a lot about it. It's completely safe and won't have any impact on you.
- It will just be like taking other medication to prevent getting sick.
- · I would really like your support. Taking oral PrEP will help me feel protected from HIV. Many girls/women my age are getting HIV, so I want to be as protected as I can be.

What if I choose to tell him after I start using it?

You can think about saying:

- · Using oral PrEP is just like using any other medication that protects your health - it's not a big deal.
- · It was recommended to me by a health care provider. I made the decision on my own because it's about my health and it won't have any impact on you.
- · I take it because many girls/ women my age are getting HIV, and I want to know I'm protected no matter what.

These are just some options. You know your partner best, so it's important that you decide what you want to say.

Don't forget, taking oral PrEP is your right. You are making a responsible decision to protect your health.

What if he thinks I'm cheating on him, or that I don't trust him?

You could try explaining that using oral PrEP isn't about your relationship – it's a decision about your health. You could also try to explain that you're trusting him by asking for his support.

What if he thinks this means we don't need to use condoms?

Explain that oral PrEP will only protect you from HIV. It won't protect him. It also won't protect either of you from STIs. Condoms are always the best method because they protect against HIV, STIs and unplanned pregnancy.

Do you have any other advice?

Sure, here are some tips:

- · Picking your timing is important. Try to find a time when he's in a good mood, you're both sober and you have some privacy.
- · If you're worried that he may get angry or could be violent, try to find a place where you can easily leave or get help if you need to.
- · Try practicing what you're going to say. I'm happy to do that with you, or you could ask a friend.
- · If you have any friends who are using oral PrEP and have told their partners, you could ask them for advice.

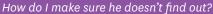
Telling Others Role Play 3: Keeping Your Oral PrEP Use Private



I've decided not to tell my partner.

It's great you've made a decision that works best for you. Many women make the same decision, and they successfully use oral PrEP without telling their partners.

Do you have any questions about keeping your oral PrEP use private?



If you want to tell other people in your life, such as your family or friends, make sure they understand you've chosen not to tell your partner. And only tell people you trust.



There are lots of ways to keep your pills hidden. You could try:

- · Keeping them with other medications in a different container
- · Keeping them in your bag in a little pouch
- · Keeping them with your tampons or pads

Women who are really worried about their partners finding their pills might keep them somewhere else, like at a friend's house, but this can make it difficult to remember to take them every day.

Other women don't hide the pills and instead pretend they're something else, like pills for period pain or their contraceptive.

What if he finds out?

Although many women use oral PrEP without their partner finding out, it's a good idea to plan what you will say if he does.

You can think about saying:

- Using oral PrEP is just like using any other medication that protects your health it's not a big deal.
- It was recommended to me by a health care provider. I made the decision on my own because it's about my health and it won't have any impact on you.
- · I take it because many girls/women my age are getting HIV, and I want to know I'm protected no matter what.

You could also say you were just trying it and were going to let him know if you decide to take it.

These are just some options. You know your partner best, so it's important that you decide what you want to say. It might be helpful to practice what you're going to say. I'm happy to do that with you, or you could ask a friend.

Is there anything else I should consider?

Don't forget, taking oral PrEP is your right. Your body belongs to you, and you have the right to make your own decisions about your health. You're not alone. Many girls and women choose to use oral PrEP without telling anyone.

If you have any more questions or concerns you can always talk to me. And if you decide you want to tell your partner at a later time, I can support you to do that too.

Awareness Raising Role Play



Hi! I'm an HIV Prevention Ambassador.
Do you have any questions about oral PrEP?

Yes! What is oral PrEP?

It's a medication that an HIV-negative person can take to protect themselves from HIV.

Oral PrEP creates a shield around a person's blood cells to protect them from HIV. If a person is taking oral PrEP every day and they're exposed to HIV, it won't be able to infect their blood cells. The virus will die, and the person won't get HIV.





Isn't oral PrEP only for sex workers and women who are promiscuous?

Oral PrEP is for anybody who's vulnerable to HIV. Rates of HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women in this country are very high. This is not because they are promiscuous. It's because they often do not have access to the information and prevention methods they need to protect themselves from HIV. Oral PrEP can change this!





Girls don't need oral PrEP. They should practice abstinence until they are married. Abstinence is one way girls and young women can protect themselves from HIV, but abstinence doesn't work for everyone.

HIV is increasing among girls and women, so it's best to have different options so they can choose the most effective one for them.

You don't have to worry about oral PrEP encouraging more girls/women to have sex; there have been lots of studies and they all show that this is not true.

It's also important to remember that married girls and women also get HIV. It's also possible for girls practicing abstinence to get HIV if they're raped.



Will oral PrEP make my daughter infertile?

This is a very common myth, but it's not

true. It's been proven that oral PrEP has no effect on fertility.



If my partner wants to use oral PrEP, does that mean she doesn't trust me or that she's having an affair?

Using oral PrEP doesn't mean your partner doesn't trust you or that she's having an affair. It just

means she wants to be in control of her health. Oral PrEP is like any other medication people take to protect their health. Many women in relationships take oral PrEP.



Does my daughter need my permission to use oral PrEP?

depends on how old she is and where she lives. In some places, she won't need your rmission after she turns 16. In other places, she needs to be 18. Whether she needs your rmission or not, supporting your daughter to take oral PrEP will help protect her from HIV so she can live a long and healthy life. Supporting your daughter to make her own decisions can strengthen your relationship, and it may make her more likely to involve you in other decisions.

What can we do to prevent HIV in our community?

Supporting girls and young women to use oral PrEP is an important way you can help prevent HIV. If more girls and young women use oral PrEP, the rates of HIV in this community will decrease.

It's also important to reduce the risk of HIV transmission in your own life. You can do this by having an HIV test so you know if you're HIV positive. Most HIV transmissions come from people who don't know they're HIV positive. If you are HIV positive, there's medication that can keep you healthy and prevent you from passing it on to others.

You can also make sure you're protecting yourself and your partner by always using condoms.





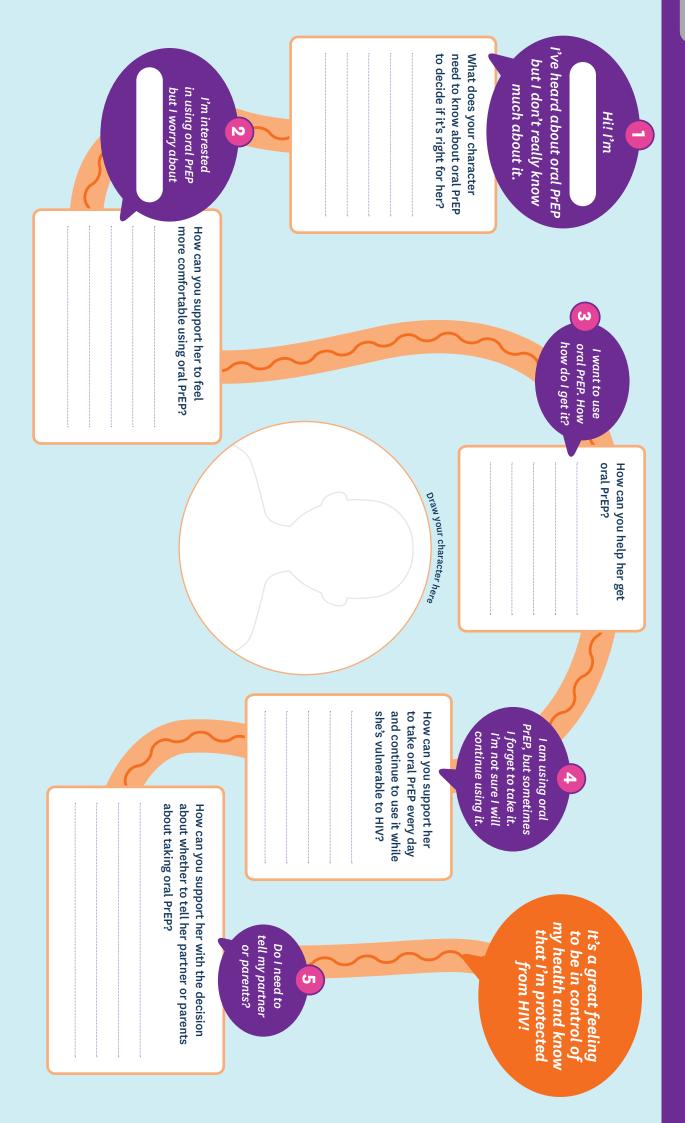




CARE Response - Disclosures of Violence

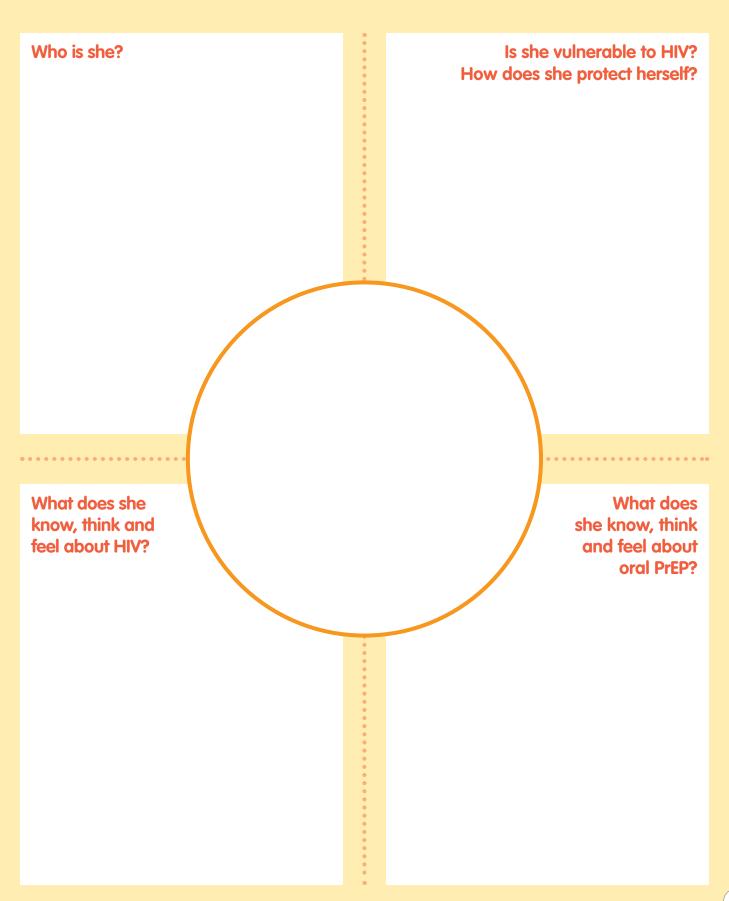
STEP	How do I do this?	What does this look like in practice?
Create a safe space	A safe space is both physically and emotionally safe. Make sure you're somewhere private, where she feels physically safe. Explain that you're just there to listen – you won't judge her or tell her what to do. Let her know she can trust you to protect her confidentiality.	
A ctively listen	Show her you're listening deeply and with empathy. Use your body language to communicate that you're paying attention. Give her space to talk, and acknowledge and validate her feelings.	
Reassure	Reassure her by letting her know she's not alone, you're there for her and her feelings are valid. If she's shared an experience of violence, let her know that you believe her and It's not her fault.	
Empower and support	Let her know she's in control of what happens next. Help her to identify her needs and consider her options. Be ready to provide her with information about support services she can access.	

Oral PrEP Journey Map



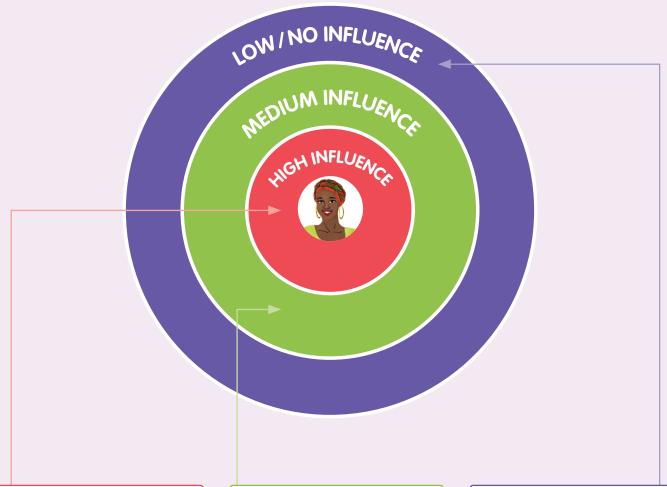
Character Profile

Name



My Circles of Influence

Who can you influence?



High influence		
•		

Medium influence		

Low/no influence		

Removing Barriers to Oral PrEP

	What would make it easier for your peers to use oral PrEP? What would make it easier for your peers to find out about oral PrEP?	
What would make it easier for your peers to tell their partners and parents about using oral PrEP?		
	What would make it easier for your peers to get oral PrEP? What would make it easier for your peers to take oral PrEP correctly and continue taking it?	

Advocacy Planning

What is the problem you want to address?	
What do you want to achieve (your objective)?	
Who has the power to do this?	
What opportunities are there to influence them?	
Who are your allies that you can work with to strengthen your influence?	

My Personal Action Plan

Our goal	
What are you most passionate about doing as an Ambassador?	
What are your strengths that will help you in your role as an Ambassador?	
What types of activities are you most interested in doing to contribute toward the goal?	
Where do you have the most influence?	
What is one thing you can achieve that will contribute toward the goal (your objective)?	
What support or resources do you have, and what will you need to achieve this?	

CARE Response -Peer Support

STEP		How do I do this?	What does this look like in practice?
C reate a safe space	>	A safe space is both physically and emotionally safe. Make sure you're somewhere private, where she feels physically safe. Explain that you're just there to listen – you won't judge her or tell her what to do. Let her know she can trust you to protect her confidentiality.	
A ctively listen		Show her you're listening deeply and with empathy. Use your body language to communicate that you're paying attention. Give her space to talk, and acknowledge and validate her feelings.	
Reassure		Reassure her by letting her know she's not alone, you're there for her and her feelings are valid. If she's shared an experience of violence, let her know that you believe her and it's not her fault.	
Empower and support		Let her know she's in control of what happens next. Help her to identify her needs and consider her options. Be ready to provide her with information about support services she can access.	



