HIV Prevention Ambassador Toolkit

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for Adolescent Girls and Young Women





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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.

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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 <u>Ambassador Tools</u>. 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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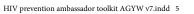
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Ambassador Tools

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HIV and AIDS - Get the Facts!

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TOOL 1

HIV TRANSMISSION		HIV PREVENTION	
HIV can be transmitted from one person to another			
through blood, semen, vaginal fluid, rectal fluid, and breast milk. This can happen during:	Oral PrEP If you don't have HIV you can protect yourself by taking anti-HIV medication called oral PrEP	PEP If you've been exposed to HIV you can prevent infection by taking HIV medication called PEP within 72 hours of exposure	ART If you're HIV positive you can prevent transmission to others by taking HIV medication
• Vaginal sex	Additional methods you can use to reduce the risk	Mothers with HIV can reduce the risk of HIV transmission to their baby by:	
• Oral sex	of HIV transmission during sex are: Using male or female condoms every time you have sex - including vaginal,	Taking HIV medication during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding HIV-positive women who do not wish to become pregnant can use family planning	ion ng
Childbirth Breastfeeding	Using water-based lubricant or silicone-based to prevent condoms from breaking and dry sex	You can reduce the risk of HIV transmission through blood by:	nission through blood by:
 Injecting drugs 	Regularly testing for STIs and treating them immediately	Avoiding contact with other people's blood	Never using a needle that has been used by someone else
With a shared needle	Abstaining, reducing your number of sexual partners and knowing your partner's status	HIV can be transmitted during blood transfusions, but most hospitals now test blood for HIV before using it in a transfusion. If you're warried ask your doctor!	

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TOOL 2

Gender Inequality Problem Tree

Sexual violence ex_{bo} girls/women to HIL

negotiating safer sex hiolence may prevent

When wone the deepen on their particles in the second seco When when depend on their particles

they can't get the information they need to make formed decision If girls/women can't talk about sex,

they can't get the information they need to many informed decisions about sex and their sexual health

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Parres and are encouraged to have multiple and arais 'increasing their risk of HIV Gender norms make it harder for girls/women to have control over their bodies and ^{make} decisions about their health

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> Violence and gender inequality make it harder for girls/ women to protect themselves from ΗIV

Gender inequality makes women more vulnerable to violence

Gender norms give men more power than women

Men should be tough/dominant/aggressive

> Manly men have lots of sex

Women should be submissive

It's shameful for women to enjoy sex and talk about sex

Men have the right to discipline their wives A woman's role is to cook, clean and raise children A man's role is to provide

Women should prevent violence by obeying their partners/husbands

Men can't

control their anger

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TOOL 3

CARE Response

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.
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.

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Test and Prevent

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

TEST

Test for HIV and STIs – and do it regularly!

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

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

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PREVENT

Protect yourself from HIV transmission every time you have sex!



Male condoms and female condoms

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



prophylaxis) Oral PrEP is a medication that an HIVnegative person can take to protect themselves from HIV. It creates a shield around a person's blood cells to protect

to always use a condom. Abstinence, reducing your number of sexual die, and the person won't get HIV. Oral PrEP

it can't infect their blood cells. The virus will

doesn't protect you against STIs, so it's best

them from HIV. When a person takes oral

PrEP every day and they're exposed to HIV,

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

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RESPOND

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

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



PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis)

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

TREAT

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

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

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

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undetectable viral load.

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.

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Oral PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)

WHO IS IT FOR?

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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.

ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICATION

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

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

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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.

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

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



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

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



time each day, like when Take the pill at the same of your daily routine Take the pill as part

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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 5 Try different ways of swallowing the pill



6 Set an alarm on your phone or use a pill reminder app

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





8 support group with friends Join or start an oral PrEP

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.





you run out.

your pills before Plan ahead and refill

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Try not to

run out of pills

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If you're having side effects, talk to your health care provider about how to reduce or manage

Keep appointments with your health care provider

if you're having trouble taking the pill every day them. Your health care provider can also help

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Telling Others Role Play 1: Deciding

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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.

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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

I'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.

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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.

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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?
- $\cdot\,$ 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?

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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.

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TOOL 10

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

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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?

How do I make sure he doesn't find out?

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.

How do I hide my oral PrEP pills?

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?

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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.

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Awareness Raising Role Play



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

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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.



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.

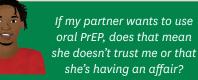
It's also important to remember that married girls and women also get HIV. It's also possible for girls practicing abstinence to get HIV if they're raped.



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

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



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?

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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.

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TOOL 12

Worksheets

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CARE Response -Disclosures of Violence

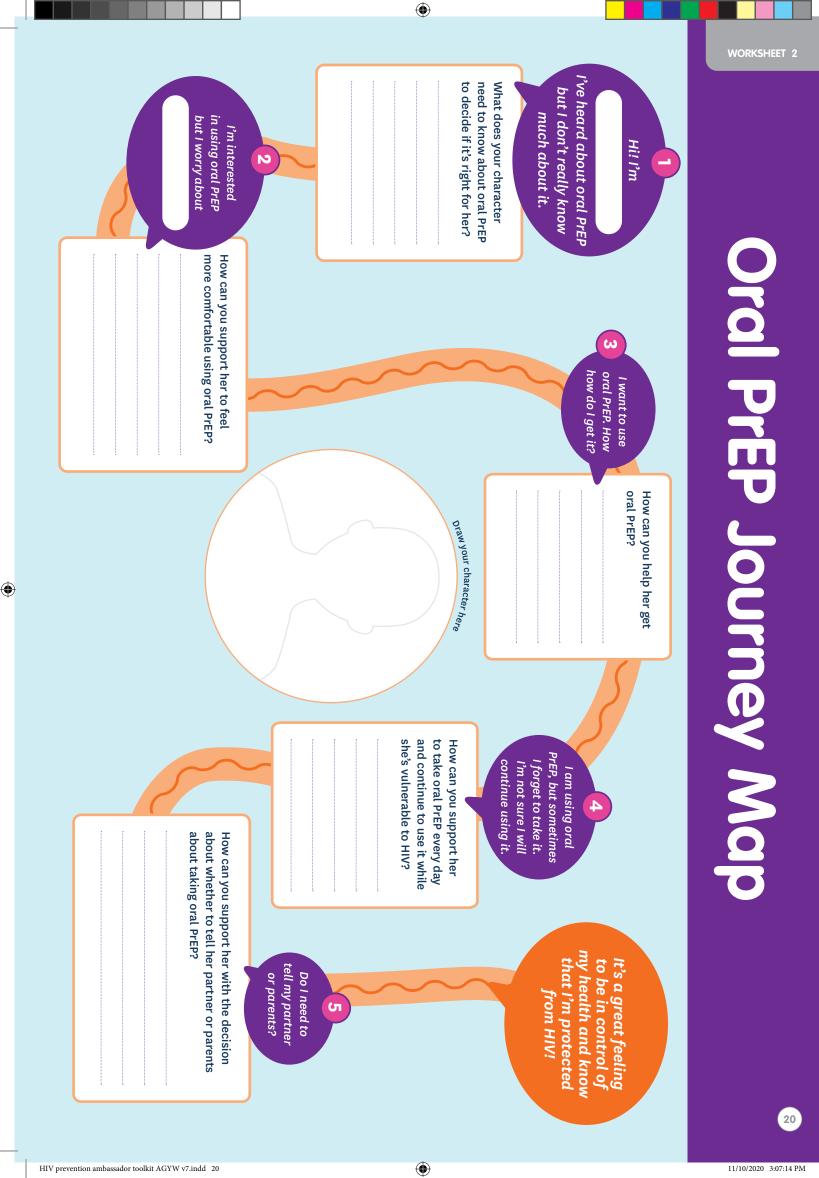
STEP	How do I do this?	What does this look like in practice?
C reate a safe space	A safe space is both physically and emotionally safe. Make sure you're somewhere private, where she feels physically safe. Explain that you're just there to listen – you won't judge her or tell her what to do. Let her know she can trust you to protect her confidentiality.	
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.	

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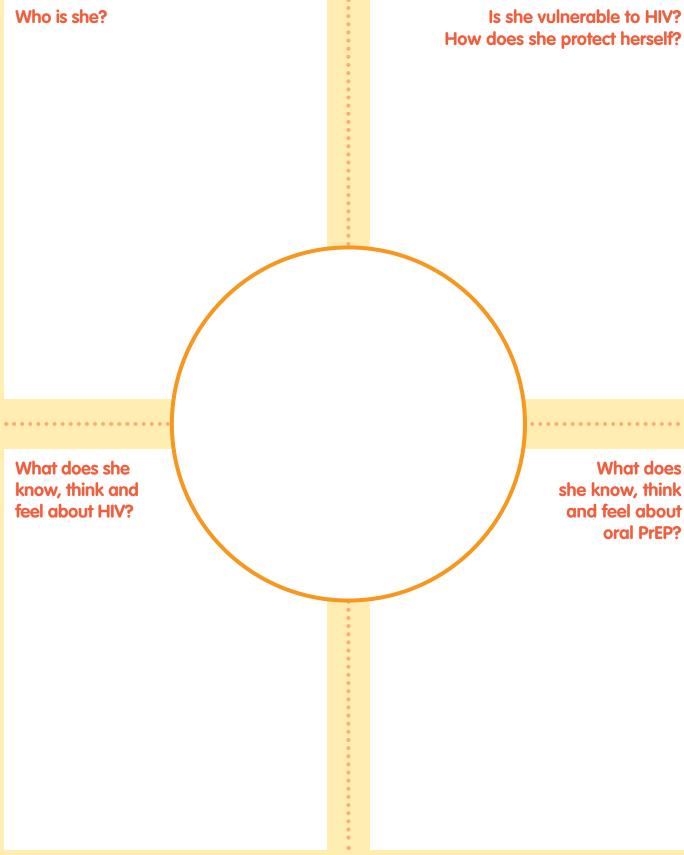
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Character Profile

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Name

Who is she?

Is she vulnerable to HIV?

How does she protect herself?

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My Circles of Influence

Who can you influence?

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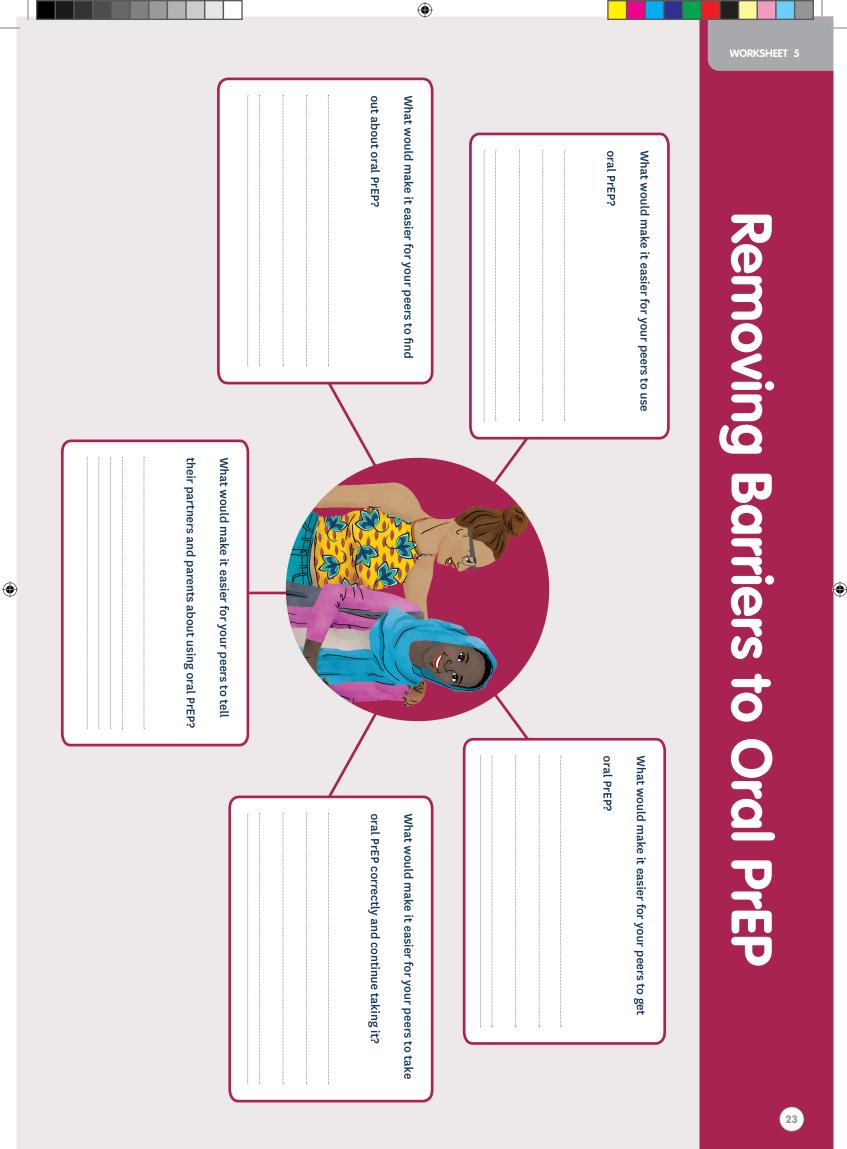


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WORKSHEET 4



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Advocacy Planning

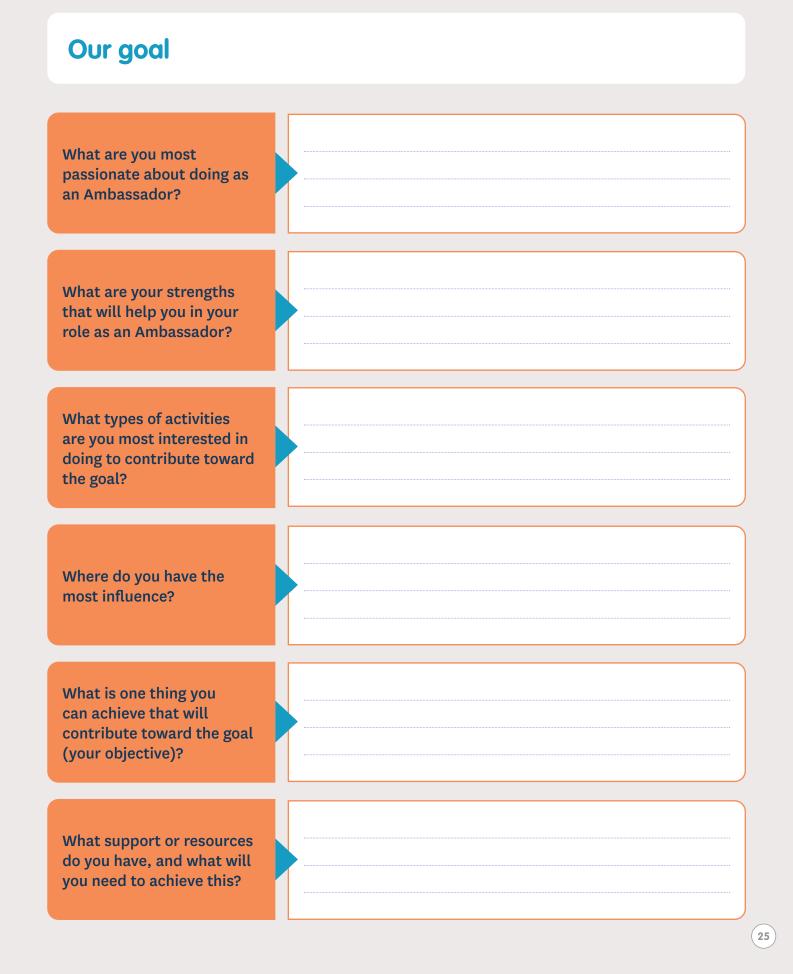
What is the problem you want to address?	
What do you want to achieve (your objective)?	
Who has the power to do this?	
What opportunities are there to influence them?	
Who are your allies that you can work with to strengthen your influence?	
What support or resources do you have, and what will you need?	

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My Personal Action Plan

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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.	
E mpower 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.	

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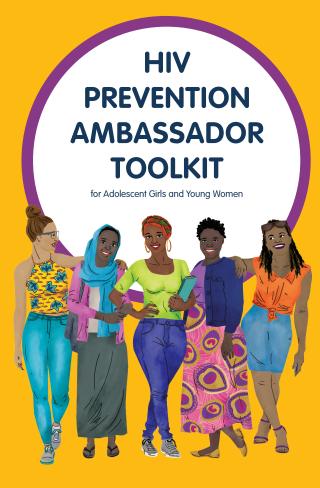
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