

**HIV+ AIDS / National Union of Students.**

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## **NUS HIV/AIDS CAMPAIGN DEMANDS:**

- \* A national AIDS project, free from Government bureaucracy, financially and politically supported, to direct a national response.
- \* Legislation against discrimination in employment, housing, insurance, in the media and in education.
- \* An end to media myths, scare stories and scapegoating.
- \* More drug testing and research, with an emphasis on making a broader range of drugs available to all people living with HIV/AIDS.
- \* A national education programme to reach all sections of society, with material and information explicit enough to do the job.
- \* An international response emphasising human rights. Free exchange of information to find a cure and adequately resourced education programmes.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- \* Take part in local events on World AIDS Day, 1 December, and wear a red ribbon to raise awareness. Get involved in the NUS campaign.
- \* Write to your local council and MP demanding anti-discrimination legislation, highlighting education, insurance, housing, employment and the media.
- \* Propose motions to your student union, committing your union to fight all forms of discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS in your college and local community.
- \* Organise an information stall in your town centre.
- \* Make sure your college welfare service has positive, accessible and explicit safer sex information. Work with your local health authority's health promotion unit and your college health centre.
- \* Organise regular events to raise money for organisations fighting AIDS, eg Terrence Higgins Trust, Body Positive, Positively Women, ACT-UP etc.

*Contact Martin Lindsay and Kevin Sexton at NUS for further information.*

# **NUS**



# HIV+ AIDS

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## FIGHT THE PREJUDICE, NOT THE PEOPLE

HIV/AIDS is an issue for all students. Make sure you take account of the safer sex message, but an effective campaign against the AIDS crisis requires more.

The Government's record on this issue is poor, and shows insufficient political and financial commitment:

**April 1988** Government replaces supplementary benefit system with income support, substantially reducing the amount of benefit available for people living with HIV/AIDS. Under the new system, people living with HIV/AIDS can no longer get extra payments for special diets specified by their doctor, extra heating and extra laundry money.

**Summer 1989** Despite the recommendation of an all party parliamentary group, the Government refuses to make condoms and clean needles available to all prisoners.

**Autumn 1989** Government continues to stall on compensation for the 500 haemophiliacs who have been infected with HIV through contaminated blood products.

**October 1989** The Government defeat Gavin Strang MP's proposal, supported by an all party parliamentary group on AIDS, to make it illegal to sack people simply because they have HIV. Discrimination remains widespread.

**October 1989** Without public announcement, Mrs Thatcher disbands special cabinet committee on AIDS set up in March 1987. There has been no replacement at Government level.

**November 1989** The HEA, under pressure from Tory right-wingers, disbands its 20 member specialist team on AIDS, leaving no group to co-ordinate a national health education campaign. Mrs Thatcher scraps TV adverts encouraging use of condoms.

**June 1992** The Government's White Paper on health makes AIDS/HIV a low priority and not an immediate issue in sexual health for the 1990s.