

## **Working to prevent people dying from AIDS / AVERT.**

### **Contributors**

AVERT (Organization)

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WORKING  
TO PREVENT  
PEOPLE  
DYING  
FROM  
AIDS

AIDS VIRUS EDUCATION & RESEARCH TRUST

Reg. Charity No: 296357

## The Problem

Behind the sensational headlines and exaggerated reporting, there is a real and growing problem. By 1991, about 250,000 people in this country will be infected with the Aids virus. And the number of infections will double each year unless action is taken to stop it.

Not everybody carrying the Aids virus will develop the disease - but those who do will probably die. Most of them will be under 40 years old and many will be practising homosexuals, prostitutes and drug abusers. These groups meet with prejudice and antipathy in their plight but Aids is a problem for everybody.

Each victim is a human being with a right to the concern of his fellows. And the suffering that results from Aids is not confined to those with the disease; it can affect anybody - be they victim, carer, parent, friend or relative. Every form of suffering deserves relief.

The scale of the problem is so great that the Government is simply unable to allocate sufficient resources to solve it. Others must help to cover areas that the authorities cannot.

**AVERT** came into being in 1986 and works in the fields of education and research.



## Aims

The aims of **AVERT** are simply stated:

- To stop people dying from Aids.
- To relieve the suffering caused by the disease.

It pursues these aims through education and research - and since the summer of 1986, significant progress has been made.

## Education

**AVERT** has, by funding and other means, participated in:

- A campaign, with the National Union of Students, in which more than 450 Further Education establishments were provided with posters and literature.
- The development of a Health Education Authority training programme, 'Learning About Aids', aimed at teachers, adult educators, youth and community workers, and health service trainers.
- The publishing of a College of Health leaflet, 'Aids and the Government' and the regular production of the 'Aids Newsletter' by the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases.
- Staging a major conference, 'Aids - Caring in the Community', in conjunction with the Royal College of Nursing.

## Research

**AVERT** is currently funding 3 important research projects in leading British hospitals. These are studies into:

- The effects of pregnancy on women infected with the Aids virus.  
(City Hospital, Edinburgh)
- Aids Dementia - the effects of the virus on the brain and central nervous system.  
(The National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London)
- The behaviour of female prostitutes in reaction to the Aids threat.  
(St Mary's Hospital, Paddington)

## The Future

The process of education is not simple; it requires both direct and indirect approaches. The Government is taking on the task of informing the general public; **AVERT's** targets are those who have responsibility towards, or influence over Aids victims, either actual or potential. With major efforts already directed towards professional careers, colleges and universities, **AVERT** plans to extend its education programme to include parents, for whom little has yet been done, and YTS organisers. Additional research is planned into the development of Aids in babies born with the virus and into the special problems of haemophilia.



## The Cost

**AVERT** has already spent some £50,000 on its education and research programmes; the budget for 1987/8 is about £100,000. Altogether, a total of £250,000 has been committed to fund existing projects until 1990.

**AVERT** has not received, and does not seek, any Government funding. It values its independence in a particularly sensitive field, seeing itself as a catalyst to stimulate the authorities when necessary - a role impossible to fulfil if the Government provides the funds necessary for its work.

All of the money used so far has been donated privately. If the work of the charity is to progress along the lines indicated here, more money is needed.

A further £100,000 this year will enable **AVERT** to reach parents and the YTS; it will also allow vital research into the special problems of the new born and haemophiliacs.

**AVERT** *is working to stop people dying from Aids. A contribution now will help that work to develop and expand.*



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Contact **AVERT** at this address to learn more about its work and to give your financial support.

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