

**Big Up : black men who have sex with men delivering HIV/AIDS information to black men who have sex with men / Big Up.**

**Contributors**

Big Up (Organization)

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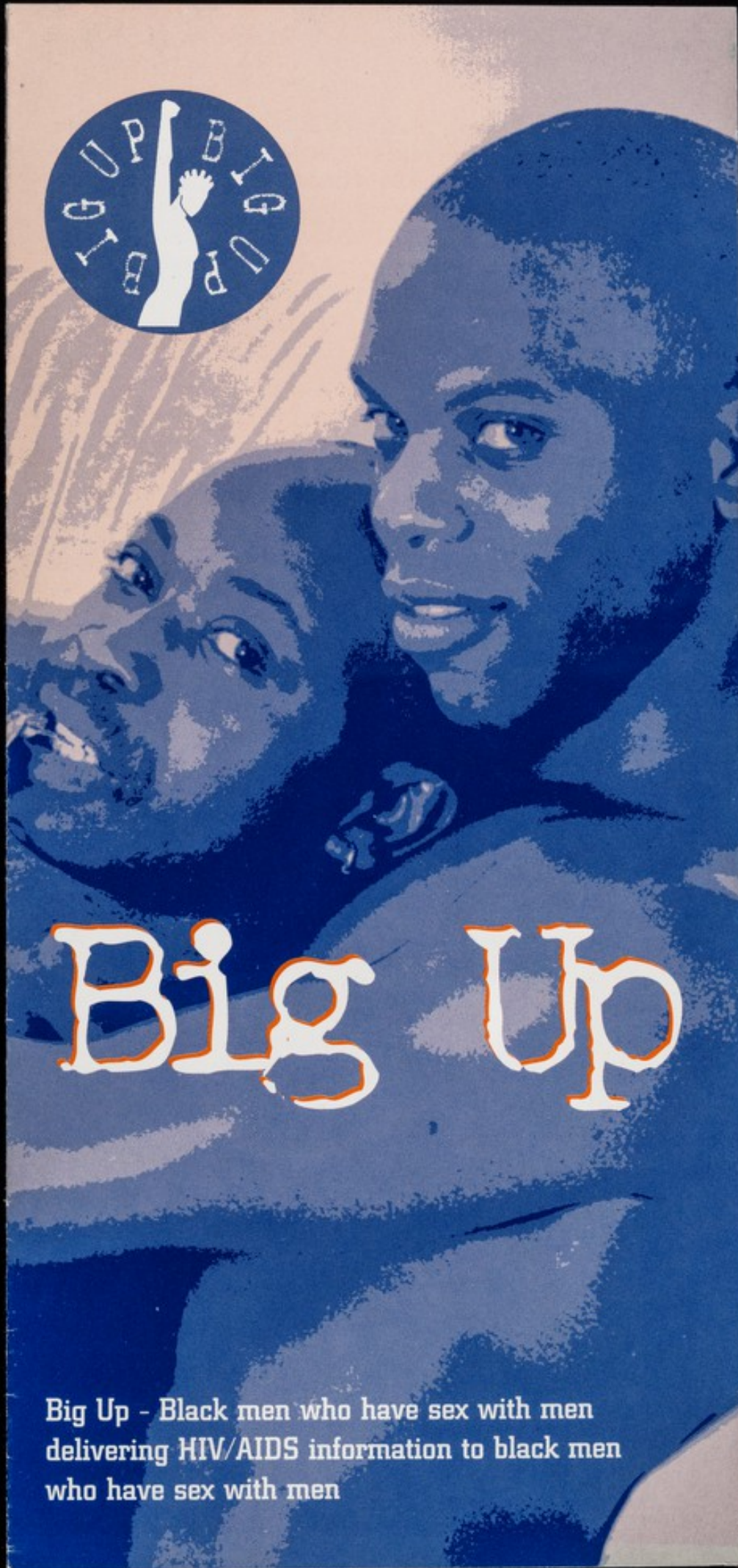
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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
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# Big Up

Big Up - Black men who have sex with men  
delivering HIV/AIDS information to black men  
who have sex with men



Big Up

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Big Up is an organisation that provides culturally sensitive and specific HIV information, education and prevention for African and Caribbean men who have sex with men.

At Big Up we strongly believe in peer education and Black men doing work for Black men. Therefore our staff, volunteers and management committee members are African or Caribbean men who have sex with men.

## So what does Big Up do?

### The Big Up Helpline

Operating on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 6-8pm, trained staff and volunteers will be able to answer questions about HIV, AIDS and a wide range of topics that affect the lives of Black men who have sex with men. Our volunteers are able to draw on a database of valuable agencies and organisations providing services that are sensitive and suited to the needs of Black men who have sex with men. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.



### Call:

0171 501 9315

Tuesday & Thursday

6.00-8.00pm

### Workshops

Big Up believes that we all should take responsibility for ourselves and our lives.

At Big Up we believe that it is through education that we empower ourselves to make informed choices about our sexual health. To achieve this we have developed a number of workshops providing accurate, up-to-date information about HIV and AIDS alongside other issues that explore diverse topics including negotiating safer sex, relationships, health issues and self development.

Our workshops are open to all Black men who have sex with men.

For more information about our workshops call the Big Up office.



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BLACK MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN  
DELIVERING HIV/AIDS INFORMATION TO BLACK MEN  
WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

## Positively Black

We recognise that some of the needs & issues for Black men living with HIV or AIDS are separate & different from those who are not. In response to this we have developed a nine week course for Black men who are living with HIV or AIDS.

The course explores coping with a new diagnosis, treatment options, getting the most from you doctor, work and benefit options, healthier lifestyles, and relationships & sex.

We run the nine week course throughout the year.

We have also developed a monthly support group for men living with HIV or AIDS. Held monthly at Big Up, the "Positively Black" group has been developed to provide Black men affected by HIV with a safe space to share and receive support and information about the services and treatments available to them, to discuss any issues with other HIV+ men or just to chill and watch a movie.

For more information about the nine week course or the monthly support group, call the Big Up office in confidence.

## Safer Sex Posters, Cards and Leaflets

At Big Up we recognise the need to produce culturally sensitive and relevant safer sex posters and leaflets targeted at Black men who have sex with men.



We produce high quality, relevant, erotic and informative posters and leaflets that celebrate sex and encourage you to make informed choices about your sexual activity. These will be distributed to Genito-Urinary Clinics (GUM) clinics, other organisations and social events.

If you would like copies of any of our posters or leaflets please contact our office.

## Outreach

At Big Up we recognise that for reasons such as race, sexual myths and harassment large numbers of Black Men who have sex with men, will not make use of the wider, predominately white gay commercial scene. Therefore we believe in taking our work out into our communities. We work closely with club and party promoters to do condom & information drops at their venues.

We have also developed an outreach programme with the LADS project to do Condom drops in cruising grounds and cottages. So

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wherever Black men who have sex with men meet Big Up will be there to provide the information and tools for them to practise safer sex.

If you are a promoter Big Up can provide condoms and lubricants to be distributed to men who attend your clubs or parties. In return we can help with the publicity of your event. If you want more information call our office.

## Training

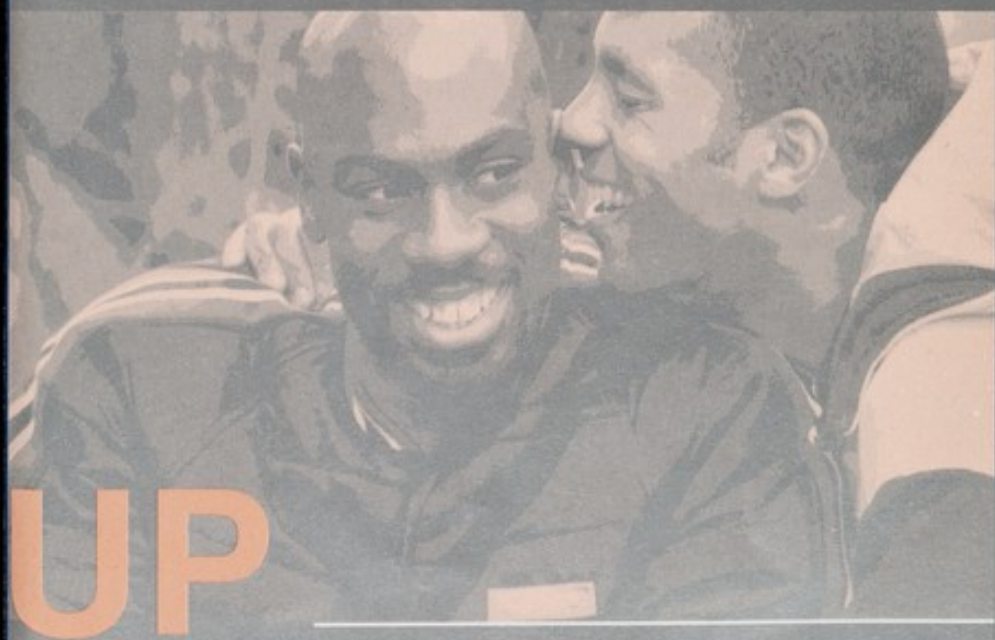
At Big Up we aim to raise the awareness and needs of Black Men who have sex with men both amongst other organisations and the wider community. We provide consultancy and training to those seeking to work with Black Men who have sex with men.

## Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to the work of Big Up.

We rely on volunteers to perform many of our functions. Volunteers run the helpline, outreach, workshops, publicity and promotions as well as providing administrative support. Volunteers also assist with the development of our HIV prevention campaigns and the planning and delivery of events such as Gay Pride and World AIDS Day.

All of our volunteers take part in a weekend long induction course that covers, amongst other issues, HIV awareness, confidentiality and the work that they will be carrying out for Big Up. After the induction each volunteer is interviewed separately by the volunteer co-ordinator. Following this interview volunteers are allocated work group they have chosen.



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The Volunteers Support Group meets every six weeks with the volunteer co-ordinator to discuss future work and any problems.

### Get involved in BIG UP



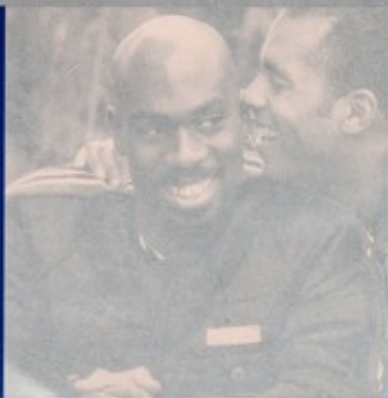
We need volunteers to work with us to deliver our work to Black men who have sex with men.

We also need volunteer management committee members to work with us to develop and implement to strategic aims and objectives of the organisation.

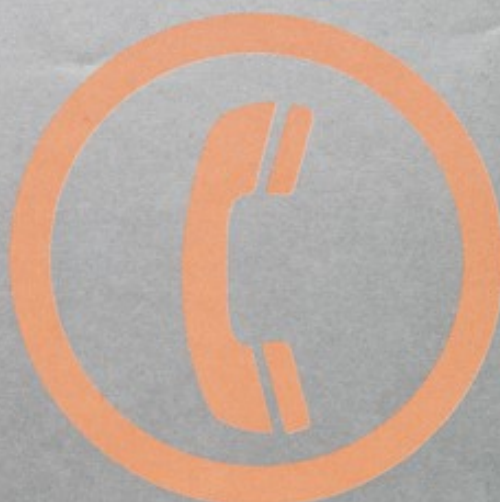


This is your opportunity to become involved in a fresh and exciting organisation and make a difference for Black men who have sex with men.

Big Up







For further information  
contact:

**BIG UP UNIT 41**

**EUROLINK BUSINESS CENTRE 49 EFFRA ROAD LONDON SW2 1BZ**

**TEL: 0171- 501 9264**

**FAX: 0171 652 2606**

**E MAIL: vols@bigup.co.uk**

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Kensington Chelsea Westminster Health Authority  
Camden & Islington Health Authority**

**BIG UP defines Black as descending  
through one or both parents from Africa  
or the Caribbean.**

**All photographs used posed by models. Photography Sharon Wallace.  
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**Big Up**