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Contributors

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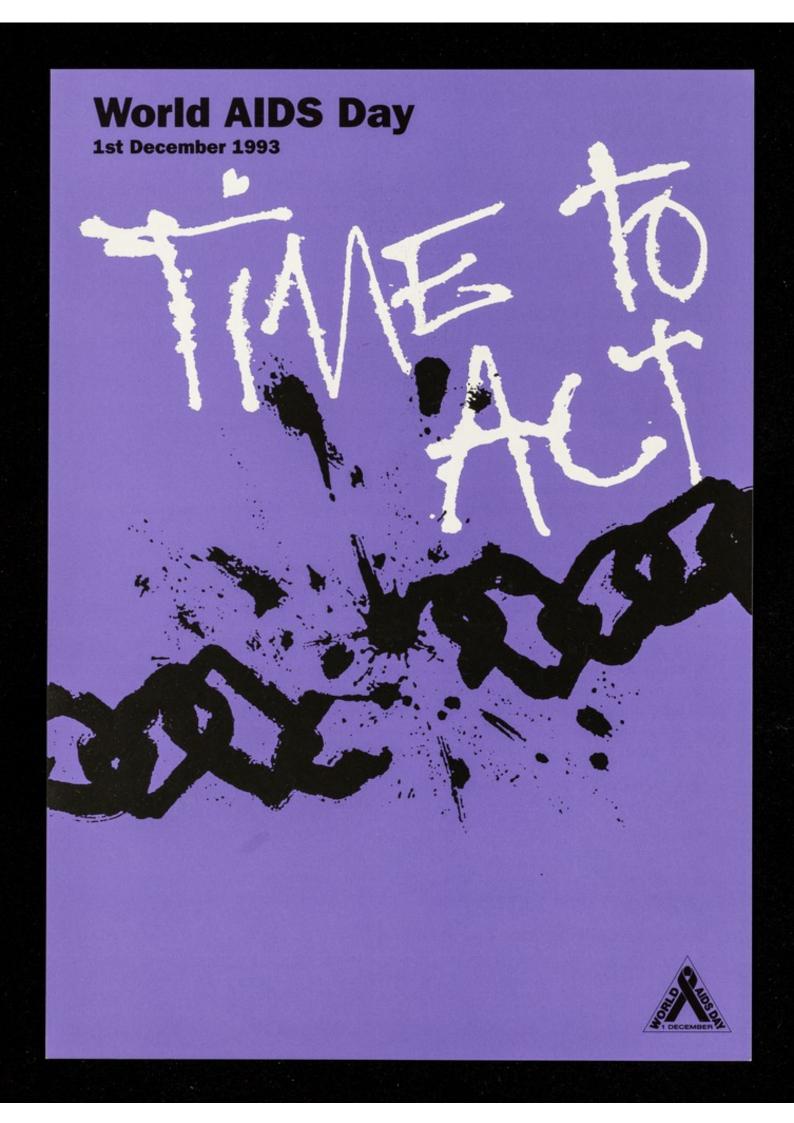
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WORLD AIDS is present in every country on the planet. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus which causes AIDS, is still spreading worldwide faster than international efforts to stop it.

Every day an estimated 5,000 people become infected. Rates of infection are not uniform across the globe, nor are they rising at a uniform rate within countries. Many factors are involved, including the time when the infection was introduced, the effectiveness of prevention campaigns, the means of transmission and the presence or absence of other sexually transmitted diseases. Other factors, such as under-resourced health surveillance systems, mean that it is not always possible even to estimate the extent of HIV in a country. But the broad picture is clear......

AIDS Some countries have much higher rates of infection than others. By the year 2,000 – in 7 years' time - The World Health Organisation projects that the overall total of HIV infections in men, women and children will range between 30 - 40 million people. The total number of people with AIDS is projected to be between 12 - 18 million.

DAY In 1988, a summit of health ministers from around the world nominated 1st December as WORLD AIDS DAY, a day of action designed to raise public awareness of AIDS.

Why Have a Special Day?

- Every country is affected by HIV & AIDS.
- World AIDS Day provides us with the opportunity to link worldwide in a common effort to halt AIDS.
- The need for urgent action is obvious. In the UK, we know that, as of March 1993, at least 19,524 people had contracted HIV. 7,341 of these people had developed AIDS, of whom 4,572 had already died.
- There are many more people infected that we don't know about and who may not know themselves.
- Many more are affected: lovers, parents, friends, colleagues and carers.
- Tens of thousands of people are already working worldwide to slow the spread of HIV and to provide care and support to those infected.
- A special Day Of Action highlights the information and the issues and gives everyone an opportunity to Learn and to Act.

This World AIDS Day it's Time To Act!

Time to Act against the DENIAL that leads people to believe they don't need to protect themselves and their loved ones; Time to Act against the PREJUDICE and DISCRIMINATION against people with HIV; Time to Act against the COMPLACENCY that says AIDS is not my problem. Time to Act to SUPPORT efforts to produce effective and accessible treatments, vaccines and cures.

1st December World AIDS Day: Time To Act

This leaflet is produced by the National AIDS Trust on behalf of the World AIDS Day Steering Group with the support of the Heath Education Authority. The NAT is responsible for co-ordinating World AIDS Day activities in the UK. For further information about HIV & AIDS, ring the National AIDS Helpline on Tel.0800 567 123. For further information about World AIDS Day, write to: Ian Poitier, World AIDS Day Co-ordinator, The National AIDS Trust, Eileen House, 80 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6EF