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World AIDS Day 1st december 1994

World

AIDS is present in every country on the planet. The Human Immuno-deficiency 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 2000 - in six 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 HIV and AIDS.

Why have a special day?

- Every country is affected by HIV and AIDS.
- World AIDS Day provides us with the opportunity to link worldwide in a common effort to halt the spread of HIV infection and AIDS.
- The need for urgent action is obvious. In the UK, we know that, as of March 1994, at least 21,718 people had contracted HIV. Of these people, 9,025 had developed AIDS, of whom 6,031 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, families, 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.

The WHO international theme for 1994 is 'AIDS and the Family'

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

1st December 1994 World AIDS Day

This leaflet is produced by the National AIDS Trust with the support of the Health Education Authority. The NAT provides a central collection and sharing of information point for activities in the UK to mark World AIDS Day. For further information about HIV and AIDS, ring the National AIDS Helpline on 0800 567123. All calls are free and confidential. For further information about World AIDS Day write to:

Keith Winestein,
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