

**Over 34 million people have HIV/AIDS worldwide, no one has been cured :
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over **34 Million** people have HIV/AIDS worldwide
NO ONE HAS BEEN CURED

world**AIDS**day
campaign update

Make a difference. Go to
www.worldAIDSday.org

World AIDS Day is 1st December

Make a difference...
World AIDS Day is 1st December 2000

over **34 Million** people have HIV/AIDS worldwide
NO ONE HAS BEEN CURED

It is a terrible statistic; numbers like these make it seem that AIDS is winning. But all over the world, individuals are making a difference. You too can play your part by joining this year's World AIDS Day campaign, which aims to:



Encourage individuals to make a difference and go to www.worldAIDSday.org for information about HIV and sexual health, and ideas on how to get involved



Highlight the scale of the global AIDS crisis



Engage the public with the Red Ribbon to demonstrate support for people living with HIV and AIDS

The World AIDS Day campaign is the perfect opportunity for you to raise the issue of HIV with the general public, at work, in social and educational settings or places of worship. If you require printed resources, contact NAT for a catalogue on 020 7814 6726 and purchase them whilst stocks last. You may also be able to obtain materials by contacting your local Health Promotion Unit – you can get their number from your telephone directory or call 020 7413 1995. Alternatively you can download information from our website at www.worldAIDSday.org.

**Make a difference?
Together we can!**



worldAIDSday 2000

World AIDS Day 2000 takes place on 1st December and is co-ordinated in the United Kingdom by NAT (National AIDS Trust) and funded by the Department of Health. World AIDS Day is a contribution to the World AIDS Campaign organised by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

This update has been produced by NAT and can be used by anyone wanting to encourage the involvement and participation of the general public in HIV education on World AIDS Day. It is vital that we maintain awareness of issues such as the continuing importance of condom use in preventing HIV, the impact of new HIV drug treatments, the search for an AIDS vaccine, and the need to protect the human rights of people affected by HIV.

Organisations are invited to incorporate key messages and information into their own publications, events and activities where appropriate.

www.worldAIDSday.org

Visit our new campaign website at www.worldAIDSday.org for ideas and inspiration on organising events on World AIDS Day. View this year's resources, download fact sheets or visit other hot-linked related sites. Tell us about your event and we will feature it in our national Guide to Events. Register for our regular email updates.

UK

Estimated people living with HIV/AIDS at end 1998

30,000

...of whom 10,000 do not know they are infected

HIV diagnoses in 1999

2,908

...highest level of new diagnoses since 1985

AIDS diagnoses

645

HIV/AIDS deaths in 1999

419

Source: Quarterly PHLS/SCIEH Surveillance Tables

WORLDWIDE

People newly infected with HIV in 1999

5.4 million

...that's 15,000 cases per day

AIDS deaths in 1999

2.8 million

...that's 8,000 deaths per day

Number of people living with HIV/AIDS

34.3 million

Total of AIDS deaths since the beginning of the epidemic

18.8 million

Total number of AIDS orphans

13.2 million

Source: UNAIDS



The Red Ribbon

The Red Ribbon is the international symbol of HIV and AIDS awareness. Wearing the Red Ribbon is a visible reminder, which demonstrates affinity with the millions of men, women and children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS worldwide. But Red Ribbons are not enough. The Red Ribbon is only a useful symbol when attached to words and deeds that actually make a difference.

You can obtain Red Ribbons in bulk from NAT on 020 7814 6747 (whilst stocks last) or individually from branches of WH Smith (27th November – 24th December). To find your nearest WH Smith branch call 01793 695 195.

This year's UNAIDS international theme is AIDS: Men Make a Difference.

There are five main reasons for focusing World AIDS Day on men:

- Men's health is important but receives inadequate attention
- Men's behaviour puts them at risk of HIV
- Men's behaviour puts women at risk of HIV
- Unprotected sex between men can affect both men and women
- Men need to give greater consideration to HIV as it affects families and relationships

How can you use this year's World AIDS Day theme?

This year we asked several organisations for their interpretation of the theme and how they may use the theme on World AIDS Day. We encourage you to consider how to incorporate some elements of the theme into your prevention programmes, activities and events. Though the international theme focuses on men this is not to the exclusion of women, women have a role to play in engaging men in the fight against AIDS.

Blackliners

As a man, one of my main concerns is that of confidentiality. Men by nature, and particularly in my community, the African community, are not encouraged to share or talk about problems openly. Problems here do not necessarily refer to health problems, but across the board. Open and honest discussions about emotions are viewed as less than manly. Hence the need for a system that will recognise confidentiality as a crucial element of meeting men's needs and dealing with issues. If you are not sure whether what you shared will remain confidential, this makes you more vulnerable. The boundaries of confidentiality are not the same for all individuals.

Social structures which provide support for people living with HIV

AIDS: MEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

and AIDS need to be in place as well as treatment support. HIV and AIDS centres do not always provide a space for men to take a break from the medical information provided especially for African men. This extends to emotional support. It is difficult to seek support if all the time the subject is the same e.g. treatments.

Under the present set-up, support systems for men still need further development. Yet, at the end of it you find that women's and men's needs are equal. We all need support and guarantees that confidentiality will be of paramount importance.

Simon Mwendapole (Volunteer) Blackliners

For more information on Blackliners contact them on:

Tel: 020 7738 7468
Website: www.blackliners.org

Gay Men Fighting AIDS (GMFA)

After years of complaining about inappropriate World AIDS Day themes, this year's - AIDS: Men Make a Difference - means it is time to put up or shut up. But what can we do? ✓

For me the primary target has to be the media. This is the one day of the year when the media will want a story on HIV and AIDS. Our job is to get journalists interested in the stories that matter to us - living well with HIV, treatment inequalities across the UK, funding problems or the complexities of prevention 20 years into the epidemic.

As AIDS becomes increasingly normalised in the gay community, World AIDS Day could become a good time of year to run high-profile interventions, or interventions where you are asking people to actually do something - attend a talk or complete questionnaires. HIV will be on a lot of men's minds around World AIDS Day and they might be more open to learning or questioning what they already know about the epidemic.

This also means that World AIDS Day can provide a focus for

fundraising. Clubs, pubs and punters will all be more enthusiastic and generous when there is media coverage. Some groups even extend their fundraising outside the community with street collections.

Whatever you decide to do, good luck and make a difference!

For more information on Gay Men Fighting AIDS contact:

Jamie Taylor
Tel: 020 7738 6872
Email: jamiet@gmfa.demon.co.uk
Website: www.demon.co.uk/gmfa

Positively Women

Many women who come to Positively Women express concern that their male partners do not access services and healthcare. Heterosexual men and boys have not demanded services in the same way as other groups affected by HIV. This group could learn from gay men's history of taking charge of their healthcare. It is all too easy for women to become carers for their partners as well as for their children, impacting negatively upon women's health and family relationships. The responsibility for health devolves upon women and can become another area in which women are seen to fail. If men became more involved in their own health care, boys would start to have positive role models to follow. Any move to sharing power in a relationship would have a positive impact upon men and women's health. How can men begin to take control of their own health and so reduce this burden upon women?

World AIDS Day at Positively Women will attempt to address some of these issues through talks, workshops and a day of celebration and reflection. A team of HIV positive women speakers is available to discuss personal experiences, and can be booked in advance through Positively Women.

For more information on Positively Women contact:

Miranda Lewis
Tel: 020 7713 0444
Email: MLewis@positivelywomen.org.uk

Working with Men

Until recently most of those working around issues of HIV and AIDS would have viewed the majority of men (who see themselves as heterosexual) as a secondary audience for health messages. This has been a matter of targeting those with most needs: gay men, women and children. But for many, working with men has been a difficult practical issue.

At Working With Men we have been working for some years to support professionals and others to build positive approaches to work on health (including sexual health) with men. For us the key ingredients to engaging men in the process of change are:

- Clarity of purpose - we need to be much clearer about our aims in our work with men and what is realistic including assessing our own professional skills and limitations.
- Building an understanding of men and the way masculinity impacts on their health beliefs and behaviours - so why exactly are men reluctant to use condoms?
- Build a positive approach - based on assumptions that men are actually interested in their health (despite appearances), that we need to listen to them more carefully and not always take their disinterest at face value.

For more information about Working With Men contact:

Neil Davidson
Tel: 020 7732 9409
Website: www.wwm-uk.freeuk.com



HELPING YOU TO MAKE HIV A PRIORITY

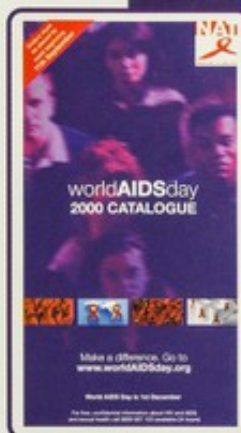
NAT can help you make a difference on World AIDS Day 2000 through:

Resources

A range of branded resources for use in schools, workplace and other social settings. Available directly from NAT and Health Promotion Units whilst stocks last. To view the range of resources for yourself and download an order form go to www.worldAIDSday.org. Alternatively, please contact NAT on 020 7814 6726 to be sent a Catalogue.



Website



Catalogue

Website – www.worldAIDSday.org

Visit our website for general facts about HIV, latest statistics, tips on how to get people involved in your events, hot links to other useful sites and the latest World AIDS Day news.

Guide to Events

Make sure people know about your event – have it listed in our official guide – just let us know what you have planned.

Database

Register on our database and receive updates on World AIDS Day and our other campaigns.

Media

We work hard all year to make sure World AIDS Day and HIV and AIDS are in the media and kept in the public eye.

CONTACTS

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020 7814 6730
Press & PR Manager

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020 7814 6747
Resources and Orders

For free, confidential information about HIV and AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections or sexual health matters ring

0800 567 123

This is a 24-hour, seven days a week telephone service where other community language helplines are available.

A minicom service is available for people with hearing difficulties on

0800 521 361

WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT WORLD AIDS DAY?

It's been one year since I came out to the UK as a young gay HIV positive man, since I told my story about becoming infected and how "I never knew" the facts which could have prevented it all. While I haven't found all the answers, or solved all the problems, I feel that I've accomplished more than I ever imagined I could. Just saying that I'm positive and gay, puts a name and face out there. Young people might see themselves or their friends in me, while adults might read my story and see how HIV could affect their children.

My answer to the lack of support and services for young people in the UK has been to set up Health Initiatives for Youth - UK (HIFY-UK). Our youth membership grows daily, through visits to our website, phone calls, newsletters being passed around, and articles in the gay press. Likewise, the services we offer continue to grow to meet the needs of our new members.

While HIFY's work has had a massive impact on the community, I have to admit, the real gains have been personal. Developing HIFY-UK has helped me to come to terms with my own diagnosis and to find the support I've needed. I even contacted the man who I contracted HIV from - which was extremely hard. Despite the fast pace and the stress of setting up HIFY-UK, I've had very few health problems and just joined a gym to keep it that way. There is still so much to do, and I've got to be ready to do it.

For more information on Health Initiatives for Youth - UK contact:

Clint Walters

Tel: 020 8830 4547

Email: london@hify.fsnet.co.uk

Website: www.hify-uk.com

NAT (National AIDS Trust)

NAT is the UK's leading AIDS advocacy organisation. We work to improve the UK's response to HIV both domestically and globally.

In addition to co-ordinating the World AIDS Day campaign we:

- engage decision-makers with HIV/AIDS issues
- develop innovative policies to tackle the epidemic
- protect the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS
- campaign for greater global investment to find an AIDS vaccine

NAT recently announced its merger with the awareness charity Red Ribbon International.

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