

Warwick University Students' Union HIV & AIDS Awareness Society.

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WARWICK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION HIV & AIDS AWARENESS SOCIETY

Does HIV/AIDS affect me?

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) can be transmitted to anyone irrespective of their age, sex, class, sexuality, race, or nationality. The common myth, as perpetuated by the media, is that there are certain 'high-risk' groups, such as gay men and 'drug users'. In actual fact HIV can be spread as a result of 'high-risk' activities such as unprotected anal or vaginal sex and sharing needles, irrespective of any social 'grouping'.

So what is the difference between HIV & AIDS?

HIV is the virus which can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). This can be defined as a group of opportunistic infections which normally would not affect non-immunocompromised people in a serious way.

So is it all just about safer sex and not sharing needles?

Well no. Although safer sex and drug use are important issues, it is essential to remember that there are many other issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. These include prejudice against people with HIV, (for example harassment and compulsory HIV testing), scientific research, Government policy towards HIV/AIDS, media coverage, the communication of statistics, and HIV & AIDS education to name but a few.

What does HAAS do?

HAAS was set up to introduce and raise awareness of all the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. As well as having approximately three general meetings a term, involving speakers, videos and lively yet informal discussions, HAAS provides statistics as well as the latest developments in issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. We also have discos, competitions, free condoms and leaflets on our weekly stall (and at meetings) and for some strange reason nearly always end up talking about sex!

Week 9 of the Autumn Term is our Awareness Week, which is based around December 1st, World AIDS Day. During this week we will be inviting speakers, showing films including *Peter's Friends* in conjunction with Film Soc, running a major awareness campaign and having 'high-profile' Union events. Come along to our first meeting Thursday Wk2, 14th October, 5PM, Council Room (behind the Cholo).

