

2023



Impact report

Together, we're securing
rights and stopping HIV



What we stand for

We work to stop HIV from standing in the way of health, dignity and equality, and to end new HIV transmissions. Our expertise, research and advocacy secure lasting change to the lives of people with, and at risk of, HIV.

This is an exciting time in the fight against HIV. With an increase in testing, treatment and awareness we know an end to new cases of HIV is not only possible but – with the right focus and investment – achievable by 2030. With this progress, we must take action now as people are being left behind.

Our 2022-2025 strategy is driven by four strategic pillars:

- We will **STOP** new HIV infections
- We will **CHAMPION** the needs of people whose voices and experiences are too often ignored
- We will **PROTECT** the rights of everyone living with and at risk of HIV
- We will **DRIVE** engagement and activism to change attitudes to HIV

Front cover: Artist, John Booth, pictured with Ellie Harrison, Roberto Tovar and Mercy Shibemba, who are all living with HIV. They are all modelling John's t-shirt design which was sold in aid of National AIDS Trust for World AIDS Day via EVERPRESS.

Photographer credit: Adiam Yemane

A message from our Chief Executive

National AIDS Trust is a truly unique charity that gets to the heart of the issues driving HIV and HIV stigma in the UK.

Our small team expertly advocates to change the system for the better. Over the years this has meant that tens of thousands more people have access to HIV care and prevention services and have legal rights protecting them from discrimination. But the work is not done. Progress is not equal across all groups. This is bolstered by the stigma continuing to affect the day-to-day lives of people living with HIV, often because society has not kept up with science and sometimes because the same can be said for policy and law.

Our successes in 2023 offer a snapshot as to how you, our supporters, are helping us to continue to make a difference to the lives of those living with HIV and to end transmissions for good. Because of your support we have secured change that will mean that many LGBT+ people living with HIV now have the option to start a family through surrogacy, something which to this point they have been excluded from by law.

Hundreds of people have also been able to access HIV care because they received a routine HIV test in A&E which they otherwise would never have had.

As we look forward to 2024, many more will continue to benefit from these wins. But we need to redouble our efforts to make sure that progress to end HIV transmissions is seen for all groups affected and to ensure that people living with HIV are always treated fairly, without fear of discrimination. We cannot do this on our own and it's your donations and support that make this possible.

Thank you.



Deborah

Deborah Gold,
Chief Executive





From left: **Kevin Fenton**, NHS London,
Deborah Gold, National AIDS Trust, **Elton John**,
Richard Angell, Terrence Higgins Trust,
Ian Jackson, NHS England

Stop

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In November 2023, our persistent campaigning, made possible by you, for more opt-out HIV testing finally paid off.

The campaign supported by our HIV Commission partners, Terrence Higgins Trust and Elton John AIDS Foundation, resulted in the Government announcing the expansion of routine opt-out HIV testing to emergency departments in every high HIV prevalence area of England.

This follows a successful pilot programme in four areas including London. The results showed that in just 12 months nearly 2,000 people were found with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C through opt-out testing.

The expansion means that more people will be diagnosed with HIV faster and will be able to access life-saving treatment which will also stop the virus being passed on.

Our loyal supporters were among more than 2,000 people who signed an open letter to the Government in 2023 calling for the urgent expansion of the scheme.



Oli's story

"I was 29 when I went to A&E after coming off my bike with one of my fingers badly sliced during the fall. Had Chelsea and Westminster Hospital not been part of a routine HIV opt-out testing programme in emergency departments, I may still be unaware of my status. Routine opt-out testing in A&E departments saves lives; I was a late diagnosis - it saved mine and stopped me from passing on the virus to others."

Oliver Brown, Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy, was diagnosed with HIV after being tested as part of a hospital's opt-out testing scheme.



**Empowering Grassroots,
Elevating Life Quality,
Building Trust in HIV Initiatives**

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From left: **Denis Onyango**, Africa Advocacy Foundation, **Kevin Fenton**, NHS London, **Winnie Byanyima**, UNAIDS, **Reverend Jide Macaulay** **Oluwakemi Agunbiade**, National AIDS Trust

Champion

Impact report 2023

We are making strong progress with our Unheard Voices project which aims to highlight structural inequalities experienced by Black communities living with HIV.

Through our collaboration with One Voice Network (a collective of Black-led community organisations focused on improving the health and wellbeing of Black communities in the UK affected by HIV), we will be publishing a report in spring 2024 on how services for Black communities can be better served by local healthcare commissioners.

This follows in-depth consultation with commissioners to gain their perspectives on how practices can be improved and where the gaps lie. In addition to this, we will also be conducting a survey to capture Black people's primary care experiences.



National AIDS Trust and One Voice Network were proud to host UNAIDS' Executive Director, **Winnie Byanyima**, at a special event to mark World AIDS Day in 2023:

“As a Black woman, I have experienced how difficult it is to make our voices heard. It is vital to let communities lead to address systemic inequalities in all aspects of life. That is how we will make sure that everyone's right to health and social services is realised.”

Unheard Voices is funded by the City Bridge Trust.

Your support in numbers

130

people wrote to their
local MP to support
equal HIV fertility rights



Over

£1.1m

raised to help secure
rights and stop HIV



125

people wrote to their
local MP to protect
our health data



Staff at Diageo raised over

£18,000

for World AIDS Day

1,084

people added their name to
the official Public Record of
Opposition to HIV Stigma



33

successful interventions through our casework advocacy to challenge discriminatory practices



43

individuals working in the HIV sector attended 'HIV and Law' webinars in 2023



6

mentions of our discrimination campaigns in Parliamentary debates

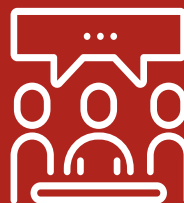
183,597

fabric red ribbons distributed for World AIDS Day



569

people diagnosed with HIV in the first 18 months of the pilot opt-out testing programme



81

people helped by our Discrimination Advice Service



Tresca Wilson from our
2023 stigma campaign

Protect

Impact report 2023

In March, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) updated their guidance on HIV transmission prosecutions to reflect that those with an undetectable level of virus can't pass it on.

With your help we have been working with the CPS since 2019 on updating guidance that would make clear that effective HIV treatments stop HIV transmission.

While prosecutions for reckless or intentional transmission remain established in the case law in England and Wales, the updates to the guidance can go some way to ensure that cases are handled sensitively and consider the facts around HIV today.



“Cases have undoubtedly led to highly stigmatising coverage of HIV in the media and have further exacerbated mistrust in the criminal justice system for many people living with HIV. In this context, strong guidance for prosecutors, who are responsible for making decisions to charge and bring these cases to court, is essential to mitigate the harms of drawn-out investigations and court proceedings wherever possible.”

Kat Smithson, Director of Communications and Engagement





Eli Fitzgerald
World AIDS Day
campaign 2023

Drive

Impact report 2023

Many LGBT+ people living with HIV are not allowed to access the same fertility care as everyone else because of discriminatory law.

National AIDS Trust has been campaigning for several years to challenge this unfair law.

Working with the British HIV Association, we influenced key scientific advice to Government on the issue, paving the way for change. Over Pride Month 2023, more than 130 of our supporters wrote to their MP as part of our Equal HIV Rights campaign. This pressure on the Government paid off when they announced their commitment to change the law in October 2023.

New legislation will allow people living with HIV with an undetectable viral load (meaning they cannot pass HIV on) to donate eggs and sperm.

This change will transform the lives of many people living with HIV who have until this point been barred from the opportunity to become a parent through fertility treatments such as surrogacy, even with a friend.



Noel's story

“I've wanted to be a parent for a long time and it's something that I've always dreamt of.

“I was researching what the legal situation was online and the more I looked, the more it was clear that there was an absolute prohibition on people with HIV being part of IVF treatments. As I am unable to transmit HIV through IVF, I was very disappointed that the law doesn't really engage with medical science so I was shocked, upset and disappointed.

“The current law prohibits any possibility of anyone with HIV having a biological family which is unbelievably cruel and stigmatising. It's the first time I've had to confront real prejudice and stigma with my HIV in such a direct way.

“I think it's amazing that members of the public are engaged with this issue because it's very heartwarming to think that people out there are interested in something that affects me and people with HIV.”

Marking World AIDS Day

December saw our campaign, Rock the Ribbon, mark World AIDS Day. Taking place annually on 1 December, this day in the calendar is a time to stand up for those impacted by HIV, past and present, and call for a better future.

Garry Jones
World AIDS Day
campaign 2023



We encourage individuals, workplaces, community groups, schools and universities to get involved in the campaign through fundraising and wearing the iconic red ribbon. In 2023, we sent out a total of 183,597 red ribbons.

Through an online campaign we asked people what wearing the red ribbon meant to them:

“Whether we are those with the illness or those who know of others with it, we should all stand together and support each other.”

“I am HIV positive and finally feel confident enough to admit it. I want to support and fight stigma around it.”

“I want to honour those before me, who couldn’t live the life that I can today, all due to their courage, mettle and strength.”

Rock the Ribbon 2023 highlighted the inspiring stories of three people living with HIV who are all striving to make the world a better place for people living with HIV in their own unique way.



Louise’s story

“I used to be so frightened about what other people might think about me as someone living with HIV. After doing a lot of work on myself, I overcame the fear and I felt now was the time.

“The story of HIV and AIDS is so significant. So many people living with HIV still struggle with their mental health and World AIDS Day is a way to let others know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.”

After years of keeping her HIV status a secret, Louise has found a new life after being more open about her diagnosis.

Though so much has changed for people living with HIV, Louise believes that World AIDS Day is as important now as it has ever been.



Stephen Hart from our
Stigma campaign

Other ways you're helping us fight HIV discrimination

We are providing free advice and support to people living with HIV who have faced discrimination in any setting. This is all too common because HIV is still such a misunderstood and stigmatised condition.

Demand for our service is high since its launch in July 2022 and we are normally managing around 25 cases at any one time.

We help people challenge unfair treatment and we also get policies changed so that others don't have to go through the same trauma.

“Having the support from National AIDS Trust’s discrimination service throughout the issues with my employer has been invaluable to say the least. I have received the most kind, useful and genuine advice: both legal and emotional.

“The team have shown such tenacity in finding ways to best guide me that it has been a source of motivation for me. It was the first time that I have felt respected and validated in terms of discrimination. Their support has made all the difference to my life and this is no exaggeration.”

– Leo*

(*Leo's name has been changed to protect her anonymity)



The service is funded by the
National Lottery Community Fund.

Becoming HIV confident

HIV Confident is a national charter mark programme, that calls on organisations to take an active role in building a world that welcomes and respects people living with HIV. The programme is led by a partnership of National AIDS Trust, aidsmap and Positively UK, and is funded by Fast-Track Cities, London.

On World AIDS Day 2023, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has signed up to become a Founding Member of HIV Confident. The GLA has since been joined by several NHS trusts and GP practices, along with Transport for London, Siemens Healthineers, and local councils.

Our Founding Member organisations are working with us to evaluate their employees' knowledge and attitudes around HIV and provide clear routes to report stigma. They will also conduct a policy review and engage staff with the HIV Confident eLearning modules.

aidsmap





**In December,
the website for
our latest initiative
HIV Confident
went live.**

Building a world that
welcomes and respects
people living with HIV.

Find out more

“

“The Trust is dedicated to being an organisation representative of our diverse patients, staff and communities in North East London. We are proud to be working with HIV Confident, where we can be a part of that progress towards destigmatising HIV.”

Robert Selley, Strategy Delivery Director at Barts Health NHS Trust, on their commitment to becoming HIV Confident.

Celebrating 20 years of support from M.A.C

2023 marked 20 years of support from global cosmetic company, M.A.C, which has donated an incredible £2,800,000 through the VIVA GLAM Fund and other fundraising initiatives.

We'd like to thank every single person at M.A.C and every single customer who has bought a VIVA GLAM lipstick for their incredible support. They have all helped change the HIV landscape in the UK over the past 20 years.

M.A.C VIVA GLAM's support has helped us achieve landmark successes that have impacted the lives of our diverse community, including LGBT+ people, women, people of colour, asylum-seekers, sex workers, prisoners, the elderly, children and young people.

We look forward to continuing this trailblazing partnership which will continue to make a huge impact on the lives of people affected by HIV.



Chris Dye, National AIDS Trust
with MAC make-up artists

We would also like to thank the following for their generous support:

Trusts and foundations

Trust for London
The National Lottery Community Fund
(RC England Wide)
Martin Bowley Charitable Trust
City Bridge Trust
The Baring Foundation
Evan Cornish Foundation
Swarovski Foundation

Companies and corporate foundations

Gilead Sciences Limited
ViiV Healthcare UK Limited
M.A.C. VIVA GLAM Fund
Gucci
BBC
Amazon
Shangri-La Hotel
EVERPRESS

Statutory

European Centre for Disease
Prevention and Control
Fast Track Cities

100 Club

Ricardo Alonso Cortina
Yusef Azad
James Dray
Philippe Genre
Martin Green
Matthew Hamlyn
Andrew Hochhauser
Renaud Humbert
David Isaac
Daniel Lynch
Graham Marchant
Sheena McCormack
Karon Monaghan
Roisin Moriarty
Sallie Nicholas
Dame Denise Platt DBE
Paul Quain
Peter Roscrow
Nigel Simon
David Sparks
Ken Watters
Robin Wilkinson
Lesford Williams
Lee Winter-Dean



Special thanks to all the staff at Diageo who raised over £18,000 for World AIDS Day.

And finally, thank you to all our regular givers, one-off donors, challenge event participants, gamers, schools, universities, workplace staff, community groups, volunteers and those who wish to remain anonymous, who have all enabled us to deliver our vital work.

We couldn't do it without you.



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AIDS
TRUST**

Securing rights
Stopping HIV



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