

# TRANSFORMING THE UK'S RESPONSE TO HIV

21 YEARS OF  
**SPEAKING OUT**  
**CHANGING LIVES**



NAT is the UK's leading charity dedicated to transforming society's response to HIV. We provide fresh thinking, expert advice and practical resources. We campaign for change.

Shaping attitudes. Challenging injustice. Changing Lives.

# TRANSFORMING THE UK'S RESPONSE TO HIV

## OUR VISION

Our vision is a world in which people living with HIV are treated as equal citizens with respect, dignity and justice, are diagnosed early and receive the highest standards of care, and in which everyone knows how and is able to protect themselves from HIV infection.

## CONTENTS

Message from the Chair	4	Our partners	17
Highlights of 2007/08	6	People making it happen	18
- Prevention and testing		Financial information	20
- Health and social care		Our thanks	22
- Poverty and social disadvantage			
- The law, human rights and discrimination			
- Public awareness and the media			
- Consultation responses			

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS:

All our work is focussed on achieving four strategic goals:

- ▶ Effective HIV prevention in order to halt the spread of HIV
- ▶ Early diagnosis of HIV through ethical, accessible and appropriate testing
- ▶ Equitable access to treatment, care and support for people living with HIV
- ▶ Eradication of HIV-related stigma and discrimination

## HOW WE WORK:

We believe we make the most lasting and positive impact on the greatest number of lives by changing attitudes, behaviour, decisions and policies - and we seek to influence those whose actions have the biggest impact on the lives of people affected by HIV in the UK.

We listen to people living with, and affected by, HIV and those who support them and we put the needs and rights of HIV positive people at the heart of everything we do.

We pride ourselves on being independent and evidence-based. We are committed to partnership working and we work in a collaborative and productive manner with a range of partner organisations to share experience and knowledge and make the greatest collective difference.

**DAME DENISE PLATT DBE**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

My first year as Chair has been a significant one and I am pleased to be able to witness the 21st anniversary of NAT. Particularly as I remember those early days of HIV in the eighties as an NAT Trustee and know at first hand how much has been achieved, as well as how many challenges there still are ahead.

We must not forget how widespread fear and ignorance about HIV was in 1987. I remember how some home care staff refused to take food into the homes of people living with HIV because they were afraid, and how vulnerable and scared this made HIV positive people. NAT has been at the forefront of challenging stigma and discrimination since the eighties, tirelessly working with the media to combat myths, lobbying for improvements to discrimination law and providing expert advice to professionals, to ensure people living with HIV receive fair and just treatment.

Much of that work has helped to create

positive change. The first organisation to seriously address the issue of HIV in the workplace, NAT's UK initiative grew into the Global Business Coalition, which today has more than 230 members worldwide, including Microsoft and American Express. Its groundbreaking advertising campaigns and links with Diana, Princess of Wales, were instrumental in challenging and shaping public attitudes to HIV.

The legal landscape has also changed, and with improvements to the Disability Discrimination Act the UK now has some of the best equality legislation in Europe. While there are still legal loopholes, particularly in criminal legislation, which NAT is working hard to challenge, it is an

**“NAT has been at the forefront of challenging stigma and discrimination since the eighties, tirelessly working with the media to combat myths, lobbying on discrimination law and providing expert advice to professionals.”**

**“Our sincere hope is that it will not take another 21 years to transform the UK's response to HIV. We need to create a more informed society that protects people's health and treats people living with HIV with the highest standards of care and justice.”**



important step forward that people who experience HIV discrimination can now seek legal redress.

I have watched NAT evolve over the last 21 years, and seen how it has adapted to address the changing external environment and deal with new challenges. NAT is dedicated to improving the UK's response to HIV at a policy level, by working with those whose decisions have the biggest impact on people living with HIV. But the policy challenges we face are always changing and are more than ever linked to human rights. In the last year alone, NAT has been at the forefront of lobbying, campaigning and providing expert advice and resources on issues such as: the treatment of HIV positive asylum seekers, police investigations of criminal prosecutions for HIV transmission; and the need for better testing strategies to ensure people are diagnosed earlier.

One of the elements that has set NAT apart over the last two decades is its

willingness to work in partnership, both within and outside the HIV sector, sharing its knowledge and bringing experts together to find new solutions. The success of NAT's Policy Network, which now has over eighty members, is a testimony to this collaborative way of working.

I am immensely proud of the long association I have had with NAT, and of its achievements not only in the last year but also over the last two decades. NAT's expertise in human rights legislation, at UK and European levels, is essential in challenging the injustices that uniquely affect people living with HIV, and its understanding of Government policy and the media enables it to lobby for change.

However, our sincere hope is that it will not take another 21 years to transform the UK's response to HIV. We need to create a more informed society that protects people's health and treats people living with HIV with the highest standards of care and justice.

# PREVENTION AND TESTING

## FRESH THINKING & EXPERT ADVICE

- Our report on prevention and testing has played an important role in stimulating national debate. In the last 12 months all London PCTs have adopted a target to reduce late diagnosis of HIV and new testing guidelines have been developed by the main professional bodies of HIV clinicians.
- The report of our expert seminar on primary HIV infection has influenced policy and practice around the UK, feeding into this year's Department of Health review of national HIV prevention programmes.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

- We lobbied UK attendees of the G8 Summit and UN High Level Meeting on HIV to intensify support among policy makers for the development of new prevention technologies. This was key in securing a commitment by the Department for International Development to increase funding for the development of microbicides and vaccines by 50% over the next seven years.

## PRACTICAL RESOURCES

- Our briefing on vaccines and microbicides for UK stakeholders provided organisations with information on the latest technological research and financing methods, enabling them to lobby for increased investment at the highest level.

## FACTS

- There has been a significant increase in risk taking behaviour among gay men in the last ten years
- There are over 80,000 people living with HIV in the UK - but a third are undiagnosed
- Diagnoses of heterosexual HIV infection occurring here in the UK continue to rise
- A third of HIV diagnoses are made late - HIV symptoms are frequently missed by non-specialist healthcare workers
- Greater investment in research is needed if we are to find new options to prevent the 2.5 million new infections worldwide every year



**“We welcome NAT’s work in bringing together key stakeholders to help shape policy on HIV on the wide range of issues we face today. These include action to reduce undiagnosed HIV and ensure better access to testing and treatment.”**

**Kay Orton, Team Leader,  
HIV and other Sexually Transmitted  
Infections Policy, Department of Health**

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## FRESH THINKING & EXPERT ADVICE

- NAT's Chair, Dame Denise Platt DBE, was the key-note speaker at the first HIV and Social Care Conference, where NAT engaged actively with social workers.
- We developed a questionnaire for Local Authorities, approved by the Association of Directors of Social Services, which aims to create the first comprehensive review of how the AIDS Support Grant is being spent nationally.
- Our leadership and administrative support of the English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners Group has seen improved attendance at meetings and an increase in engagement on HIV issues. The Department of Health sexual health team is now engaging actively with the group to identify commissioning best practice.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

- We helped secure a judicial review on access to free NHS treatment for refused asylum seekers, resulting in a High Court ruling that granted refused asylum seekers the right to free NHS care while resident in the UK.
- We alerted leading children's charities to concerns about charging people of uncertain residency status for primary care. Leading children's charities communicated the potential impact of such a policy on children to the Secretary of State for Health and the Government Review Board, strengthening our campaign to secure free HIV treatment for everyone who needs it.

## FACTS

- The AIDS Support Grant available to Local Authorities has been increased by the Government, yet social care for people living with HIV is often unavailable or inadequate
- Many people living with HIV are isolated and vulnerable with little support
- Refused asylum seekers living in the UK have been left seriously ill as a result of not being able to access free HIV treatment
- A High Court ruling supporting the right to free healthcare for refused asylum seekers living in the UK is currently being challenged by the Department of Health

## PRACTICAL RESOURCES

- *Will I Have To Pay?* our updated guide to accessing NHS HIV services for migrants, produced jointly with THT, has enabled hundreds of people living with HIV to understand the complex regulations, helping them to access potentially life-saving treatment.



**“NAT gathers powerfully persuasive evidence into highly effective campaigns, policy reports and practical resources and their behind the scenes policy work makes a big difference to our ability to support more than 5,000 people living with HIV across the North-West of England.”**

**Chris Morley**, Policy and Publications Co-ordinator, George House Trust

# POVERTY AND SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE

## FRESH THINKING & EXPERT ADVICE

- Evaluation of our best practice framework on dealing with blood-borne viruses in prisons showed that two thirds of respondents had introduced improvements within their prison, or planned to do so within the next six months as a result of our resource.
- Our report on initial accommodation centres for asylum seekers in the UK highlighted the gap in HIV prevention information and resources provided to detained asylum seekers.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

- Our lobbying work calling for access to condoms and safe injecting equipment in prisons has led to the introduction of a Department of Health key performance indicator relating to provision of condoms in all prisons in England and Wales.
- Our work supporting a case in the European Court of Human Rights has been instrumental in accelerating the roll-out of disinfecting tablets in UK prisons.

## FACTS

- An Independent Asylum Commission report calculated that there are currently over 280,000 refused asylum seekers living homeless in the UK
- Rates of HIV and hepatitis C are disproportionately high in UK prisons
- A quarter of asylum seekers spend time in initial accommodation centres, yet are given little information about HIV during their stay
- Although it is recognised that sexual activity and drug taking occur in prisons, condoms are difficult to access and clean needles are currently unavailable

## PRACTICAL RESOURCES

- Our mapping exercise of the pathway of an asylum seeker in the UK from arrival to integration or removal has proved instrumental in helping professionals understand and meet the needs of this vulnerable group.



**“NAT’s *Asylum Pathway* is a clear guide that helps our African treatment advocates in the UK better support the HIV-related needs of their peers, particularly those who are going through the complex asylum process, which can be a stressful and overwhelming experience.”**

Elijah Amooti, Senior HIV Treatment Advocate at The African Eye Trust and coordinator of the National Treatment Advocate Training Project

# THE LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION

## FRESH THINKING & EXPERT ADVICE

- We secured support on the issue of hate crime from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and a commitment to work together to close the legal loophole which does not adequately protect people living with HIV.
- Our work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), has resulted in new CPS guidelines on the prosecution of sexually transmitted infections leading to a reduction in unnecessary anxiety for people living with HIV and fewer inappropriate prosecutions.
- We played a key role in a THT project reviewing police case notes from criminal prosecutions for HIV transmission, which will feed into our planned future work with the police to develop national best practice guidelines.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

- We highlighted the issue of children being bullied and excluded from school because of their HIV status in the national media.
- We have taken the lead on tackling HIV discrimination at a European level, lobbying MEPs to ensure effective legal protection for people living with HIV through the forthcoming EU Equality Directive.
- We successfully lobbied the EHRC to address the issue of multiple discrimination in the forthcoming Equality Bill.
- We successfully campaigned on the Health and Social Care Bill, ensuring that people living with HIV are not left open to unnecessarily coercive measures as a result of new public health powers.

## FACTS

- Ignorance about HIV fuels stigma around the virus and often results in prejudice and discrimination
- An HIV diagnosis can still result in violence, relationship breakdown, loss of a job or being excluded or bullied at school
- Loopholes in criminal legislation mean people living with HIV do not enjoy the same level of protection as other disabled people if they experience hate crime
- A lack of clear policy around criminal prosecutions for HIV has resulted in unfair investigations and trials where there is no evidence of reckless transmission

## PRACTICAL RESOURCES

- 5,000 copies of our employment resources have been downloaded from our website, helping to provide information and support to both people living with HIV and employers.
- On the day new CPS guidelines were published we produced an explanation on our website in straightforward language outlining the implications for people living with HIV.



**“NAT’s parliamentary lobbying was instrumental in getting assurances from the Government that any exercise of public health powers created in the Health and Social Care Act must be carefully monitored.”**

**Gareth Crossman**, Policy Director, Liberty

# PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE MEDIA

## FRESH THINKING & EXPERT ADVICE

- ▶ Our survey of public attitudes to HIV, conducted by Ipsos MORI, showed that while awareness is still falling, attitudes to people living with HIV in the workplace have improved.
- ▶ Our work advising the media and challenging inaccurate reporting through the Press Complaints Commission has resulted in two national newspapers recognising that they misled their readers and publishing letters from NAT's Chief Executive to clarify the facts.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

- ▶ Nearly 8,000 young people helped spread the message about World AIDS Day via social networking sites.



**“We really appreciate NAT’s advice and guidance as our reporters are not HIV experts and it is good to have a sounding board when covering sensitive issues to make sure we get the facts right.”**

**Graham Dudman,**  
Managing Editor, The Sun

## FACTS

- ▶ **Awareness of HIV continues to decline - 90% of people are unable to identify accurately all the ways in which HIV can and cannot be transmitted**
- ▶ **Media reporting on HIV has improved but inaccurate and stigmatising articles spreading myths about the condition still occur**
- ▶ **71% of people agree that more needs to be done to tackle prejudice against people living with HIV**
- ▶ **70% of people would be comfortable working with an HIV positive colleague, compared with 57% in 2005**

## PRACTICAL RESOURCES

- ▶ Our report, *From a Positive Perspective*, highlighting the needs of people living with HIV - identified from 65 focus groups organised by the UK Coalition of People Living with HIV (UKC) - has been downloaded 3,000 times and widely quoted and referenced.
- ▶ 29,000 copies of our *Guidelines on HIV Reporting* for journalists, published jointly with the National Union of Journalists, have been distributed and a further 5,000 downloaded online, helping to inform the media about HIV and improve the accuracy of reporting.
- ▶ Tens of thousands of secondary school students benefited from our updated HIV teaching resources for schools, available free online.
- ▶ Over 500 organisations ordered our HIV awareness materials for World AIDS Day, focusing on the *Let's Get Talking* theme.
- ▶ Audio and video clips of people's experiences brought the reality of living with HIV to thousands of visitors to our website around World AIDS Day.

# CONSULTATION RESPONSES

In addition to the work already highlighted we submitted responses to a number of public consultations, including:

- Department for International Development consultation on its global HIV strategy
- NICE consultation on HIV prevention
- Independent Advisory Group for Sexual Health review of the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV
- Department of Health consultation on confidentiality of sexual health information
- Discrimination Law Review
- UK Border Agency consultation on their dispersal policy for asylum seekers with healthcare needs
- House of Commons Health Committee inquiry into health inequalities
- Independent Asylum Commission call for evidence on the asylum process
- Mayor of London's strategy to support refugee integration
- British HIV Association (BHIVA), British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and British Infection Society (BIS) consultation on HIV testing
- BHIVA consultation on HIV treatment guidelines

## Our partners

### OUR PARTNERS

**As a small organisation with wide-reaching objectives to transform society's response to HIV, we work most effectively by engaging with other experts in a variety of different fields, both within and outside the HIV sector.**

Within the HIV sector, we work closely with THT and the African HIV Policy Network to co-ordinate our policy work and create joint plans on a number of key issues; and also work in partnership with HIV Scotland, Positively Women, George House Trust (GHT), BHIVA, BASHH, NAM, CHAPS and MedFASH.

We always seek to share our expertise with others working in HIV - particularly small organisations that provide services directly to people living with HIV - and to draw on their knowledge and experience. Our Policy Network has grown in size and effectiveness during the last year. It now has 87 active members, representing 67 organisations who feed into our policy work and benefit from our daily media briefings and regular updates, with information on Government consultations and policy news.

Outside the HIV sector we have worked in partnership with the Health Protection Agency, the All Party Parliamentary Group on AIDS, the English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners Group, Médecins du Monde, Birkbeck College, TUC, Liberty, Brook, National Children's Bureau, Shelter, fpa, the Human Rights Lawyers Association and Equality and Human Rights Commission. We have also worked with Government departments and agencies including the Department of Health, the Department

for International Development, Offender Health, the UK Border Agency and the Scottish Prison Service. NAT is a member of the Equality and Diversity Forum and is on the Advisory Board of the National African HIV Prevention Programme (NAHIP). We also work in partnership with

**"I find NAT's daily news briefing extremely helpful for answering information requests and in our HIV training, as it helps us compare positive and negative reports on HIV."**

**Serena Cavanagh**, Information and Publicity Officer, Sahir House and member of NAT's Policy Network

the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and the International Partnership for Microbicides; and are members of the Stop AIDS Campaign, the UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development and the UK Campaign for Microbicides.

On a European level, NAT is the UK representative on the EU Civil Society Forum and is a member of the steering committee of AIDS Action Europe and the EU Think Tank on HIV and AIDS.

# PEOPLE MAKING IT HAPPEN

(as at 30 June 2008)



## TRUSTEES

Dame Denise Platt DBE (Chair)  
Ziggi Alexander CBE  
Howard Charman  
Dr Valerie Delpech  
Dr Paul Flowers  
Martin Green  
David Johnson  
Pat Knowles  
Robert MacKay  
John Nicholls  
Dr Barry Peters  
Winnie Ssanyu-Sseruma  
Gary Watson  
Dr Neil Wooding

## AMBASSADORS

Lord Puttnam CBE  
Professor Michael Adler CBE  
Christine Boar  
John Bowis OBE MEP  
Mark Chataway  
Lady Falconer of Thoroton  
Rt Hon Lord Fowler  
David Grayson CBE  
Rt Rev Richard Holloway FRSE  
Rt Hon Sir Patrick Nairne GCB MC  
Vivienne Parry  
Robin Pauley  
Baroness Prashar CBE  
Natasha Richardson  
Dame Ruth Runciman  
Kirsty Wark  
Christopher Wright

## STAFF

**Yusef Azad**  
Director of Policy and Campaigns

**Jonathan Bell**  
Director of Finance and Resources

**Emma Bickerstaff**  
Communications Manager

**Eleanor Briggs**  
Senior Policy Officer

**Alexandra Friend**  
Office Administrator

**Deborah Jack**  
Chief Executive

**Sheonaidh Johnston**  
Policy Officer

**Alana Lewis**  
Policy and Campaigns Assistant

**Stef McCarthy**  
Assistant to the Chief Executive's Office

**Joe Murray**  
Policy Officer

**Gary Paul**  
Finance Manager

**Katherine Sladden**  
Communications Officer

**Louise Sowden**  
Fundraising Officer

**Doug Templeton**  
IT Officer

**Anthony Townsend**  
Trading Manager

**Rachel Williams**  
Fundraising Officer

We would also like to thank our many volunteers who have given their time and skills freely, contributing to all areas of our work, in particular; Ben Bryant, Briana Moore, Emma Blakey, Handsen Chikowore, Mark Mackenzie, Jane Hillier, Kimmy Coulombe, Agnieszka Legierska, Ailis Regan, Sam Larcombe and Timothy Gerig.

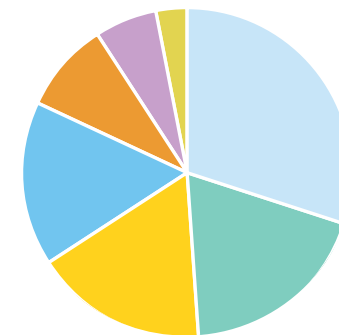
# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## FACTS

- ▶ We reduced our core operating costs by 6% in 2007/08
- ▶ More than 75 pence in every pound donated to NAT goes directly to fund our core policy work

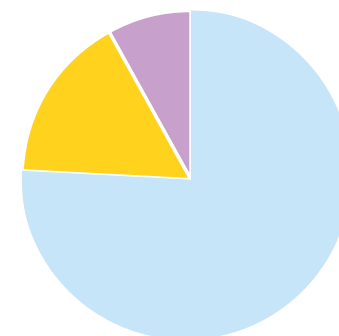
A more detailed report on the financial position and activities of NAT and its subsidiary, Aware Ltd, during 2007/08 can be found in the annual report and financial statements, which can be requested from [info@nat.org.uk](mailto:info@nat.org.uk) or by calling 020 7814 6767

These pie charts summarise information extracted from NAT's annual financial statements which have been agreed by the Board of Trustees and audited by Target Winters Ltd. The figures relate to NAT as a stand-alone charity and show only the net income from our trading subsidiary.



## INCOME

	£	%
Events & other income, (including the Concert for Diana)	278,400	30%
Individual & community fundraising	172,900	19%
Corporate supporters	155,500	17%
Government & other statutory funders	151,300	16%
Grant making trusts & foundations	78,000	9%
Partnership agreements	59,900	6%
Investment & net trading	26,200	3%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>922,200</b>	<b>100%</b>



## EXPENDITURE

	£	%
Core policy work	659,000	76%
Fundraising & publicity	135,400	16%
Governance	73,100	8%
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>867,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

# OUR THANKS

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

AB Charitable Trust Abbott Laboratories Ltd Alan Cumming Andrew Corbett-Nolan  
Anglo American Anthony Vernon Belmont Trust Bianca Jagger Bristol-Myers  
Squibb Pharmaceuticals Ltd Bryce Mennell Ltd CfBT Education Trust  
Cheney School Concert for Diana Daniel Monk Daniel Sandler Department of Health  
Dipex Dr Deenan Pillay Dr Jane Anderson Dr Martin Fisher EMI Music UK & Ireland  
Easykard plc Edward Bonilla Edwin Bernard Elton John AIDS Foundation  
Falingaye High School Fay Presto Fellows' Associates Fiona Slatcher  
Fragrance Factory GlaxoSmithKline Gay Moon Gus Cairns  
Gerald Gundle Philanthropic Trust Gerry Wade GET ME IN! Gilead Sciences Ltd  
Greg Barker Hannah Bate Home House Howard Shaugnessy Hugo & Cat Ltd Iliad  
James Snodgrass Jason Hicks Jonathan Cooper Jonathan Elford Kamran Sarwar  
Karma Resorts Karon Monaghan L'Oreal UK Lee Stafford  
Lehman Brothers Foundation Europe Levi Strauss Foundation Ligne Roset Westend  
London and Scottish International Ltd M.A.C AIDS Fund MBNA Europe Bank Ltd  
Mark Bell Marsh Christian Trust Matthew Weait Men@Play  
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd Monument Trust Northmoor Trust Paul Baverstock  
Peter Earl Peter Moores Foundation Pfizer Ltd Poppy Jackson Post Office Ltd  
Robin Shattock PZ Cussons (International Ltd) Richard Benson Richard Walker  
Robert Hasty Robert James SSL International plc Scottish Government  
Somebody Cares Sound Art UK Stephen Abell Stephen Nurrish Taittinger  
The Commission for Social Care Inspection The Curwen and New Academy Gallery  
The Online Clinic (UK) Ltd The Whitehouse Consultancy Troy Norcross  
Q Soft Consulting (Gaydar)

# YOU COULD HELP US CHANGE LIVES

NAT relies on support from people like you to continue our important work - shaping attitudes, challenging injustice and changing lives.

There are a number of different ways you can help, including:

- ▶ Making a **regular donation** which will help us plan strategically to achieve long-term change.
- ▶ Supporting us through a **give as you earn** scheme at work – the simplest way to donate tax-free, making your money go even further.
- ▶ **Volunteering** your time on a regular basis or to help with a one-off task.
- ▶ **Fundraising for NAT** by organising an event or selling red ribbons for us.
- ▶ Purchasing our **HIV awareness materials** which spread the message about World AIDS Day and support our core policy work.
- ▶ Taking out a **red ribbon credit card** so that NAT receives a donation every time you shop, without it costing you a penny.

To find out more visit [www.nat.org.uk](http://www.nat.org.uk)

# SHAPING ATTITUDES CHALLENGING INJUSTICE CHANGING LIVES

**WWW.NAT.ORG.UK**

New City Cloisters, 196 Old Street, London EC1V 9FR

T: +44 (0)20 7814 6767 F: +44 (0)20 7216 0111 E: info@nat.org.uk

National AIDS Trust is a Registered Charity

No. 297977 and a Company Limited by Guarantee

No 2175938, (registered in England and Wales)

Registered Office: Target Winters Ltd, 29 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JE

© 2008 National AIDS Trust

Design by Shaw Design Associates Ltd

