

▶ SCENARIO 2 – ALI

I've had a terrible week. I'd been switched onto some new meds a couple of weeks ago, and they've taken some getting used to. I decided I would tell my boss about my HIV, so that I can get time off to go to my GP and clinic whilst I was still adjusting to my new treatment. I was a bit nervous about how they would react but I knew that HIV is classified as a disability under the law and they're not allowed to discriminate against me.

Seems they didn't know about that though. When I told my boss his face went pale. He told me that I'd put our customers at risk by not telling him earlier, and that they'd need to conduct a risk assessment. I knew that was completely unnecessary – you can't get HIV from day-to-day contact – but they insisted. Yesterday I was called into the office and fired.

I know I could take them to court for discrimination, but I'm not sure if I can face the stress and the expense. The most frustrating thing is that it shouldn't have to come down to taking people to court – if people were just better educated, they wouldn't be scared of HIV. It's so exhausting having to deal with prejudice every day.

THINK ABOUT: ▶▶

- ▶ Who in this story is making Ali feel bad?
- ▶ Why do you think Ali's boss reacted the way he did?
- ▶ What impact do you think this discrimination has had on Ali?
- ▶ Where might Ali be able to get support?
- ▶ What are your feelings towards Ali after reading their story?

