

Impact report

2021-2022



**NATIONAL
AIDS
TRUST**

Securing rights
Stopping HIV

We are the National AIDS Trust. Our vision is a world where HIV does not stand in the way of health, dignity and equality.

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I'm delighted to share with you on the following pages our progress over the last year in our work to stop HIV and secure rights for everyone affected by HIV.

The year was one of change and challenge at National AIDS Trust. Entering a second year of COVID-19 interruptions and lockdowns, we worked to support each other and advocate for our communities.

Yet throughout this, we achieved a series of landmark successes and ended the year having made real strides in the continuing fight against HIV, energised to continue the work. I do hope that you stay in touch with us over the year to come, and support our work in any way you are able.

Yours



**Deborah Gold,
Chief Executive**





We will
stop
new HIV infections

We have driven the biggest commitment to ending HIV from the Government yet

Our joint work with our allies Terrence Higgins Trust and Elton John AIDS Foundation led to the Government producing a far-reaching HIV Action Plan, including the biggest expansion in HIV prevention in the last ten years. They signed up to our top recommendations to reach the goal of ending new cases of HIV by 2030. This included £20m of new investment for opt-out testing for HIV in areas of very high prevalence.

We convinced the Government to agree to report on progress to 2030 to make it easier for us to hold them to account and get the results we need to see.



More people are able to find out if they have HIV

Some medical conditions have shown to be an indication that someone could also be living with HIV, and our report calling for increased HIV testing when someone presents with these conditions led to some important changes. NICE updated a number of their clinical guidelines to recommend HIV testing when someone visits their doctor with these conditions, and medical professional bodies have changed their guidance too. A group of professionals have also started looking at piloting HIV testing in cervical screening services in London as a result of our work.

More people can take action to prevent them acquiring HIV

We are at the forefront of expanding access to PrEP, the HIV prevention medication. Following our pressure, health promotion adverts for PrEP are now allowed, after the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency clarified its previously damaging guidance which blocked the advertisement of this vital medication. We ensured that the Government's HIV Action Plan committed to expanding access to PrEP outside of HIV clinics, and last year saw an increase of funding for PrEP (now available routinely on the NHS to those who need it).





We will

champion

**the needs of people whose voices and
experiences are too often ignored**



We helped to highlight structural inequalities experienced by Black communities living with HIV

As part of 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 published research on the barriers faced by this community.

We are delighted to have now received funding to work in further collaboration with One Voice Network to achieve our shared vision of ensuring that Black communities living with HIV are listened to more by decision-makers so that policies are shaped for the Black community by the Black community.

We ensured the voices of women living with HIV were heard

Working in partnership with the Sophia Forum, we surveyed women living with HIV about their health experiences and used the findings to build a compelling response to the Government's Women's Health Strategy where we called for a number of changes including domestic abuse screening at HIV and sexual health services, access to free infant formula milk and feeding equipment for all mothers living with HIV in the UK, and additional funding to promote PrEP to women.





We stood up for the health rights of migrants living with HIV

Our groundbreaking report *HIV and Migration* explored the barriers faced by people born abroad who are living with HIV in the UK. We reported that some people living with HIV in immigration detention weren't given the medication they need, and some were even shockingly denied medication for days on end. Since publication the Home Office has agreed to improve access to HIV medicine for people living with HIV in immigration detention.

Co-led by people living with HIV who had personal experience of migration, we also published videos in different languages to inform migrants of their healthcare entitlements in the UK.

More people can safely donate blood in the UK

After years of pressure led by us and other allies, the Government finally changed discriminatory rules on who can donate blood. These changes mean more gay and bisexual men aren't unfairly banned from donating, and that a question was removed from the blood screening form which reinforced negative stereotypes and unfairly impacted Black African communities.





We will

protect

the rights of everyone living
with and at risk of HIV

Mental health services for people living with HIV will better meet their needs



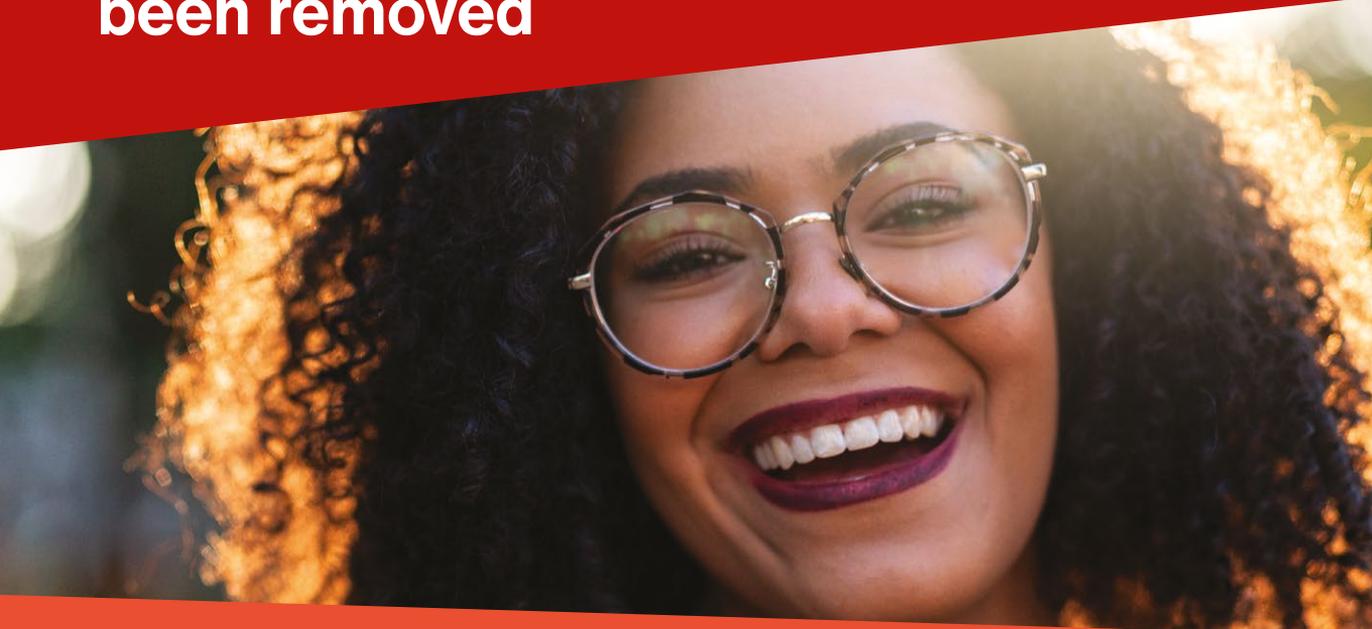
The only mental health service people can access for free on the NHS isn't equipped to deal with the unique challenges that people living with HIV face, which means they aren't getting the help they deserve. We are delighted that as a result of our report on *HIV and Mental Health* we will be co-designing a training module specifically to ensure providers of IAPT (the main mental health support provided on the NHS) can offer the right support to people living with HIV so they can access free care that works.

Local areas better understand the needs of people ageing with HIV

We worked in Greater Manchester and Newcastle to explore how to improve care for people ageing with HIV, publishing two papers and working with local organisations to ensure that older people living with HIV have good quality care that meets their needs.



The last legal barriers to employment for people living with HIV have finally been removed



We worked with other HIV organisations (Terrence Higgins Trust, British HIV Association, and British Association of Sexual Health & HIV) and MPs in Parliament to secure two big changes so that people living with HIV have greater freedom to live the life they choose:

- The Ministry of Defence changed its rules to allow people living with HIV, or taking PrEP, to join the Armed Forces and serve on the front lines.
- The Civil Aviation Authority removed restrictions preventing pilots living with HIV from receiving a full pilot's licence.



We will

drive

engagement and activism to change
attitudes to HIV



We found out what the British public knows and thinks about HIV today

We uncovered what the public really thinks about HIV, which is crucial to understand how to reduce misconceptions around HIV and get us closer to a world where stigma doesn't hold anyone back. Working in close partnership with Fast Track Cities London (who commissioned this work) we published the most comprehensive polling on this topic in the last decade, in our *HIV Public Knowledge and Attitudes* report. The findings will help to guide the sector in its work to challenge stigma and build knowledge in the years to come, and it is regularly cited by the media and allies to help paint a picture of HIV stigma in the UK.

A close-up, high-angle portrait of an older Black man with a white beard and glasses, smiling broadly. He is wearing a blue and green plaid shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

We empowered activists to take action themselves

Our London Activists Network gave people living with HIV the tools and support they need to take action on local HIV policy issues that matter to them.



We supported people internationally to show solidarity on World AIDS Day

As we marked 40 years since the first AIDS-related deaths, our Chair, Professor Jane Anderson gave a moving speech at the MAC Cosmetics candle-lit vigil in London.

Our Rock The Ribbon campaign saw huge involvement on World AIDS Day, with our materials being used by people across the world.

The campaign put people living with HIV at the centre, as well as being supported by celebrity HIV allies - GP and TV personality Dr. Ranj Singh, comedian Tom Allen and star of BBC Three's 'Glow Up', MAC make-up artist Dominic Skinner.



In this moment of silence, we not only remember friends and loved ones, but we remember all of the 37 million people who have died from AIDS.



Our work is made possible by:

Trusts & Foundations

Baring Foundation, City Bridge Trust, The Evan Cornish Foundation, MAC VIVA GLAM, The Martin Bowley Charitable Trust, Swarovski Foundation, Trust for London

Corporate Partners

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Thank you also to all the individuals who donated to support our work, those who fundraise for us and those who volunteer their time.

And those supporters who prefer to remain anonymous.

Thank you to our 100 Club supporters

Ricardo Alonso Cortina, Kathleen Britain, James Dray, Philippe Genre, Martin Green, Matthew Hamlyn, Andrew Hochhauser, Daniel Lynch, Graham Marchant, Karon Monaghan, Róisín Moriarty, Sallie Nicholas, Dame Denise Platt DBE, Peter Roscrow, Nigel Simon, David Sparks, Ken Watters, Robin Wilkinson, Lesford Williams, Lee Winter-Dean, and our anonymous supporters.

www.nat.org.uk/The100Club



The aim of the '100 Club' is to establish 100 key supporters at the cutting edge of eliminating HIV stigma and discrimination. By joining you'll be on the inside track of change.



NATIONAL AIDS TRUST

Securing rights
Stopping HIV

We're the UK's HIV rights charity. We work to stop HIV from standing in the way of health, dignity and equality, and to end new HIV transmissions.

www.nat.org.uk

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