

HIV/AIDS



Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner
for Human Rights



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAIDS
UNICEF-WFP-UNDP-UNFPA-UNODC
ILO-UNESCO-WHO-WORLD BANK



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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GLOSSARY

-HIV (HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS) IS A VIRUS THAT DAMAGES THE DEFENCE SYSTEM OF THE BODY. HIV INFECTS CELLS OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND DESTROYS THEIR FUNCTION LEADING TO "IMMUNE DEFICIENCY". A PERSON INFECTED WITH HIV MAY LOOK AND FEEL HEALTHY FOR MANY YEARS. HOWEVER, THE PERSON IS STILL ABLE TO PASS ON THE VIRUS.

- AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) IS CAUSED BY INFECTION WITH THE VIRUS HIV. OVER TIME THE IMMUNE SYSTEM BECOMES SERIOUSLY WEAKENED SO THAT THE BODY LOSES ITS ABILITY TO FIGHT OFF INFECTION THAT IT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE FOUGHT. THE INFECTED PERSON DEVELOPS A NUMBER OF SERIOUS INFECTIONS AND ILLNESSES, WHICH EVENTUALLY LEADS TO DEATH. ONCE A PERSON WHO HAS HIV GETS ONE OR A NUMBER OF OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS, THAT PERSON IS SAID TO HAVE AIDS ...

- SOME PEOPLE DEVELOP AIDS SHORTLY AFTER BEING INFECTED WITH HIV, YET SOME LIVE WITH HIV FOR TEN OR MORE YEARS BEFORE DEVELOPING AIDS.

HIV/AIDS-RELATED DISCRIMINATION IS TREATING SOMEONE UNFAIRLY AND UNJUSTLY BASED ON THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS OR THAT YOU THINK THEY ARE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS ...

ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, AGREED UPON BY MANY GOVERNMENTS, AIMS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY PERSON IN THE WORLD IS TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY.

THESE LAWS STATE WHAT CAN AND WHAT CANNOT BE DONE TO YOU, AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR YOU. THESE LAWS CAN BE FOUND IN DOCUMENTS LIKE THE UNITED NATIONS "CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD" ..



ONE DAY AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD...

HELLO, FREDDY...



ARE YOU COMING TO PLAY FOOTBALL WITH US?..
NO, SORRY! I HAVE TO GO HOME AND HELP MY MOTHER WHO'S SICK!



OK WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIS MOTHER?

WELL, I HEARD THAT SHE IS HIV POSITIVE.

REALLY?!. SHE'S HIV POSITIVE?!

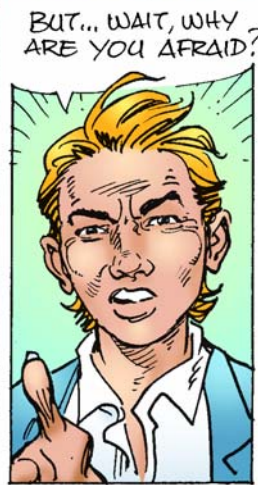
BUT THAT'S TERRIBLE. SHE SHOULD BE TOLD TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE...



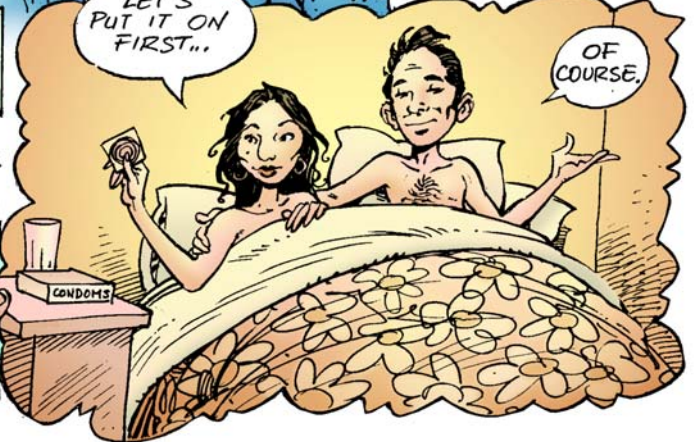
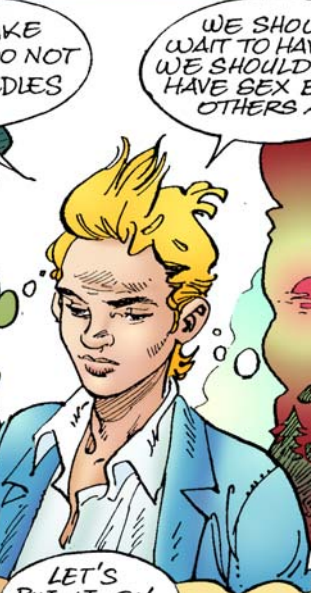
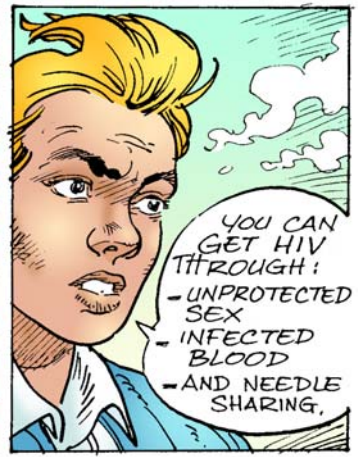
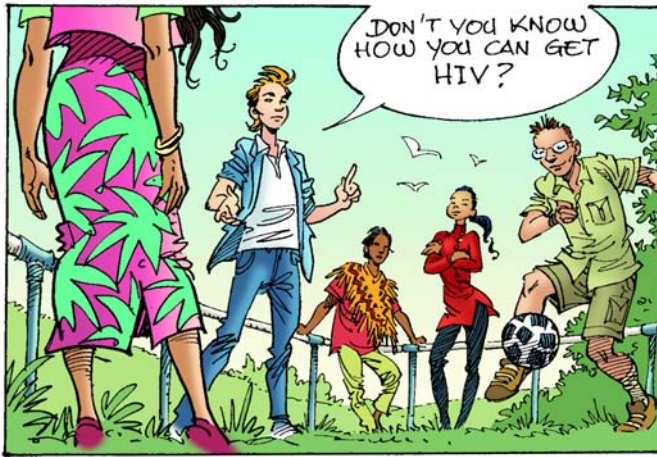
YEAH... I'M AFRAID. LET'S NOT PLAY WITH FREDDY ANY MORE...

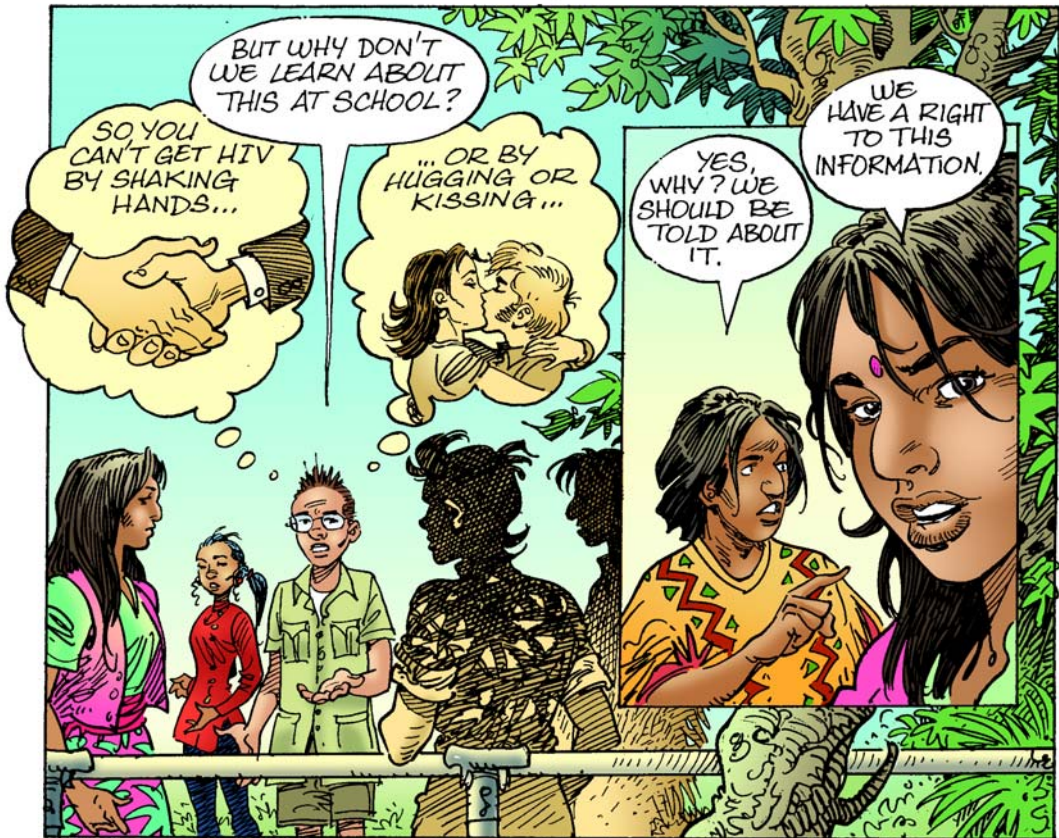


YOU'RE RIGHT! WE SHOULDN'T PLAY WITH HIM.



BUT... WAIT, WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?





BUT WHY DON'T WE LEARN ABOUT THIS AT SCHOOL?

SO YOU CAN'T GET HIV BY SHAKING HANDS...

... OR BY HUGGING OR KISSING ...

YES, WHY? WE SHOULD BE TOLD ABOUT IT.

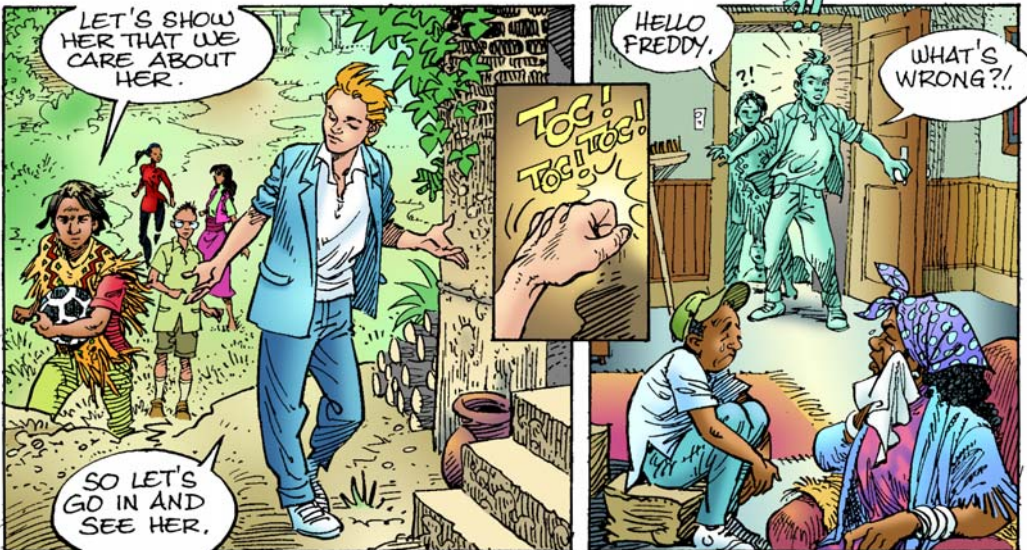
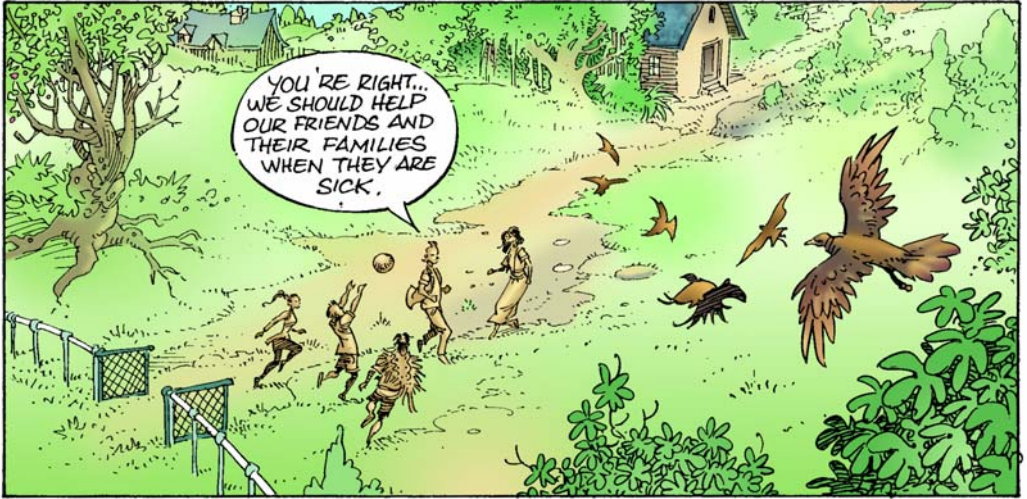
WE HAVE A RIGHT TO THIS INFORMATION.

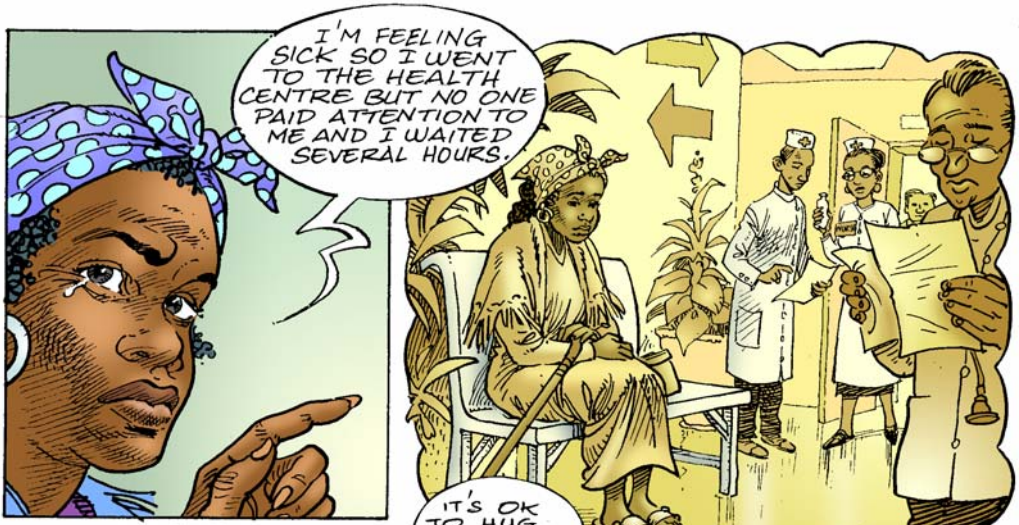


YEAH ... IF WE KNEW MORE WE WOULDN'T BE AFRAID...

... SO IT'S FINE TO PLAY FOOTBALL WITH FREDDY.

AND THEN WE COULD PROTECT OURSELVES AND HELP OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE HIV INSTEAD OF LEAVING THEM SAD AND LONELY.





I'M FEELING SICK SO I WENT TO THE HEALTH CENTRE BUT NO ONE PAID ATTENTION TO ME AND I WAITED SEVERAL HOURS.

IT'S OK TO HUG SOMEONE LIVING WITH HIV

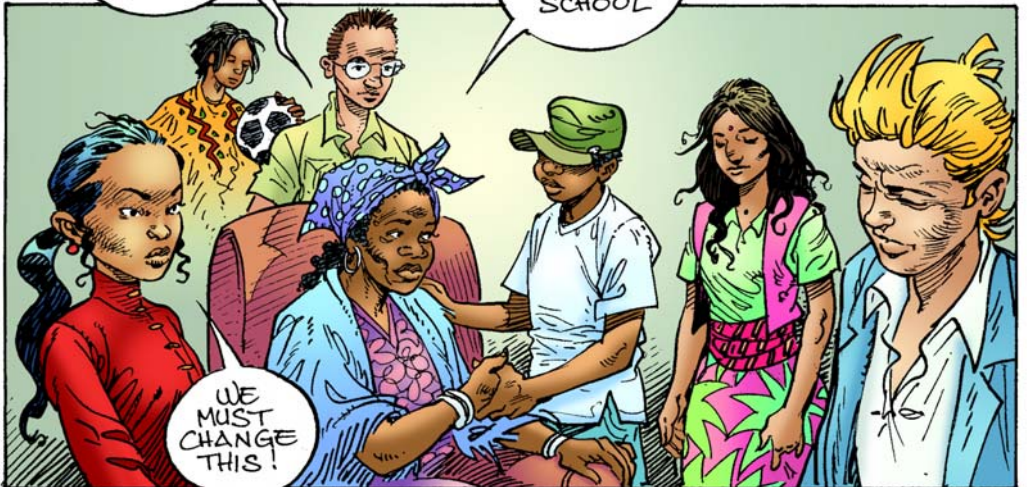
YOU SEE, I'M HIV POSITIVE!



IN THE END I WENT UP AND ASKED THE DOCTOR AND HE SAID THAT THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME AND TOLD ME TO LEAVE...



BUT THIS IS WRONG! YOU NEED HELP, YOU ARE SICK LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, WHY ARE YOU BEING TREATED DIFFERENTLY? THIS IS DISCRIMINATION...





LATER THAT DAY AT ALISHA'S HOUSE ...

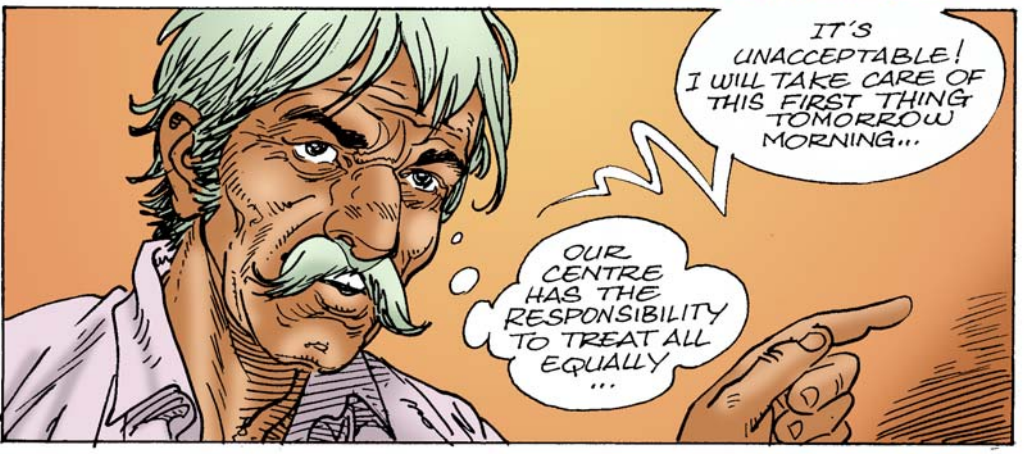
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

IT WAS OK. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HIV/AIDS TODAY.

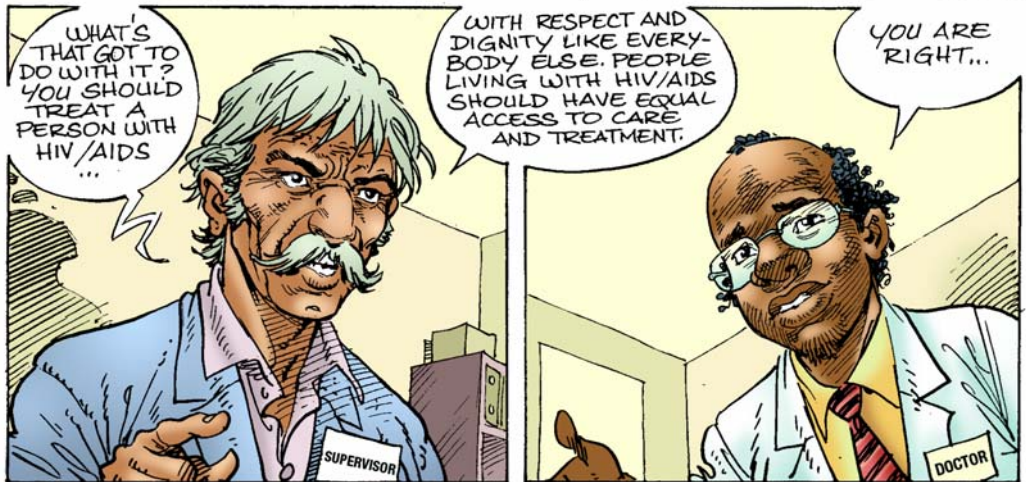


WELL ...FREDDY'S MUM TOLD US THAT SHE IS HIV POSITIVE AND WAS UPSET BECAUSE SHE WENT TO THE HEALTH CLINIC WHERE YOU ARE IN CHARGE AND THEY REFUSED TO HELP HER.

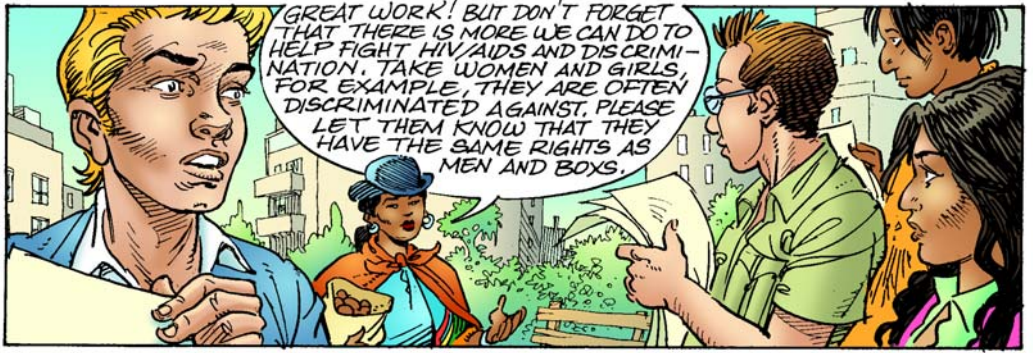


IT'S UNACCEPTABLE! I WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING...

OUR CENTRE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO TREAT ALL EQUALLY ...














REMEMBER...



THE HIV VIRUS CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH SHAKING HANDS, HUGGING, TOUCHING, KISSING, PETTING COUGHING, SNEEZING, SWIMMING POOLS AND TOILETS, EATING UTENSILS OR FOOD, SHARING BEDS, BED LINEN AND CLOTHES, OR THROUGH MOSQUITO BITES.

THE HIV VIRUS IS TRANSMITTED (PASSED FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER) THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF HIV-INFECTED

BODY FLUIDS THROUGH:

- UNPROTECTED (WITHOUT A CONDOM) SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH SOMEONE WHO IS INFECTED
- UNSTERILISED EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING NEEDLES,

SYRINGES, RAZOR BLADES AND OTHERS THAT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY USED BY SOMEONE WHO IS INFECTED.

- TRANSFUSION OF INFECTED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN THE HIV VIRUS.
- AN INFECTED MOTHER TO HER CHILD DURING PREGNANCY, AT CHILDBIRTH OR THROUGH BREAST-FEEDING.

EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO INFORMATION, INCLUDING HIV/AIDS RELATED INFORMATION. WE NEED TO BE INFORMED AND SPEAK OPENLY ABOUT HIV/AIDS TO PREVENT INFECTION AND TO HELP THOSE ALREADY INFECTED.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS HAVE A RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY. YOU SHOULD TREAT PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION FOR ANY REASON (RACE, COLOUR, SEX OR RELIGION, THE OPINIONS YOU HAVE, WHERE YOU COME FROM, WHETHER YOU ARE HEALTHY OR ILL, AND WHATEVER YOUR SEXUAL CHOICES) IS A HUMAN RIGHT THAT EVERYONE SHOULD ENJOY AND ALL SHOULD RESPECT.

ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV CAN HELP EVERYONE BETTER UNDERSTAND HIV AND AIDS AND NOT BE FRIGHTENED OF IT. THEY CAN HELP OTHERS TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR LOVED ONES

DISCRIMINATION IS WRONG AND UNFAIR. IT IS A VIOLATION OF ANOTHER PERSON'S RIGHT. THOSE WHO DISCRIMINATE SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS...

STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. TAKE ACTION AGAINST HIV/AIDS DISCRIMINATION! YOU CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!..

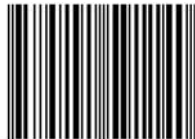
WRITE DOWN YOUR
IDEAS ON HOW YOU CAN
TAKE ACTION...





*Stand up for
human rights*

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