

Information About HIV/AIDS

NAPWA

If you are infected with HIV and want to meet others who are also infected, contact NAPWA, the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS. NAPWA addresses issues that are of particular importance to people living with the virus, for example: discrimination, access to treatment, nutrition, coping with the fears and stress of living with HIV?. At the NAPWA national office someone will be able to refer you to the NAPWA members closest to you. Phone: 720 3349.

Why People with STDs are at high risk of contracting HIV:

STDs often cause sores on the sexual organs. These sores make it easy for HIV to enter.

Many STDs result in the development of pus which is very rich in white blood cells and HIV can live very well in white blood cells.

HIV infection is an STD. A person may have caught HIV at the same time he/she got infected with another STD.

ABC of HIV/AIDS

Just because you are not (yet?) infected with HIV does not mean that it will stay that way. Protect yourself. Know your A (abstain) B (be faithful) C (use condoms).

Why is it important to treat AIDS as a Human Rights Issue?

Millions of people are infected with HIV and they are human beings.

Life does not stop at the point when someone gets infected with HIV. There are many healthy years of life ahead that people can enjoy without facing discrimination.

There is no need to fear people with HIV as it is not transmitted in normal social contact.

Do not judge people. Not everyone who is HIV has lived an immoral life.

Discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS is now illegal

Parliament has passed an important piece of legislation, the "Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Bill". The Bill aims to outlaw all forms of discrimination on grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, HIV/AIDS and a range of other conditions - Source: Path Ways, Dept of Health.

Prediction

"We now are able to predict that the number of people who will die of AIDS in the first decade of the 21st century will rival the number who died in all the wars of the 20th century" (US Vice President Al Gore in his address to the UN Security Council on 11.01.2000)

In other words, we can expect as many people to die of AIDS in the next 10 years as the world saw dying in all wars together over the last 100 years - Source: Lift News, Dept of Health