

We are National AIDS Trust



"Stephen, nobody **living with HIV** will ever have a leading role on Broadway or the West End"

This is what my first agent said when another actor came out publicly as having HIV. So, when I was diagnosed with HIV two years later, I quit my theatre career.

I felt forced to give up my dreams and everything I'd ever worked for because I didn't think I would be accepted. Because I believed my HIV meant people wouldn't want to work with me.

Being diagnosed with HIV was hard enough to come to terms with. But to lose my purpose in life on top of that was unbearable. But then a part of me desperately wanted to live again. I realised I needed to change my story and change the way I thought about myself and HIV.

I ended up writing a one-man show which I took to New York in 2009. I'd have been happy with a month's show run but it ran for nine and got rave reviews from the New York Times. The reaction was mind-blowing.

HIV stigma can stick. It took me five years to find the courage and confidence to return to an audition room and a stage.

I now do public talks about my experience of living with HIV to raise awareness and help others on their journeys. And my first agent had been wrong. People living with HIV can lead a show on Broadway.

People living with HIV continue to experience stigma which leads to inequality and serious harm. National AIDS Trust works hard to fight stigma wherever it exists so that we live in a world where HIV stigma doesn't stop someone living their fullest life.







How we've changed lives

Our **incredible** supporters have enabled us to:

- take legal action securing NHS access to the HIV prevention drug PrEP
- improve legal rights including protecting people living with HIV in equality law
- reduce poverty by ensuring people living with HIV have access to a fairer benefits assessment that understands their experiences
- increase HIV knowledge through free teaching materials for schools and our annual World AIDS Day campaign
- secure an end to the ban on people living with HIV joining the armed forces
- persuade the Government to change the law so people living with HIV have equal access to fertility treatment.

With your support we can:

- Stop new HIV transmissions by 2030, holding the government accountable for delivering on its commitments in the HIV Action Plan
- ensure everyone understands HIV, knows their status and can prevent transmission
- stand up for marginalised groups and shine a light on those who are often outside the main focus of HIV work, and representing everyone in our diverse community
- protect basic human rights including access to healthcare, in order to achieve health equality, social justice, and a life free from stigma and discrimination.



What we stand for

We work to stop HIV from standing in the way of health, dignity and equality, and to end new HIV transmissions. Our expertise, research and advocacy secure lasting change to the lives of people living with, and at risk, of HIV.

This is an exciting time in the fight against HIV. With an increase in testing, treatment and awareness we know an end to new cases of HIV is not only possible but - with the right focus and investment - achievable by 2030. With this progress, we must ensure nobody is left behind. People living with HIV have the right to equality and to live happy, healthy lives. This is where we need your help.

Together we can secure lasting change for people affected by HIV.



Here are ways you can help us

- Make a regular or one-off donation to support our work.
 Regular gifts mean we can be ambitious with our plans, knowing we have your continued support
- leave a gift in your Will which will ensure we can continue to fight for equality long into the future
- organise a fundraiser for National AIDS Trust at work, university or school
- join our 100 Club for those making a minimum donation of £2,500 a year or £200 a month
- get your company involved through employee fundraising, sponsorship or cause-related marketing
- ask your employer if there is a payroll giving scheme at work and set up a payment directly from your monthly salary payment
- sign up to receive regular updates on our work and hear about our latest campaigns, activism, fundraising and volunteering opportunities

Email info@nat.org.uk or phone 020 7814 6767 to speak to a member of our team about how you can get involved.





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Charity number: 297977

Please donate



Please **sign up** to hear from us

