

Speaking Out, Changing Lives



National AIDS Trust

New City Cloisters
196 Old Street
London EC1V 9FR
United Kingdom
T +44 (0)20 7814 6767
F +44 (0)20 7216 0111
info@nat.org.uk
www.nat.org.uk

National AIDS Trust

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No. 2175938.

Registered Office:
Winters
29 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7JE

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National AIDS Trust
Annual Review 2005/06

The National AIDS Trust



The National AIDS Trust is the UK's leading independent policy and campaigning voice on HIV and AIDS. We develop policies and campaign to halt the spread of HIV, and improve the quality of life of people affected by HIV, both in the UK and internationally.

The National AIDS Trust develops policies and campaigns for change to achieve four strategic goals:



Effective HIV prevention in order to halt the spread of HIV



Early diagnosis of HIV through ethical, accessible and appropriate testing



Equity of access to treatment, care and support for people living with HIV



Eradication of HIV-related stigma and discrimination

“People affected by HIV still experience ignorance, stigma, prejudice and discrimination, and although the full inclusion of HIV within the Disability Discrimination Act is an important legal change, it needs to be publicised and acted upon in practice. Thank you to the National AIDS Trust, together with partners, for their work in this area and for the early production of materials that we can use to play our part in promotion, awareness-raising and campaigning.”

Gordon Warren, Training & Development Manager, Leicestershire AIDS Support Services

“Working with the National AIDS Trust was a valuable experience, and helped me understand some of the barriers and inequalities faced by people living with HIV. We worked alongside a number of key organisations to promote changes to the Disability Discrimination Act, and in a short space of time, were able to make significant progress in ensuring that people with HIV, MS and cancer were informed of their new legal protection.”

Tom Elkins, Policy and Campaigns Manager, MS Society

“The National AIDS Trust's information on criminal prosecutions has been very useful in our HIV awareness training this year.”

David Solly, General Secretary and Trustee
Kernow Positive Support

“The National AIDS Trust leads the way on speaking out about crucial policy and legal issues affecting the growing and diverse population living with HIV in Britain. They also campaign for all people affected by the HIV epidemic, be they HIV positive or negative.”

Martin Flynn, News Editor, Positive Nation

Global Fact

Eight people are infected with HIV every minute

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Message from the Chair



Dame Ruth Runciman

I am retiring after six rewarding years as Chair of the National AIDS Trust, and this is, therefore, my last annual message. I am particularly pleased to be able to report that my successor will be Dame Denise Platt, formerly a Trustee

and Vice Chair of the National AIDS Trust and currently the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection, who brings an exceptional degree of experience and commitment to the causes for which the National AIDS Trust was founded.

The objectives of the National AIDS Trust to end prejudice, prevent new infections, and improve access to testing, treatment and care are as relevant today as they have been throughout the twenty years since its foundation. Indeed, with growing political and public awareness of the terrible toll of HIV and AIDS in the developing world, there is a constant risk of complacency and neglect of the needs of those living with HIV in the UK. The policy and advocacy work of the National AIDS Trust is, therefore, as important and challenging as it has ever been. By continuing to build on its expertise in key areas over the last year, including human rights and the law, the organisation has been able to provide leadership in the HIV sector and achieve tangible change for people and communities affected.

HIV continues to disproportionately affect already vulnerable communities. In the UK, gay men, Africans, prisoners and injecting drug users have the highest rates of HIV, and yet are often already marginalised and discriminated against. The National AIDS Trust has made these groups a focus of its work over the last year.

2005/06 has seen both encouraging and discouraging developments around HIV in the UK. It is a major advance that people living with HIV are now protected from discrimination under the law from the point of diagnosis, yet people still contact the National AIDS Trust with experiences of bullying, harassment and job loss following disclosure of their HIV status.

Plans to introduce mandatory testing for HIV, which could have increased stigma and set back prevention efforts, were shelved, yet criminal prosecutions for reckless HIV transmission continue to act as a potential disincentive to testing for fear of reprisal from partners and the police.

Important commitments were made by the UK Government and others at the G8 summit to achieve universal access to treatment by 2010, yet there are still vulnerable people with uncertain or irregular residency status living in the UK whose health is being put at risk through inhumane charges for HIV treatment.

¶ The activities of the National AIDS Trust in the past year recorded in this review are an impressive testimony to its influence and effectiveness. ¶

It remains the case in the UK that stigma and discrimination are still all too common in the workplace, in healthcare and in the media. Vulnerable communities are isolated and disadvantaged by policies of charging for treatment, criminal prosecutions and failure to provide effective prevention and support. The role of the National AIDS Trust in developing policy and promoting the rights of those living with HIV is therefore essential. The activities of the National AIDS Trust in the past year recorded in this review are an impressive testimony to its influence and effectiveness in the difficult areas where its priorities lie.

It has been a privilege as Chair of the National AIDS Trust to work with its staff, so ably led by Deborah Jack, whose energy, expertise and commitment are reflected throughout this Annual Review, and with Trustees who have been unfailing in their support and in the generosity with which they have given their time and experience. I thank them most warmly, together with our ambassadors whose support for the organisation has been a constant encouragement to us all, and our funders on whose support all of this vital work depends. I look forward to following the National AIDS Trust's achievements as it builds on its proud record in the years ahead.

National AIDS Trust team

(as at 30 June 2006)

Staff

Yusef Azad

Director of Policy and Campaigns

Hannah Bate

Policy Officer

Emma Bickerstaff

Communications Manager

Ben Bryant

Fundraising Officer

Sheonaidh Cumming

Policy and Campaigns Assistant

Nicola Douglas

Senior Policy Officer

Freddric Frogley

Office Administrator

Tim Gutteridge

Director of Finance and Administration

Deborah Jack

Chief Executive

Stephanie McCarthy Assistant to the Chief Executive's Office

Vanessa Newton

Fundraising Officer

Gary Paul

Finance Officer

Doug Templeton

IT Officer

Anthony Townsend

Trading Manager

Trustees

Dame Ruth Runciman

Alison Brimelow CBE

Geraldine Campbell

Howard Charman

David Johnson

John Mayne CB

John Nicholls

Dr Barry Peters

Winnie Ssanyu-Sseruma

Basil Williams

Neil Wooding

We would also like to thank our many committed volunteers that have contributed their time and skills to the National AIDS Trust over the past year.

Ambassadors

Lord Puttnam CBE

Professor Michael Adler CBE

Christine Boar

John Bowis OBE MEP

Mark Chataway

Lady Falconer of Thoroton

Rt Hon Lord Fowler

David Grayson CBE

Rt Rev Richard Holloway FRSE

Rt Hon Sir Patrick Nairne GCB

MC

Vivienne Parry

Robin Pauley

Baroness Prashar CBE

Natasha Richardson

Kirsty Wark

Christopher Wright



Staff and volunteers Walk for Life

Speaking out on human rights

Throughout the world people living with HIV are disproportionately represented among communities vulnerable to poverty and discrimination. In the UK, gay men, Africans and injecting drug users are most affected by HIV and these same people are also vulnerable to homophobia, racism, anti-immigration sentiment, social exclusion and poverty. Upholding the human right to health and freedom from discrimination is therefore at the core of all our work.

In the last year we have challenged discriminatory government policies which force failed asylum seekers



Royal Courts of Justice

to pay for their HIV treatment, campaigned for an end to criminal prosecutions for reckless HIV transmission, promoted good HIV policies and practice among employers and publicly called for action to tackle HIV in prisons.

UK Fact

The number of black Africans diagnosed with HIV who were infected in the UK has increased fourfold in the last five years

Achievements and impacts

Our joint report with the Prison Reform Trust, highlighting the high rate of blood-borne viruses in prisons and the need for effective harm minimisation programmes and greater availability of condoms, was circulated to key decision makers and featured in five national newspapers.

We set up an Expert Advisory Group to agree best practice on blood-borne viruses in prisons, with stakeholders throughout the UK including prison governors, professional associations and key officials from Prison Health.

Our work with the National Asylum Support Service resulted in changes to policy and practice ensuring that the health of asylum seekers living with HIV is no longer routinely put at risk by the dispersal process.

We took a lead role in campaigning against prosecutions for reckless HIV transmission - organising high-level engagement with the Crown Prosecution Service and Association of Chief Police Officers and responding to the Sentencing Advisory Panel. Our policy paper on criminal prosecutions is now a key reference document in the UK and worldwide.

We were instrumental in securing a public consultation on HIV prosecutions by the Crown Prosecution Service, enabling HIV organisations and people living with HIV to formally give evidence to minimise the harm arising from prosecutions for HIV transmission.

We established our first joint PhD studentship in HIV and the law with Keele University.

Showing leadership and sharing expertise

As a small organisation focused exclusively on policy and campaigning, the National AIDS Trust is in a unique position to act as a policy information hub on HIV, enabling the many and diverse organisations that work on HIV issues in the UK to benefit from our skills and knowledge. We not only pursue strategic alliances and partnerships to draw on expertise outside the organisation, but work to build the policy capacity of other organisations to strengthen their voice and influence.



Research on public attitudes to HIV shown at the BHIVA conference

In 2005/06 we worked in partnership with the following:

African HIV Policy Network
All Party Parliamentary Group on AIDS
Brook
Cancerbackup
Crusaid
Disability Rights Commission
English Sexual Health and HIV Commissioners Group
Ensuring Positive Futures
Fire Brigades Union
fpa
Health Protection Agency

HIV Scotland
Keele University
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
International Partnership for Microbicides
Macmillan Cancer Relief
MedFASH
MS Society
NAM
Prison Reform Trust
Sex Education Forum
Terrence Higgins Trust
TUC

Achievements and impacts

- We piloted an HIV training workshop for GPs in Newham, helping to improve early diagnosis of HIV in primary care.
- We launched a national Policy Network, providing free and up-to-date policy news with the aim of increasing the policy capacity and engagement of small, front-line organisations supporting people living with HIV.
- The re-launch of our website as a UK HIV policy portal has led to a threefold rise in users to more than 30,000 visitors every month.
- Our research into public attitudes to HIV and our work with dispersed asylum seekers were showcased at the British HIV Association (BHIVA) annual conference.
- Our spokespeople have given many presentations at conferences including NAHIP, National HIV Nurses Association, Sussex Beacon BME conference and the Human Rights Lawyers Association.
- As one of the appointed Civil Society delegation from the UK at the UNGASS meeting in New York, we were vocal in calling for a greater focus on marginalised communities and contributed a website blog as the conference developed.
- We were appointed the UK representative for the EU Civil Society Forum, acting as the interface between UK voluntary organisations and the EU on HIV issues.

Educating the public about HIV

Despite 25 years of HIV and a continuing rise in the number of diagnoses in the general population, our MORI poll carried out in November shows that public awareness about how HIV is transmitted is falling. HIV is still a uniquely stigmatised condition and many myths exist about how it is passed on, leading to public attitudes that fuel prejudice and potentially discourage people from testing for the virus. In response to this challenge, we work hard to engage the public on World AIDS Day and talk to the media throughout the year to challenge myths and create a more informed debate about HIV.



Virtual red ribbon worn on 27,000 websites and emails



Working with the London Fire Brigade to distribute red ribbons

Achievements and impacts

- Our MORI poll on public awareness of HIV was reported on BBC Breakfast and lunchtime news as well as many national and regional stations including Radio 1, London Tonight, LBC and BBC London.
- Media coverage of our key policy issues doubled to over 320 mentions, helping us to raise awareness about HIV among key audiences such as policy makers, opinion formers, gay men, employers and healthcare workers.
- Our virtual red ribbon campaign for World AIDS Day resulted in 27,000 organisations and individuals wearing an online red ribbon on websites and emails throughout November and December.
- We wrote letters in response to 28 stigmatising media articles and got positive engagement from six national newspaper editors to address editorial inaccuracies around HIV. We also had three letters to editors published in national newspapers.
- We distributed 1.5 million red ribbons, making them available to the public across the UK in outlets including Carphone Warehouse stores and fire stations.
- 5 million people visited our World AIDS Day website for facts about HIV in the six weeks around 1 December.
- Our HIV fact sheets were translated into 13 languages and made available online by MultiKulti.

UK Fact

The number of heterosexual HIV diagnoses has doubled in the last five years

Working towards an HIV-free future

HIV is now one of the most significant and serious communicable diseases facing the UK. Yet there is strong evidence that the money being spent on HIV prevention within the NHS is decreasing. There have been no mass awareness campaigns highlighting the risk of HIV since the eighties, and resources for targeting prevention messages to gay men and African communities are currently inadequate.

Worldwide eight people are infected with HIV every minute and in developing countries millions of women are left vulnerable to HIV infection because they cannot insist on condom use. There are still great challenges ahead to improve prevention programmes and slow down the rate of new infections. The National AIDS Trust is advocating for more effective prevention in the UK and for the development of new prevention technologies worldwide.



UK Fact

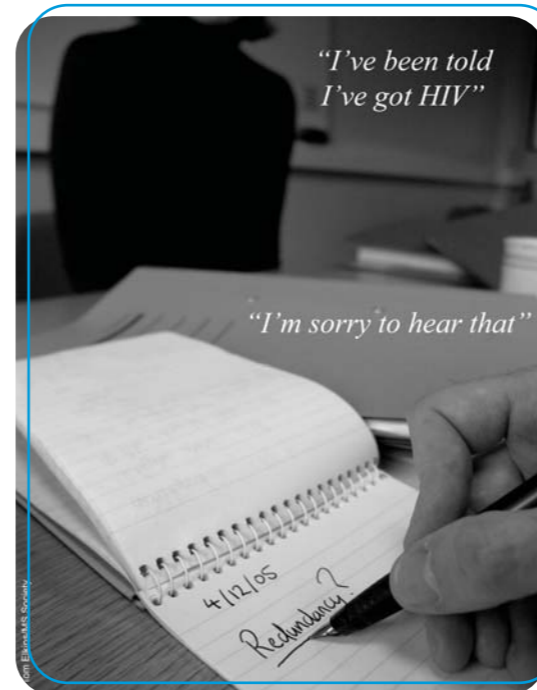
7,450 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2005

Achievements and impacts

- Our round table on positive prevention brought clinical experts, HIV organisations and people living with HIV together to push forward the debate on improving safer sex information and support for HIV positive people, a group often ignored in past prevention strategies.
- We devoted an edition of our journal *Impact* to the latest developments in new prevention technologies, stressing the need for new ways to tackle HIV transmission.
- We briefed MPs and HIV and international development organisations on the latest developments in microbicide and vaccine research. This helped to put new prevention technologies firmly on the UK agenda, leading to £27.5 million being pledged by the Department for International Development to our partner organisations working in vaccines and microbicides.
- Our co-ordination of the English Sexual Health Commissioners Group has radically increased the number of Commissioners attending regular meetings and led to an improved sharing of best practice within the NHS.
- Our joint work with other key organisations, lobbying for sexual health to be made a priority, resulted in the Government announcing a 48-hour waiting time target for Genito-Urinary Medicine clinics as one of the NHS top six performance indicators.

Ending discrimination at work

Despite advances in legal protection under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, research suggests that one third of people living with HIV have experienced discrimination. Discrimination, where this occurs in employment, can include bullying, harassment, malicious gossip or even job loss following disclosure of HIV status. We work to make both employers and employees aware that discrimination on the basis of someone's HIV status is not only unacceptable it is illegal. We also work to provide employers with the tools to create fair policies towards people living with HIV.



Materials highlighting changes in disability law

Achievements and impacts

- We distributed around 8,000 copies of our Positively Employed leaflet aimed at employers and it was also promoted by the Disability Rights Commission.
- We updated our HIV @ Work resource packs to create the most current materials for employers on best practice in eliminating HIV discrimination.
- As part of Ensuring Positive Futures we were instrumental in getting HIV on to the Trade Union agenda through a fringe meeting at the TUC conference and in producing a new workplace leaflet for trade unions.
- Our innovative and award winning advertising materials challenging discrimination in the workplace, produced pro bono by Saatchi & Saatchi, won major advertising awards.
- The Independent published an article by Bianca Jagger supporting our campaign for fairer employment practices for people living with HIV.

UK Fact

One in three people living with HIV experience discrimination

Engaging with people living with HIV

As a policy and campaigning organisation we ensure that our policies reflect the views and needs of people living with HIV, by working closely with frontline HIV organisations that have day-to-day contact with people living with the virus. We have increased the number of volunteering opportunities for people living with HIV within the organisation, enabling us to benefit from the expertise and skills of people living with HIV who have had to take a break from paid employment, and at the same time providing many HIV-positive people with a stepping stone back into work.



Achievements and impacts

- We jointly launched a website with other hidden disability charities, educating people living with HIV about their increased rights under disability discrimination law.
- We launched Press Gang, the first network of its kind for people living with HIV, with the aim of challenging stigmatising and inaccurate media coverage.
- We commissioned a literature review and consultation exercise with people living with HIV and healthcare workers, on the involvement of people living with HIV in health and social care.
- We developed and distributed an issue of *Impact* on involvement of people living with HIV in shaping health and social care services to key decision makers in health and government.

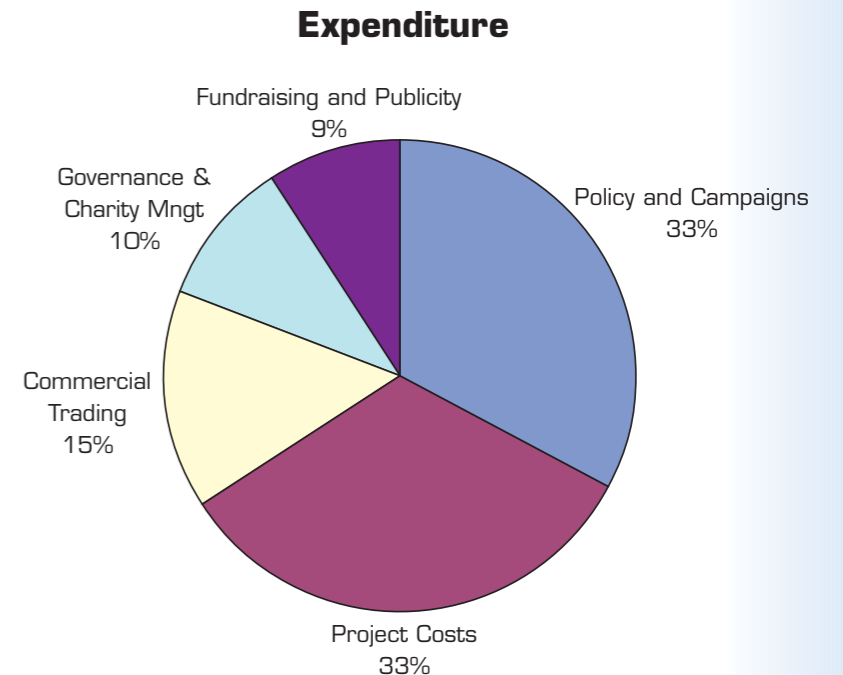
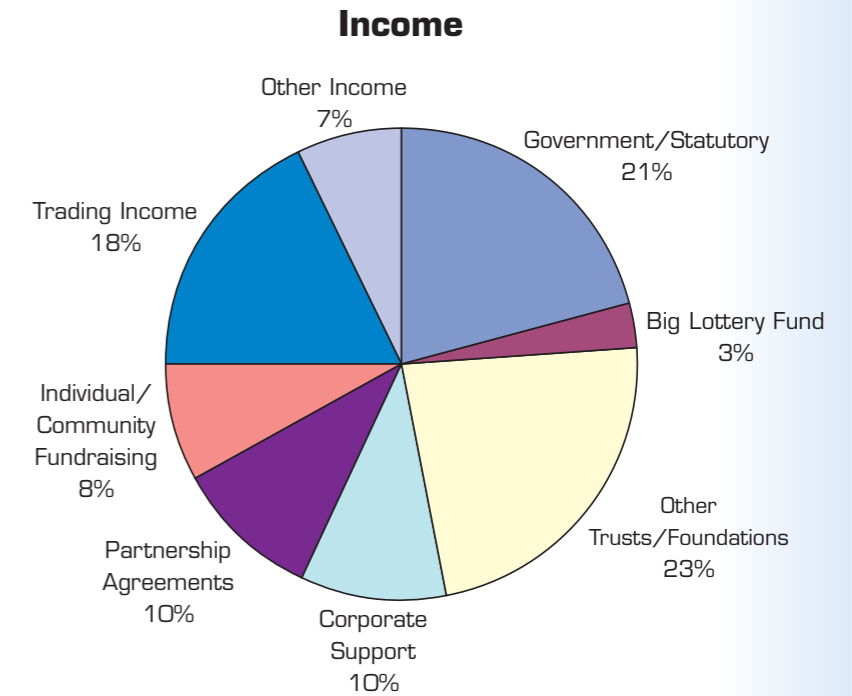
“ The National AIDS Trust's Press gang serves a vital purpose in enabling people living with HIV to speak out in the media, not only to challenge stereotypes and prejudice but to get more accurate and positive stories about HIV into the UK media. ”
 Angelina Namiba, Policy and Involvement Manager, Positively Women

UK Fact

There are **63,500** people living with HIV

Financial support

These pie charts summarise information extracted from the National AIDS Trust's audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 2006. Copies of the full accounts can be obtained from info@nat.org.uk or downloaded from www.nat.org.uk



Global Fact

Two thirds of new infections in 2006 were in sub-Saharan Africa

Funders & Supporters



We would like to thank our funders and supporters, including:

Abbott Laboratories	International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
Anglo American	International Partnership for Microbicides
Bianca Jagger	Levi Strauss Foundation
Big Lottery Fund	Lloyds TSB Foundation
Boehringer Ingelheim	M.A.C AIDS Fund
Bristol Myers Squibb	MBNA
Carphone Warehouse	Monument Trust
Cotton Trust	Northmoor Trust
Department of Health	Pfizer
Durex/SSL International	Pilkington Charities Fund
Elton John AIDS Foundation	Paragon Trust
Edelman	Positive Action (GSK)
EMI	Roche
Equal/European Social Fund	Saatchi & Saatchi
Gerald Gundle Trust	Scottish Executive
Gilead Sciences	Somebody Cares
HSBC	

“George House Trust campaigns closely with the National AIDS Trust - it's a two way street with us - we share in the benefits of their excellent national policy work and we provide them with evidence the National AIDS Trust needs. The consultation on the prosecution for sexual transmission was one good example - the National AIDS Trust generously shared its draft response which helped us strengthen our own.”

Chris Morley, Policy and Publications Co-ordinator, George House Trust

“Working with the National AIDS Trust for the past six years has brought about a fundamental change in attitudes within the fire and rescue service in the UK. There is simply no 'get out of jail free card' now the law is changed.”

Stewart Brown, Executive Council/ Fire Brigades Union for LGBT Members

“The contribution of the National AIDS Trust to capacity building in the Civil Society Forum is vital. In this network of 40 civil society representatives from all over Europe and neighbouring countries, the experience of the National AIDS Trust in dealing with difficult issues such as discrimination and legislation is very useful to push the EU-agenda.”

Ton Coenen, Co-Chair, Civil Society Forum

“As our partner in UK policy development, the work and expertise of the National AIDS Trust has been really greatly valued here in Scotland. We particularly valued their knowledge and research when challenging the Scottish Executive's proposals for mandatory HIV testing following criminal incidents. It shows that trust and respect for each other's work make a difference to the end result - in this case, a successful outcome.”

Roy Kilpatrick, Chief Executive, HIV Scotland