



World Aids Day - 1st December 2016





THINK
POSITIVE
#RETHINK
HIV

- This World AIDS Day, charities are challenging people to rethink outdated stereotypes, challenge myths and be positive about HIV, with their ‘Think Positive: Rethink HIV’ campaigns. More and more charities are rallying a movement of people to tell the truth about HIV and pledge to eradicate HIV by 2030.
- How much do you actually know about HIV? Try taking this little quiz below
- <http://www.hivawarequiz.org.uk/quiz-3/about-you>





This is due to the effective medication available in the united kingdom. Even today scientists and doctors are trialling vaccines.

If everyone in the UK knew their status and was receiving treatment the HIV Virus could be easily be eliminated.

There are around 6000 new infections diagnosed in the UK each year. In 2011 a campaign was launched to get this figure to zero by encouraging people to get tested and get treatment.



SCOTT'S STORY ON FACEBOOK TODAY

“I have been HIV+ for over 10yrs now, I write this status about my HIV to try and stop the stigma around this virus, I have always been open about it because it is a virus in my blood, it is not what defines me...but something I live with, I have been on medication called anti retrovirals for 8yrs and thanks to this amazing cocktail of drugs I live a normal life (apart from the side effects). The story of how I contracted the virus is a combination of naivety and misplaced trust and my own stupidity and my message is simple on world AIDS day!

For those of you that have children or grandchildren, it is your responsibility to educate them about HIV because the schools will brush over it very briefly, it is not a "gay thing" it's a virus that lives in the blood, the virus doesn't know or care who it ends up destroying! It's a virus! It affected the gay population back in the 1980's but since then has killed over 20 Million people around the WORLD. I often here young girls talking about having drunken sex and saying "thank god I'm on the pill" and lads I know saying "thankfully she was on the pill the last thing I need is a kid". If after a night of unplanned passion you end up with only an unplanned pregnancy you are very blessed indeed!!! And you were also very lucky! So my message is clear don't judge anyone for their mistakes, but equally don't help spread this virus! Know the facts, protect yourself and get tested regularly. You cannot catch HIV from skin contact, kissing, sharing a cup, or any of the other crazy things I've heard people mutter underneath their breath, and if like me the person with HIV is on anti-retroviral therapy and it's working well, we are classed as "undetectable" which means we no longer have enough HIV active cells in our bodies to pose much of a risk, we are still HIV+ and will always be...but it means we are almost as healthy as you!

People living with HIV don't want sympathy? We don't want your tears? We don't want to be shamed into hiding it either? We want this virus to end with us! I'm very fortunate that I have my health and a good life and a family that love me and know all about my HIV, I have a partner who is Negative and I intend to keep them that way! We make love, we are in love and for these things I am blessed!

World AIDS day is not just a date, it's not just a red ribbon, it's a day to remember the amazing people who we have lost and to take away the stigma for people who are living with this virus, and most importantly it's about saving the next generations from HIV, Knowledge is power!”



Feeling anxious about your sexual health?
Want more information or someone to talk to?
Need to take action but don't know where to start?
Maybe you have story you want to share to help others?

Whatever it is you need, Bedazzle is a new charity for young people, heavily led by other young people.

If you need to talk about anything either give us a call or follow us on social media and send us a message.

Sometimes we all need a helping hand....

