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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.

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".

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 FUGHT. 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 SAIID 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.
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...

But...wait, why are you afraid?

You're right! We shouldn't play with him.
Don't you know how you can get HIV?

You can get HIV through:
- unprotected sex
- infected blood
- and needle sharing.

Don't take drugs and do not share needles...

Let's put it on first...

We should wait to have sex. We should never have sex because others are.

And when we do have sex, we must always use condoms.

Of course.
But why don't we learn about this at school?

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.

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.
LIKE FREDDY'S MOTHER.

YEAH! LET'S GO AND HELP HER!

YOU'RE RIGHT... WE SHOULD HELP OUR FRIENDS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHEN THEY ARE SICK.

LET'S SHOW HER THAT WE CARE ABOUT HER.

HELLO FREDDY.

WHAT'S WRONG?!

SO LET'S GO IN AND SEE HER.
I'M FEELING SICK SO I WENT TO THE HEALTH CENTRE BUT NO ONE PAID ATTENTION TO ME AND I WAITED SEVERAL HOURS.

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...

IT'S OK TO HUG SOMEONE LIVING WITH HIV.

BUT THIS IS WRONG! YOU NEED HELP. YOU ARE SICK LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, WHY ARE YOU BEING TREATED DIFFERENTLY? THIS IS DISCRIMINATION.
Yes, but this is not new. Don't you know that all over the world people like me living with HIV/AIDS are being discriminated against.

"Some have lost their jobs and some can't even get a job..."
LATER THAT DAY AT ALISHA'S HOUSE...

HOW WAS YOUR DAY? WHAT DID YOU LEARN? IT WAS OK. I LEARNT 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...
I heard that you refused to take care of someone who is sick? How could this happen?

Sir, we are very busy, and she’s HIV positive...

What’s that got to do with it? You should treat a person with HIV/AIDS...

With respect and dignity like everybody else, people living with HIV/AIDS should have equal access to care and treatment.

You are right...
MAKING SOME POSTERS

WELL DONE ALISHA FOR TALKING TO YOUR FATHER!

BUT WE CAN DO EVEN MORE.

LET'S GET STARTED! HOW ABOUT MAKING SOME POSTERS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW MORE ABOUT HIV/AIDS.

LATER THAT AFTERNOON

LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE

...AND I HAVE DONE THIS...

DO NOT DISCRIMINATE

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV ARE LIKE YOU AND ME.

HIV/AIDS STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
GREAT WORK! BUT DON'T FORGET THAT THERE IS MORE WE CAN DO TO HELP FIGHT HIV/AIDS AND DISCRIMINATION. TAKE WOMEN AND GIRLS, FOR EXAMPLE; THEY ARE OFTEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. PLEASE LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS MEN AND BOYS.

I HAVE THE SAME RIGHT TO EDUCATION AS MY BROTHERS.

I CAN SAY NO TO UNSAFE SEX.

I HAVE THE SAME RIGHT TO WORK AS MY BROTHERS.
AND THAT POOR PEOPLE HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS TOO...

LIKE YOU AND ME

AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIFFERENT COLOUR SKIN!

AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SICK!

STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ALL KINDS OF EXCLUSION AND DISCRIMINATION ARE UNJUST AND UNFAIR.

WE SHOULD SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED.
PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS...

AND KNOW THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

SO THAT IF THEIR RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED PEOPLE CAN SPEAK OUT!

YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIV.

YEAH, BECAUSE ACTUALLY I AM HIV POSITIVE AS WELL.
DRAW YOUR OWN POSTER FOR A CAMPAIGN ON HIV/AIDS DISCRIMINATION.
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.

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.

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.

People living with HIV/AIDS have a right to be treated with respect and dignity. You should treat people living with HIV/AIDS like everyone else.

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.

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