

NATIONAL HIV RELATED DISCRIMINATION REPORTING AND REDRESS SYSTEM

Dealing with Stigma and Discrimination

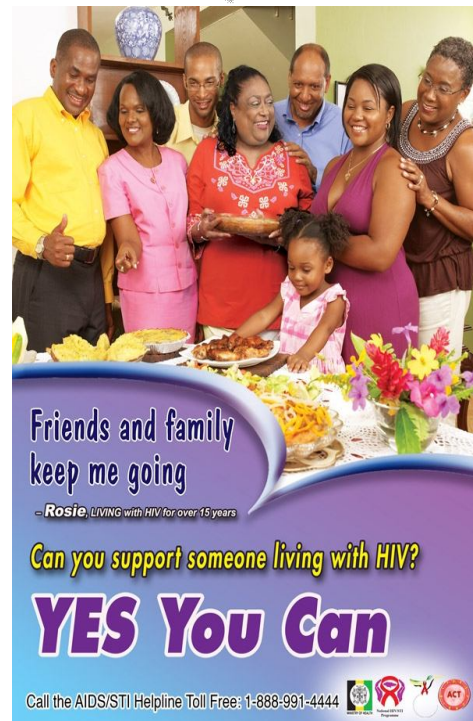
HIV-related stigma begins as a prejudicial thought. It is usually a thought which devalues an individual or group on the basis of HIV status or other related perceived "differences".

HIV-related discrimination occurs when action or omission results in a person being treated unfairly or unjustly because of HIV status, perceived HIV status or association with HIV.

Fear of discrimination often prevents people from getting tested for HIV. Fear can also prevent people from seeking treatment or admitting their health status publicly. Discriminatory treatment in the workplace can lead to loss of employment. Loss of

employment is in most cases a loss of the productive and income earning capacity of individuals and the nation. There is no justification for HIV related discrimination. HIV cannot be transmitted through everyday casual contact.

HIV screening for the purpose of exclusion from employment or from participation, is a form of discrimination. Action that breaches confidentiality and privacy is also a form of discrimination. Limited education about HIV modes of transmission and prevention can also facilitate discriminatory action. If you have experienced or witnessed discrimination, contact the Human Rights Desk at 929-7340.



HIV Related Discrimination Reporting and Redress System

The National HIV-Related Discrimination Reporting and Redress System (NHDRRS) was established to document and record complaints about discrimination by setting and ensure redress to persons affected. The NHDRRS is

multisectoral. Its operation is guided by the National HIV/STI Programme, Ministry of Health with support from the National AIDS Committee, the Jamaican Network of Seropositives and other organisations. The System is designed to collect complaints

about HIV related discrimination, investigate them and to operate as a focal point for redress. Preliminary steps have been taken to integrate the NHDRRS into existing systems within government bodies and nongovernmental organisations.

Complaints may be filed on behalf of or by a person who has experienced HIV related discrimination. A person who has witnessed HIV related discrimination may also file a complaint.

The NHDRRS is designed to operate within five steps:

- (1) Submission of an initial complaint to the Jamaican Network of Seropositives via telephone, on-line or by completing a complaint form.
- (2) An interview is conducted with the complainant to collect more information.
- (3) An investigation of the complaint is conducted to verify the information.
- (4) Redress—This is action such as referral, advice, counselling, community or industry-wide sensitisation, professional sanctions or legal action designed to resolve the issues presented through the complaint.
- (5) Closure—The case is closed as appropriate.

There is no justification for discrimination on the basis of HIV status.

SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT

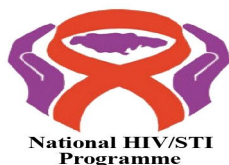
Contact: NHDRRS Advocacy Officer
Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+)
3 Trevennion Park Road, Kingston 5

Telephone: 929-7340
E-mail: complaints@jnplus.org

Have you ever witnessed or experienced discrimination? Well, you can do something about that.

Complaints should be submitted via telephone, e-mail or in person to the NHDRRS Advocacy Officer or to the Reporting and Redress Field Officer at the Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+).

Complaint forms are available on-line and at the JN+ Office. Such forms are also available through Adherence Counsellors at 15 Treatment Centres across Jamaica. Forms may be also requested from the Secretariat of the National AIDS Committee and from Workplace Programme Officers located in government ministries, the Jamaica Business Council on HIV/AIDS, the Jamaica Manufacturers Association, the Jamaica Employers Association and from the Law and Human Rights Officer at the National HIV/STI Programme.



Reporting and Redress



There is a call for Government to approve the National HIV Related Discrimination Reporting and Redress System (NHDRRS).

A Submission has been prepared requesting that Cabinet approve the integration of this System into entities under the auspices of Government.

Among recommendations from a National Advisory Group on the NHDRRS is that the redress feature should be integrated into existing government and nongovernmental entities.

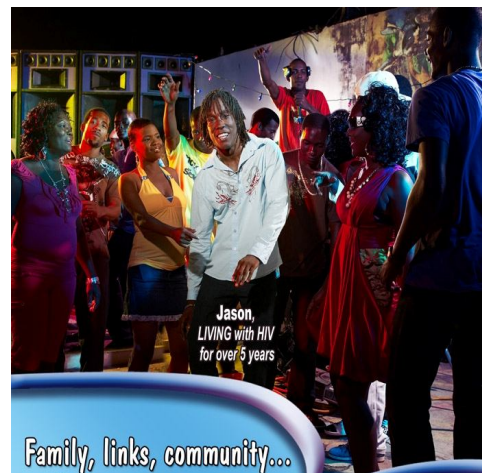
The National HIV/STI Programme (NHP) began documenting complaints in 2005. Complaints were entered into a database by an Advocacy Officer assigned to the Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+).

By the end of 2009, just about 182 complaints were filed by the NHDRRS. Settings mentioned frequently by complainants included the community, the workplace, government health care facility and homes.

Between 2007 and 2009, approximately 70 of the 109 complaints documented (64.2%) received redress. During 2009 alone, 26 complaints were reported and entered into the database. Nine of them received redress.

Fifty-one (51) complaints were documented during 2008 with 41 of them receiving redress.

During 2007, about 32 reports about discrimination were filed with 20 of them receiving redress.



Family, links, community...
so di ting set

Can you support someone living with HIV?

YES You Can

Call the AIDS/STI Helpline Toll Free: 1888-991-4444

