

HIV/AIDS and Discrimination

1. Vocabulary Building

believe	考える ; 思う	associate with	仲間にする
situation	状態	discrimination	差別
ignorant	無知	needle	
landlord	管理人	misunderstanding	誤解
housing	住宅	dismiss	くびになる



2. Reading

Around the world, people living with HIV/AIDS face many problems in society. They are often treated differently from other people. A person with HIV or AIDS sometimes risks losing her or his family, friends, and more, when other people learn the person has the virus. Discrimination is the unfair treatment of people because they belong to a certain group. For people living with HIV/AIDS, discrimination can take many forms.

One of the most frequent forms of discrimination happens because people do not know enough about the virus, HIV. They may think it is easy to catch in everyday life. They might not want to shake hands with someone who has AIDS, for example. They may believe that they can get the virus by sharing the same glass or plate with, or kissing someone who has HIV. Even though these situations will not cause HIV infection, many people around the world remain ignorant about this disease.

Another problem HIV-positive people encounter is discrimination in work, housing, or education. In some cases, when an employer finds out an employee is taking medicine for HIV infection, the employee might soon be looking for another job. Although it is illegal in many countries to dismiss a person for having HIV, relationships in the workplace may get so bad because of rumors or harassment that the HIV-positive person can no longer



continue to work there. In some countries, landlords have not rented to HIV-positive people, and students have been turned away from school because of their HIV status. In 1985 Ryan White was turned away from his high school in Kokomo, Indiana (USA). He won a court battle, and eventually was accepted at a high school in a nearby town. Even today, in many countries there are many HIV-positive children who are not allowed to attend school with other children.

There is a widespread stereotype that only certain kinds of people can catch HIV. Some people believe that only prostitutes, gay men, or people who use needles for drugs can get AIDS. They may think, “I do not sleep with many people, I am not gay, and I don’t use drugs, so I can’t catch HIV.” These people might not want to associate with people who have HIV or AIDS. Beliefs like these can cause families to turn their sons or daughters, mothers or fathers away from home. They can break up friendships.

One root cause of AIDS discrimination is a misunderstanding of the disease. Society must learn that *anyone* might be at risk of infection unless they take precautions in intimate relationships. It has nothing to do with being a “good” or “bad” person, and everything to do with education and changing one’s behavior. We can only hope to end discrimination when we start to see people with HIV/AIDS as people like everyone else, with challenges to face, and hopes and dreams for the future.

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3. Song: Streets Of Philadelphia*

- * Where is Philadelphia?
- * Why is it famous?
- * What is its nickname?
- * What do you know about the film, "Philadelphia"?

Listen to the title song from the film and then discuss your impressions with your partner.

I was bruised and battered
I couldn't tell what I felt
I was unrecognizable to myself
I saw my reflection in a window I didn't know my own face
Oh Brother are you gonna leave me wastin' away
On the streets of Philadelphia
I walked the avenue 'til my legs felt like stone
I heard the voices of friends vanished and gone
At night I could hear the blood in my veins
Black and whispering as the rain
On the streets of Philadelphia
Ain't no angel gonna greet me
It's just you and I my friend
My clothes don't fit me no more
I walked a thousand miles
Just to slip this skin
The night has fallen, I'm lyin' awake
I can feel myself fading away
So receive me brother with your faithless kiss
Or will we leave each other alone like this
On the streets of Philadelphia

Glossary

bruised	あざ
battered	虐待された
unrecognizable	認識できない
reflection	反射
wastin' away	衰弱する
vanished	消える
veins	血管
slip	脱ぐ
fading away	消えていく
faithless	不誠実

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Checking understanding

- 1) Why doesn't the singer recognize himself?
- 2) Why does he think of the color of his blood as black?
- 3) Why don't his clothes fit any more?
- 4) What does "faithless kiss" mean?

4. Watch a Scene

Now watch the following scenes from the film and discuss the questions below:

Scene 1:

- What was Miller's reaction to shaking Beckett's hand?
- Why do you think he reacted this way?
- How many lawyers did Beckett go to?
- What was the result each time he asked them to represent him? Why did this happen, do you think?
- How do you think Beckett feels when he leaves Miller's office?

Scene 2:

- Beckett is doing research for his case in the library. What is the librarian's attitude toward him?
- How do the other people in the library act?
- How would you define discrimination?

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5. Act Out the Scenes- Philadelphia

[From the film "Philadelphia, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 1993]

Beckett goes to Joe Miller's office to ask him to take his case.



Miller: All right. Take care. Mr. Beckett. Mr. Beckett. Come in.

Beckett: It's good to see you again, Counselor.

M: Judge Tate. Kendall Construction. Innocuous.

B: Yeah.

M: How are you? What happened to your face?

B: I have AIDS.

M: Oh, oh, I'm sorry. I...

B: Can I sit down? Thank you. Oh! Look at this. You have a new baby.

M: Yeah. I got a little baby girl.

B: Oh! It's a girl, huh! Congratulations.

M: Yeah. One week old.

B: Kids are great.

B: Yeah.

M: Yeah, thank you, Beckett. I'm real excited about it. Listen, I, uh... What can I do for you?

B: I've, uh, I've been fired by Wyant, Wheeler. I plan on bringing a wrongful termination suit against Charles Wheeler and his partners.

M: You want to sue Wyant, Wheeler, Hellerman, Tetlow and Brown?

B: Correct. I'm seeking representation.

M: Continue.

B: The night before it was due I worked on the complaint in my office. I left a copy of it on my desk. The next day the complaint vanished. No hard copy. All traces of it mysteriously gone from my computer. Miraculously, a copy of the complaint was located at the last minute, and we got it to court on time. But the next day I was summoned to a meeting with the managing partners. They were waiting for me in the conference room.



M: Continue.

B: I misplaced an important complaint. That's their story. Wanna hear mine?

M: How many lawyers did you go to before you called me?

B: Nine.

M: Continue.

B: From the day they hired me to the day I was fired I served my clients consistently thoroughly with absolute excellence. If they hadn't fired me that's what I'd be doing today.

M: And they don't wanna fire you for having AIDS, so in spite of your brilliance they'd make you look incompetent. Thus the mysterious lost file. Is that what you're trying to tell me?

B: Correct. I was sabotaged.

M: So you were concealing your illness.

B: That's correct.

M: All right, explain this to me like I'm a two-year-old, okay? Because there's an element in this thing I just cannot get through my thick head. Didn't you have an obligation to tell your employer you had this dreaded deadly infectious disease?

M: I don't buy it, Counselor.

B: That's very disappointing.

M: I don't see a case.

B: I have a case. If you don't want it for personal reasons...

M: That you. That's correct. I don't...

B: Well, thank you for your time, Counselor.

M: Mr. Beckett. Uh,... I- I'm sorry about what happened to you. It's a bitch, you know.

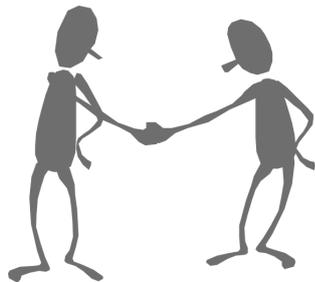
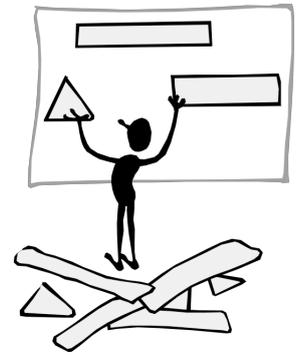
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6. Putting it Together

What have you learned in this unit?

Review the reading passage. Discuss the following with a partner or in small groups.

1. What is discrimination?
2. Name three ways that HIV-positive people might experience discrimination.
3. Who was Ryan White?
4. What are some reasons why people assume they won't catch HIV?
5. What is one way to prevent discrimination based on someone's HIV status?



Questions for discussion

Discuss the following questions with a partner or in small groups.

1. What do you think can be done to change people's attitudes toward PWH/PWAs? (PWA= Person with AIDS; PWH=Person with HIV)
2. Is it legal in your country for a company or school to discriminate against HIV-positive people? What could happen if someone experiences discrimination based on their HIV status?
3. Some people think that people with HIV deserve what they get because they could have prevented it. Do you think this is a form of discrimination?
4. Some people say there are no people with HIV around them, or they do not know anyone who has HIV. If people with HIV are afraid of discrimination, would it be easy for them to tell their friends or relatives? Why or why not?
5. What role does the media play in helping to end discrimination?
6. Do you know any musical groups that have written or sung songs about HIV/AIDS? Tell about them.
7. If you could write a song to help stop discrimination toward PWH/PWAs, what kinds of things would you want to say in your lyrics?
8. If you could make a short video to help stop discrimination toward PWH/PWAs, what kinds of things would you want to include in your video?
9. If you could design a poster to help stop discrimination toward PWH/PWAs, what kinds of things would you want to include in your poster? Where would you put your poster?
10. YOUR QUESTION:

Just don't laugh. No matter how funny a joke is, if it's at someone else's expense, don't even crack a smile. It may stop the joker from hurting others in the future.

From <http://www.wordscanheal.org/>



The Red Ribbon

In 1991, an art project called Visual AIDS was held in New York. Paul Jabara created the idea for a global symbol in the fight against AIDS.

The Red Ribbon has become a worldwide symbol for supporting HIV-positive and people living with AIDS. It unites the people in the common fight against this disease.

red like love, as a symbol of passion and tolerance towards those affected.

red like blood, representing the pain caused by the many people that died of AIDS.

red like the anger about the helplessness by which we are facing a disease for which there is still no chance for a cure.

red as a sign of warning not to carelessly ignore one of the biggest problems of our time.