

Changemakers

The supporter magazine for **National AIDS Trust**

Issue three Spring 2025



Photo: Jennifer Hillman

**Honouring my dad's
memory** through
photography

Read more on page 6

Wigs ready, heels on:
Drag Raise 2025 is coming!

**Fighting
for your rights:**
why our work
matters

Sharing our gratitude by
supporting National AIDS Trust:
Graham and Fab's beautiful wedding

How your workplace can
become **HIV Confident**

Our host for 2025: **Ginger Johnson**

Welcome back to Drag Raise

Last year's Drag Raise was the event of the summer, **raising over £18,000** toward our goals of ending new HIV transmissions in the UK by 2030 and fighting HIV stigma.

This year we are coming back **bigger and better** to give you the best night ever and raise even more vital income for our cause.

Hosted by RuPaul's Drag Race UK series 5 winner **Ginger Johnson**, with performances by fellow Drag Race UK alumni **Charity Kase** and Strictly winner **Tayce**, enjoy star-studded entertainment, drinks, canapés, a luxury raffle, silent auction, **pop-up MAC make-up artist station** and much, much more.

Don't miss out on this spectacular event – grab your tickets for our prestigious

flagship Drag Raise evening at **Diageo's glamorous Luminist Bar** in central London on **3 July**. Tickets are £75, or £60 for our Club 2030 members.

Head to tinyurl.com/dragraise to book, or **scan the QR code below**. To ask about joining Club 2030, contact Chris Dye: chris.dye@nat.org.uk



Photo: Katie Bones



"I'm grateful to have attended such a fabulous fundraising event. Thank you for such a glorious and fun-filled night for such a stunning cause. Till next year!" @ladmeetsmakeup
(Instagram)



**Scan here
for tickets**



Got the drag buzz? Host your own drag event and **raise money** for **National AIDS Trust.**

Since Drag Raise launched last year, it has been incredible to see everyone **celebrating drag culture and its impact on HIV activism** in style, so why not make an even bigger splash this year?

Whether you are starting from scratch, or using an existing drag event to fundraise for National AIDS Trust, please contact Sam for one of our fabulous fundraising packs or ask any questions you may have: sam.svensson@nat.org.uk



**Scan here
for your free
Drag Raise
fundraising pack**



"Having been targeted when I was younger because of my femininity, drag now gives me the total opposite reaction – people are cheering us and telling us that we look fabulous. And that's empowering – that's power. But also, drag is just a captivating form of entertainment." Charity Kase

(who is living with HIV and will perform at this year's event)

What we're doing...

Here's **what the team at National AIDS Trust** is currently working on, and **why it matters** for people living with HIV.



Oluwakemi

What we're doing

I'm currently working on a campaign to make formula milk free on prescription for the babies of parents who are living with HIV.

We're also bringing together HIV and children's health colleagues from across the UK to highlight existing free infant formula schemes for parents living with HIV, which are only available in some areas.

Why it matters

Infant formula is an often forgotten-about form of HIV prevention. Breast- and chestfeeding comes with a small risk of the infant acquiring HIV, even when a parent is virally suppressed. Formula milk is recommended to avoid any risk of transmitting HIV through feeding, but this costs around £17 per week which isn't affordable for many parents.

To end new HIV transmissions by 2030, we must support parents to feed their children with zero risk of transmission.



Annie

What we're doing

Beyond Positive Voices is a collaborative project focusing on areas of inequality within the HIV response and the experiences

of marginalised communities. I've been doing focus groups with women, people aged 50+, migrants and transgender communities. We'll produce a report with recommendations in partnership with Positively UK.

Why it matters

These communities have the poorest outcomes, struggling with managing their HIV status, dealing with stigma and discrimination, and experiencing poor mental health and high levels of need in other areas. By making their voices heard, we will have the evidence to fight for policy changes that can improve their lives.

"I was so worried about how I was going to buy enough milk for the baby as it is so expensive. Getting free milk has freed me to buy other healthy food for me and the family. I know I have enough milk for my baby and so I don't have to worry about this." Jane (name has been changed). Formula milk scheme: Waverley Care African Health Project

and **why** it matters.

You can support this work by making a donation using the form in your pack or heading to nat.org.uk/donate



Dan

What we're doing

We're teaming up with the **Behavioural Insights Team** to explore whether incentives could get more people to take a HIV test. Too

many people aren't testing – either because they don't think they need to or because stigma holds them back. We're looking at fresh, innovative ways to change that.

Why it matters

Right now, around 4,500 people in England are living with undiagnosed HIV. That's 4,500 people missing out on life-saving treatment. If we don't find them and boost testing, the UK won't hit its goal of ending new HIV transmissions by 2030. We need to do things differently and this work could help us find smarter, more effective ways to get people tested, diagnosed and treated.



James

What we're doing

Charity services have been critical to HIV care since the start of the epidemic but they are now threatened. Through our **HIV Outcomes** research project,

we're ensuring everyone has the support they need to live well with HIV. We've recruited a project working group, surveyed HIV charities and people living with HIV, and convened focus group discussions across the UK.

Why it matters

Too many people living with HIV face serious health inequalities - stigma, poor mental health and barriers to healthcare. Voluntary sector services provide the wrap-around support that clinical care alone cannot, helping people overcome these barriers.

Without urgent action, we risk losing these services. In May, we'll launch our report calling for needed actions across all UK nations. Stay tuned on how you can take action.

"I think about how my life might have been if, on the day I was diagnosed, I hadn't been matched with a peer mentor... The difference that you see between the beginning of a peer navigation process and at the end is just beautiful. It's important that people know that there is a community here to support them who know what you are experiencing." Daisy Puller on accessing peer mentoring

Give in memory

Honour your loved one with a gift that makes a difference.

Remember someone special by helping others in their name. **A donation in memory celebrates their life in a meaningful way** – supporting people living with HIV and ensuring their legacy lives on.

Jennifer's story

"My dad, Christopher Hillman, passed away at 71. He was intelligent, passionate about history and art, but carried a quiet sadness. After my mother died, he found purpose helping children in Thailand get an education. I cherish photos from this time – he was truly happy.

When he returned to the UK, I was grateful to have him back in our lives, but soon after, he became ill. His death certificate listed pneumonia and HIV. It was shocking – it felt like I'd stepped into someone else's story.

Stigma and lack of awareness kept him from getting tested, stopping him from living openly as himself. I want to change that. That's why I talk about HIV and use my photography to raise awareness. And it's why **I plan to leave a gift in my Will to National AIDS Trust**. I want to honour my father's memory by supporting their work. I know Dad would be proud of me."



How you can **give in memory of someone** to National AIDS Trust:

- Make a donation at nat.org.uk/donate
- Hold a collection at a funeral
- Create an 'In Memory' fundraising page on JustGiving
- Create a MuchLoved tribute page at muchloved.com

If you would like any further information on donating a gift in memory, or want any additional leaflets or ribbons for a funeral, please contact us at fundraising@nat.org.uk or call **020 7814 6767**.

You can also leave us a gift in your Will, like Jennifer. **Contact us for a free guide on how to do this.**



Jennifer & her dad

GIVE



Give in celebration

Make your special moments **even more meaningful.**

Birthdays, weddings, anniversaries – whatever the occasion, why not turn your celebration into an opportunity to make a difference? By **dedicating your special event to National AIDS Trust**, you help support the rights of people living with HIV while sharing the joy with those you love.

How it works: Instead of gifts, ask your friends and family to donate to National AIDS Trust. **It's simple, impactful, and adds deeper meaning to your celebration.**

Graham and Fab's story

Graham and Fab tied the knot in September 2024. They asked for donations instead of wedding gifts, raising an incredible **£3,810**.

Graham said: "In celebrating our marriage, my husband and I wanted to share our gratitude by supporting National AIDS Trust, a cause deeply close to our hearts. Living for over 21 years with HIV, I appreciate firsthand the importance of awareness, research, and community support. We hope our commitment inspires others to do the same."

How to give in celebration:

Donate online or create a JustGiving 'In Celebration' page to share with friends and family. Be part of something everyone can celebrate! For more information or free red ribbons, contact us at fundraising@nat.org.uk or call **020 7814 6767**.

A close-up portrait of a man with short brown hair, a beard, and glasses, resting his chin on his hand. He is wearing a white t-shirt and has a tattoo on his left forearm. The background is dark and out of focus.

Andrew Wheatcroft

“Supporting a charity like National AIDS Trust really helps people to become educated to what living with HIV actually means. There are many charities that aim to help, but I think that National AIDS Trust has always been one that you can put your trust in.”

Putting the fun in fundraising

What a year of fundraising so far! Six months since our last Changemakers issue and we have been blown away by everyone who's been involved.

A massive thank you to all the people, schools, workplaces and organisations who fundraised and raised awareness for World AIDS Day 2024.

Since 2020 Andrew has raised the remarkable amount of **over £20,000!** This year he raised an incredible **£10,380** for us, from his World AIDS Day raffle.

From his raffles and Vinted sales to using his social platform to advocate for HIV awareness and support, Andrew has shown what an incredible person he is. Andrew, we could not be more grateful for your support – thank you so much.

FUNDRAISING

Staff fundraising at Diageo

The wonderful staff at Diageo raised a whopping **£20,394** from their World AIDS Day charity bottle sale and virtual auction! In 2023, they set a record for the largest amount raised for us through staff fundraising alone, which they beat in 2024, with this outstanding amount. **Thank you** to everyone who took part!



Thank you to our Red Runners

This year's Red Run saw the best results we have ever had!

Our incredible **30** runners battled through the cold and stormy day and managed to raise over **£8,500**. We were blown away (quite literally) by their determination and fundraising. **Thank you** all – we're so grateful to have your support.



Get involved

If you would like to get involved in fundraising with us, or have any ideas you'd like to talk about, please contact us at **fundraising@nat.org.uk**

HIV Confident

Building a world that **welcomes and respects** people living with HIV.

Will your organisation join others in making the commitment to become HIV Confident?

HIV Confident is a charter mark that we have developed with Positively UK to tackle HIV stigma and discrimination within organisations. After a successful pilot with the NHS, the Greater London Authority and corporate partners, the charter mark is now being rolled out to organisations across the UK.

Once your organisation has made a commitment, there are a few simple steps to achieving HIV Confident recognition.

Survey: Our staff engagement tool will help you to find out more about knowledge and attitudes to HIV in your workplace.

Review: Our policy toolkit means you can check that you are complying with legislation and help you to avoid any unintentional discrimination.

Build knowledge: Our short eLearning module enables everyone to update their knowledge about HIV and build their confidence to create a stigma-free environment.

Recognise: When we recognise you as being HIV Confident you can use our logo to promote your success.



We will provide you with everything you need:

- ☒ A dedicated contact person
- ☒ Online membership area
- ☒ Staff engagement tools and resources
- ☒ Policy toolkits
- ☒ An eLearning module
- ☒ Stigma-reporting guidance
- ☒ Networking opportunities

HIV CONFIDENT

To find out more and register your interest scan the QR code to go to the HIV Confident website. Together we can end HIV stigma and discrimination.



HIVConfident.org.uk



Be part of **#TeamNAT**

Royal Parks **Half**

Photo: the Royal Parks Half

Take on the **Royal Parks Half this October** and support people living with HIV.

The Royal Parks Half Marathon is the challenge to tackle this year. **Its route spans four of London's gorgeous Royal Parks** as well as London's iconic landmarks, including Buckingham Palace and more.

What better scenery do you need to motivate yourself?

Scan the QR code below to sign up for the race on **Sunday 12 October 2025**. You can register for just £25 and we ask you to raise at least £350. We have only four spaces left, so make sure to sign up now.



Sign up now! Scan the QR code now to sign up for the race on **Sunday 12 October 2025**.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your changemaking support.

Do you have a story, a fundraising idea or a question that you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you. Donate now to support our vital work in ending HIV discrimination, stigma and new transmissions, and make a real change for people living with HIV.

Contact us

Call us: **020 7814 6767**

Email us: **fundraising@nat.org.uk**

Visit our website: **nat.org.uk**

Follow us on social media:



Sign up for our newsletter to be the first to know about our events, news and campaigns:
nat.org.uk/newsletter-sign-up



Donate now

 to support our vital work in **ending HIV discrimination, stigma and new transmissions.**

Registered charity no. 297977. If you would like to change the way we contact you, please email or call us. Our Privacy Policy explains how we use personal information. For more details please visit: nat.org.uk/privacy-policy



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**NATIONAL
AIDS
TRUST**

Securing rights
Stopping HIV