

Changemakers

The supporter magazine for **National AIDS Trust**

Issue four Autumn 2025



Dare
to walk the
RED HOT
Firewalk?

Michelle Visage

**"Get your red ribbon and
join me in standing with
people living with HIV."**

**You can end new
HIV cases by 2030.**

**Donate or fundraise this
World AIDS Day**

Personal story
from 'Drag Raise' star

Sue Pertrouper

Leave a gift in your Will
this Remember a Charity Week

Charity Kase

Layton Williams



World AIDS Day 2025

We are so **grateful to the amazing celebrities** who are taking part in this **year's campaign**.

How you can take part this World AIDS Day:

World AIDS Day is for everyone, it's a time for solidarity, remembrance, celebration and change. But to make this change and end new cases of HIV by 2030, we need you to take part.

As we get nearer to 2030, **please order your free fundraising pack with iconic red ribbons**, to share our message and fundraise. Whether it's at home, at your school or workplace, there's nowhere you can't fundraise.

If fundraising isn't possible right now, please consider making a donation. Every pound – no matter the size – **brings us closer to our 2030 goal**. It really means the world to us.

Visit **worldaidsday.org** or **scan the QR code** to find out more about what you can do. Here you can meet the celebrities who've dedicated their time to helping us, find out where you can book your local HIV test and check out our World AIDS Day online auction where you can bid on a range of exciting prizes. (Bidding closes midnight on 1 December!)

Q&A

with **Dr Ronx**

Your questions, answered.

Q: How are you helping to end HIV by 2030?

A: I've championed opt-out testing in my hospital's emergency department, this means testing is routine and accessible for everyone, removing barriers and normalising conversations around HIV.

Q: Why is it important to reach the 2030 goal?

A: Because it's about saving lives and ending injustice. No one should be vulnerable to HIV when we have the tools to prevent it. Hitting this goal means ending avoidable cases and making sure people living with HIV can live without stigma or fear of discrimination.

Q: What will our donations and fundraising support?

A: Your generosity will go directly to the campaigns that National AIDS Trust is leading on, from ensuring that parents living with HIV have access to free formula milk for their babies, to creating new approaches and incentives to expand access to testing.

Dr Ronx

National AIDS Trust is fighting for human rights, so it's only right that we support them this World AIDS Day.



Only with your support can we **reach the 2030 goal of zero new HIV cases.** Get your free **World AIDS Day ribbons and fundraising pack** now.



Drag Raise II

Twice as fierce



Our **second annual Drag Raise** fundraising event was bigger, more glamorous and better than ever!

With fabulous host **Ginger Johnson** bringing bags of charisma, and **DJ MYNXIE** setting the vibes, our guests were in for a night to remember.

The evening featured performances from iconic drag acts **Tayce, Häns Off** and **Sue Pertrouper**, who is living with HIV.

We're thrilled to announce that this year's event **raised over £26,000** towards our mission of ending new cases of HIV by 2030 and stamping out HIV stigma and discrimination.

None of this would have been possible without **the support of amazing Diageo and M-A-C Cosmetics**. They set the stage, so our acts could strut it.



“Being part of your crew and your events is honestly a highlight for me. The audiences are always GORGEOUS, the vibe unmatched and the cause gives me goosebumps. Feel so proud to be a small part of the night” Häns Off

Drag gave me a stage, and HIV gave me a purpose

When I performed at National AIDS Trust's Drag Raise, **it honestly felt like the best gig I've ever done.**

It had all the good bits of a big show – great atmosphere, amazing people, I felt really looked after – but also this deeper sense of meaning. **I was part of something that aligned with who I am and what I care about.**

I was diagnosed with HIV in 2017, at 20.

I wasn't uneducated beforehand, in fact I was always telling my friends they had to be careful. I understood that HIV is now a manageable condition, but it still floored me. I felt like it destroyed my self-worth. I was angry, confused, and I kept my diagnosis to myself for a long time. **I carried that weight for years before I started to find support, and find my voice.**

In 2021 I started drag. At first, it was just a new creative outlet – **Sue Pertrouper was born out of joy and chaos** – but soon I began using drag to speak out about HIV, too. **Being heard and seen by other people and sharing our common experiences, was healing.**

National AIDS Trust's work matters deeply to me because it's about challenging the system, fighting stigma, and pushing for real change, not just for now, but for the future. Achieving **the goal of ending transmissions in the UK by 2030** might not change my diagnosis, but it could mean someone else never has to receive one. Thank you very much, Kyle – and Sue!

RAISE

Remember a Charity Week



This Remember a Charity Week we've asked **our fabulous legacy pledger Jakob Aungiers** to highlight the importance of gifts in wills. No matter how much you can give, **each gift can make a world of difference for people living with HIV.**

Hi everyone, I'm Jakob, a scientist by training, working at the intersection of artificial intelligence, finance, and technology. **Outside of work, I'm also a semi-professional skydiver and skydiving instructor.** Coaching people in skydiving has shown me how incredible people are in overcoming their fears and adversity.

That same **spirit and resilience in the face of adversity** is what drew me to the work of the National AIDS Trust.

Q: What inspired you to leave a gift in your Will to National AIDS Trust?

A: Millions continue to live with HIV today, not just biologically, but socially. The science has advanced, but cultural, legal, and political attitudes often lag behind. That's where National AIDS Trust makes its most urgent impact, ensuring that people are protected, respected, and empowered right now.

Q: What do you hope your gift will achieve?

A: I want this legacy to support National AIDS Trust's tireless advocacy work—the policies, protections, and public education that are changing lives today. I want them to continue being the voice for those living with HIV in the UK: ensuring that no one is marginalised and that everyone has access to the healthcare, rights, and dignity they deserve.

Q: Why should others leave a gift in their Will?

A: Real progress needs kindness, equity, and a fairer society. If you believe, as I do, that those things matter just as much as any scientific breakthrough, then supporting National AIDS Trust is a powerful way to shape the future. They are helping to create the kind of world I want to live in, and even more, the kind I want to leave behind.

GIVE

HIV Services at the crossroads

A new report from **HIV Outcomes UK** (a coalition convened by the National AIDS Trust) has **warned that without urgent support**, the UK is at **serious risk of missing its 2030 goal** to new cases of HIV and HIV-related deaths.

Funding reductions facing HIV charities are leaving people living with HIV **without access to vital support services**.

Based on evidence from over 50 HIV charities and 300 people living with HIV, **the 'HIV services at the crossroads' report paints a stark picture:** two-thirds of organisations have had to either cut staff, close services, or use reserves to cover operating costs. **Only three out of 50 felt they had been able to completely meet demand over the last five years.** And there are stark inequalities in access to HIV support across the UK, with many people outside major cities facing a postcode lottery in services, with many rural areas lacking any local provision.

Yet despite this, our research found that four in five people living with HIV said these services improved their wellbeing.

From support groups to testing and prevention, HIV charities are at the heart of the fight to stop new cases of HIV.

Since launching the report in May, and thanks to your support, **we've been standing up for HIV services across the UK.** We've shared our findings at major conferences, hosted a powerful event in Parliament, gained media attention, and rallied political support. With all four UK nations set to update their HIV Action Plans, **we're calling for bold action and real change.**

Without urgent action, we risk losing ground and leaving communities behind. **The crossroads is clear.** Now is the time to choose the path that puts people – and the charities that support them – first.

But National AIDS Trust is not immune to these challenges.

The same funding crisis facing HIV charities across the UK is also putting our work at risk. Without the generosity of supporters like you, we cannot continue to fight for fair access to services, challenge inequality, and push for the bold action needed to end new cases of HIV by 2030.

Please donate today and help protect our vital work – before it's too late.

On the road, making change

Our policy team has been **out and about speaking to supporters, influencers and decision-makers to affect change**. See where they've been this year:



James has been bringing the fight to protect HIV support services across the UK – presenting research at conferences, speaking at campaign events, **hosting a parliamentary event** and meeting directly with decision-makers.

Pictured above is James at the **British HIV Association Conference**, where National AIDS Trust was awarded with the **Martin Fisher Award** for Best Presentation in community-based work. We've used our report, **'HIV Services at the Crossroads'**, to push for change, including a bold new **UK Government HIV Action Plan for England** which is due to be published soon.



In June, **Annie** attended the **NHS ConfedExpo** in Manchester, where she spoke on the panel **'Getting to zero HIV transmissions: partnership working in primary care'**, alongside colleagues from Fast Track Cities London. Annie spoke about how the GP Champions programme has helped to implement the **HIV Confident** charter mark in GP practices across London.

HIV Confident provides healthcare staff with access to a staff survey, online training and policy review processes to improve knowledge, attitudes and confidence around HIV. Her promotion of the charter mark on this panel has **led to a number of new organisations interested in signing up**, increasing the reach of this important work **to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination** in healthcare settings.

CHANGE



Oluwakemi has been a strong advocate for the challenges **Black communities face when getting care**, and making sure their experiences help shape better services. Her interview on BBC Radio London about the Unheard Voices project **helped raise awareness of community health programmes** that understand the role of culture and the importance of **addressing health inequalities in Black communities**.

Pictured above is Oluwakemi speaking at the **British HIV Association Conference**, where her poster on GP access was awarded the **Chloe Orkin Prize** for best presentation in the field of social sciences. This opportunity allowed clinicians and healthcare professionals a chance to engage with our recommendations and learn how they can help champion them.



Dan has been pushing for a bold and effective new **HIV Action Plan for England**. Here he is above presenting on our '**Getting on Track**' report alongside our partners, which sets out the key priorities for this action plan to succeed. He was joined by then **Minister for Public Health, Andrew Gwynne MP**, who welcomed the report on behalf of the Government.

Just a few months ago our campaign for achieving **equal access to fertility treatment for people living with HIV**, was shortlisted for the prestigious Charity Awards. We may not have won the award, but knowing **people living with HIV can now donate sperm or eggs to start families** when they previously couldn't, is what truly matters!

FUNDRAISING

Shining a light on **some of our fabulous fundraisers**



In this issue we'd love to **give a massive shoutout** to two of our staunchest supporters over the years, **Guy Phillips and John Graham**. They have been fundraising at the King William IV and Sir Richard Steel venues for **over five years** now, **raising more than £13,000** with their raffles, auctions, coin flips and more. They simply won't stop raising money!

There's not enough gratitude we can give them for the lives they've impacted, but we will try – **thank you!**

We'd also like to highlight two of our amazing **half-marathon runners** who truly went the distance for a great cause: **Ollie Persey** at the London Landmarks Half Marathon, and **Kate Bradley** at the Hackney Half. Their dedication and hard work have made an impact, **well done to both of you!**



Without people like them, who go above and beyond, we couldn't fight so hard for people living with HIV. They're contributing to every piece of research we publish, every effort to ensure equality laws are followed at work, and every time we challenge the media for spreading harmful or inaccurate information – **thank you!**



Warning: RED HOT Firewalk

With **five years to reach the 2030 goal of zero new HIV cases** in the UK, we are **heating things up** to get us there.

Can you brave the **RED HOT Firewalk** and help raise vital funds to help us? Join us at the **Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens** on **Saturday 8 November 2025**.

Every step you take will take us **one step closer** to reaching our goal.

Scan the QR code below or go to [url here?] to sign up to be a firewalker. You can register for just £15, and we just ask you to raise at least £150.

Please contact **sam.svensson@nat.org.uk** if you have any questions about the event.

RED HXT
FIREWALK



Sign up now! Scan the QR code and join us on **Saturday 8 November 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.**

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Securing rights
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