

5.4 Human Rights for HIV Infected People

People who are HIV positive or have been diagnosed with Aids have the same rights as everyone else

Human dignity

Everyone has the right to have their dignity respected and protected. A person or institution (e.g. A hospital or company) may not insult or damage any person's self-respect, by their words or action.

Education

You have the same right as anyone else to basic or adult basic education. A school cannot refuse to educate you or your child because you have HIV or Aids.

Medical Treatment

You have the right to make your own decision about medical treatment. No person may be refused emergency treatment. Hospitals or doctors cannot refuse to treat a person with HIV or Aids or force you to take a HIV test.

Privacy

Everyone has the right to privacy. If you have HIV or Aids, you have the right to keep that information to yourself. Your boss, hospital or your doctor cannot force you to tell them, or force you to have a HIV/Aids test.

Pregnancy

It is your right to make your own decisions about your pregnancy and medical treatment. No one can force you to terminate your pregnancy because you are HIV positive. Work

People with HIV or Aids can choose what kind of work they want to do. For example, you cannot be prevented from becoming a teacher or health care worker because you are HIV positive or have been diagnosed with Aids.

Housing

Everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. People living with HIV or Aids may not be refused a subsidy or loan to buy a house. Evicting a person from a house or flat because of their health is illegal.

Social grant

You have the right to a disability grant if you are too ill to support yourself or your Family.

Freedom of expression

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes freedom to receive or give out information or ideas. This right is important as a way to ensure that the proper information about how to prevent HIV is available in schools or prisons.

Freedom of association

Everyone has the right to freedom of association. You can join any organisation or group you choose. You cannot be forcefully separated from other people.

Freedom of movement

All citizens have the right to enter, to remain in and live anywhere in the country. If you have HIV or Aids, you are free to move around the country.

Labour relations

Everyone has the right to fair labour practices. No person may be unfairly treated or discriminated against at work.

Environment

Everyone has a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being.