

People living with HIV and AIDS also need access to preventative measures and medical care for opportunistic infections like Tuberculosis (TB).

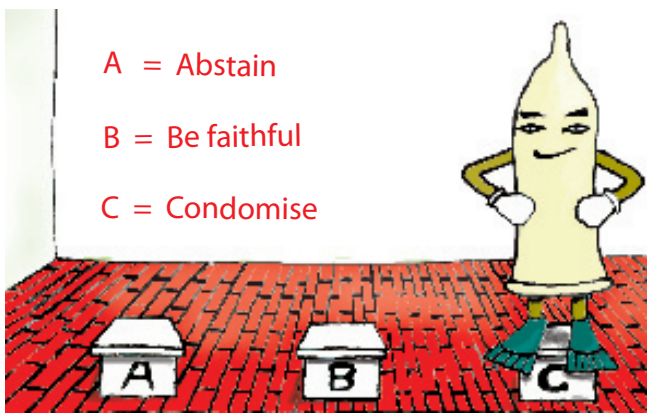
Treatment must include all necessary interventions including dietary guidance, counselling and Anti-Retrovirals (ARV).

Many people living with HIV and AIDS find that they are treated differently from other patients and are vulnerable to breaches of confidentiality.

These are mostly poor people and persons from vulnerable groups who are unable to pay for treatment or for transport to reach centres providing treatment. They are at times openly shunned, or refused treatment.

The issues which people living with HIV and AIDS experience daily are numerous. Apart from health interventions, there are many other institutions and organisation to help uphold these rights. Some of these include the SAHRC, the Equality Courts, various Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and legal advice centres.

The South African Human Rights Commission has accessible offices in every province to assist you.



For further information, visit the www.sahrc.org.za, or send an e-mail to info@sahrc.org.za or contact any of the SAHRC offices:

Head Office

Forum 3, Braampark Office Park, 33 Hoofd Street
BRAAMFONTEIN
☎ (011) 877 3600 • Fax: (011) 403 0684

Eastern Cape

84–88 Oxford Street, EAST LONDON
☎ (043) 722 7828 • Fax: (043) 722 7830

Free State

1st Floor, NBS Building, 2 Elizabeth Street, BLOEMFONTEIN
☎ (051) 447 1130 • Fax: (051) 447 1128

Gauteng

Floor 2, Forum 3, Braampark Office Park, 33 Hoofd Street
BRAAMFONTEIN
☎ (011) 877 3750 • Fax: (011) 403 0668

KwaZulu-Natal

First Floor, 136 Victoria Embankment, DURBAN
☎ (031) 304 7323/4/5 • Fax: (031) 304 7323

Limpopo

1st Floor, Office 102, Library Garden Square, Corner of
Schoeman and Grobler Streets, POLOKWANE
☎ (015) 291 3500 • Fax: (015) 291 3505

Mpumalanga

4th Floor Carltex Building, 32 Bell Street, NELSPRUIT
☎ (013) 752 5870/8292/5890
Fax: (013) 752 6890

Northern Cape

45 Mark and Scott Road, Ancorley Building, UPINGTON
☎ (054) 332 3993/4 • Fax: (054) 332 7750

North West

17 Klopper Street, RUSTENBURG
☎ (014) 592 0694 • Fax: (014) 594 1089

Western Cape

7th Floor, ABSA Building,
132 Adderley Street, CAPE TOWN
☎ (021) 426 2277 • Fax: (021) 426 2875



HIV / AIDS and Human Rights

The need to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights of all living with and affected by HIV & AIDS



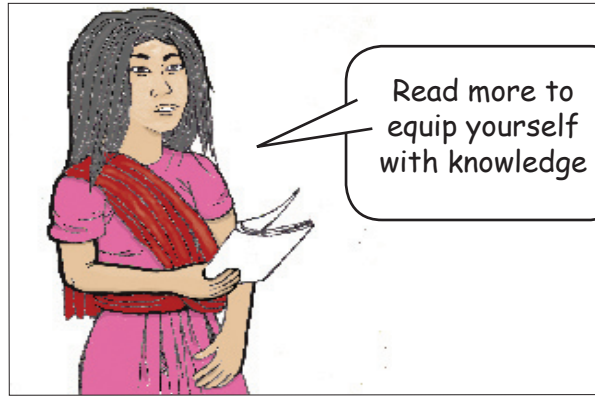
HIV / AIDS and Human Rights

South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. Over 5.5 million people are estimated to be living with HIV, resulting in many dying prematurely in South Africa.

People living with HIV and AIDS are often excluded from full participation in many areas of their lives. This is because of HIV and AIDS-based stigmatisation. This type of discrimination impacts on their lives and their families. Families members of those affected are entitled to receive counselling and other interventions by health and social welfare agencies.



Human rights, as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights of our Constitution, are important in the fight against HIV and AIDS. An open and supportive rights-based approach is essential to ensure that everyone enjoys full access to health care. This means that people living with HIV and AIDS should have access to long-term treatment, care and support. They should be able to live free from fear, violence and discrimination.



Increasing numbers of people living with HIV & AIDS are deprived of the possibility of living a secure and fulfilling life consistent with the right to health care and the enjoyment of other human rights.

If you are living with HIV and/or AIDS, you have rights like anyone else, and you should not be discriminated based on your HIV positive status. Your rights include:

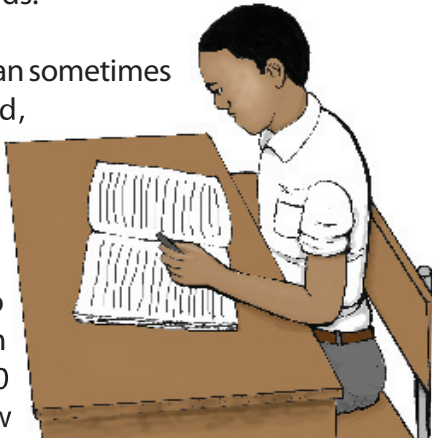
- Being treated with disrespect.
- Having the right to privacy and human dignity.
- Having equal access to all services including healthcare, food, water and social security
- To freely express yourself.
- Not to be discriminated at the workplace.
- To live your life free from violence and intimidation.
- Discrimination known to commonly occur in some of the following areas:
 - * Medical Aid schemes;
 - * Insurance;
 - * Education;
 - * Housing; and
 - * Travelling.

Access to information

Information has a vital role in empowering you and others to make informed choices about your health and the environment in which you live and work. Information also helps people living with HIV and AIDS to make informed choices about their health, and to follow the best available treatment.

Information that is held by a public (government) or private institution should be made available to you when you need it, for example, your hospital records.

Information can sometimes be restricted, but you have the right, according to the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2 of 2000 (PAIA), to know why you have been denied access to the information you need.



Information and understanding are key tools in dealing with HIV and AIDS. Your right to access information should never be compromised unlawfully by people or groups who exercise power over it.

This right is yours and you are entitled to it. Contact the PAIA unit of the South African Human Rights Commission to learn more about the Access to Information Act.