

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA)



National HIV Nurses Association

# Rebecca Mbewe

Positively UK

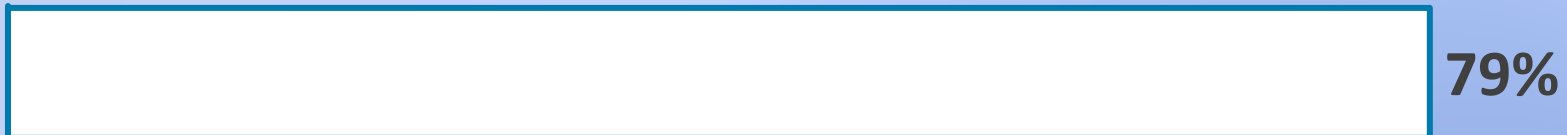
*27-28 June 2013- The International Convention Centre, Birmingham*



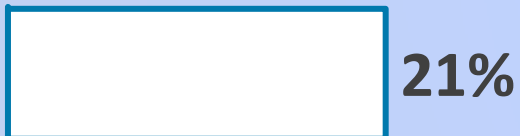
National HIV Nurses Association

# This house believes that people living with HIV should not be considered disabled

① For



② Against



# **“People Living With HIV Should not Be Considered Disabled”**

NHIVNA Debate  
27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013

## **For the motion**

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# DISABLED? What does actually it mean?

*'An impairment is any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function; a disability is any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being; a handicap is a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment or a disability, that prevents the fulfilment of a role that is considered normal (depending on age, sex and social and cultural factors) for that individual'.*

**WHO, 1976**

**Amended in 1980 and 2001**



# DISABLED? What does actually it mean?

*‘...have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.’*

**Equality Act, 2010**



# DISABLED? What does actually it mean?

- Includes Progressive conditions
- HIV infection, cancer or multiple sclerosis automatically meet the disability criteria under the [Equality Act 2010](#) from the point of diagnosis with.



# Circumstances of a 'disabled' person

- mental or physical ***impairment***
- has an ***adverse*** effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities
- is **substantial** and **long-term** - has lasted for 12 months, or is likely to last for more than 12 months or for the rest of the person's life.



# Circumstances of a 'disabled' person

- Mobility
- Manual dexterity
- Physical coordination
- Continence
- Ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects
- Speech, hearing or eyesight
- Memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand
- Understanding of the risk of physical danger





# Considerations

- Significant advances in HIV = Less HIV/AIDS mortalities and co-morbidities
- Patients stabilising sooner
- Prospect of a much longer life expectancy and better quality of life

## EXCEPTION

- Belated cases and late presenters – where it should be considered a disability is from the point of a person becoming symptomatic



# Conclusion

The **Roper, Logan and Tierney** model of Nursing

(1998)

**Basic Activities of Daily Living (BADLs):** A term used in healthcare to refer to daily self-care activities within an individual's place of residence, in outdoor environments, or both.



# Conclusion

Basic Activities of Daily Living (**BADLs**) which consist of self-care tasks, including:

- Bathing and Showering (washing the body)
- Bowel and bladder management (recognising the need to relieve oneself)
- Dressing
- Eating (including chewing and swallowing)
- Feeding (setting up food and bringing it to the mouth)
- Functional mobility (moving from one place to another while performing activities)
- Personal device care
- Personal Hygiene and grooming (including washing hair)
- Sexual Activity
- Toilet hygiene (completing the act of relieving oneself)



# Conclusion

**D**ressing

**E**ating

**A**mbulating

**T**oileting

**H**ygiene



# Conclusion

Given the recent advances made in HIV, resulting in the greatly improved life expectancy and much better quality of life and taking into consideration the highlighted definitions and BADLs, these no longer apply to the majority of PLWHIV.

Although HIV is a ***long-term*** condition, PLWHIV no longer (or very rarely) experience mental or physical ***impairment*** to the extent that it has a negative ***adverse*** effect and is ***substantial*** enough to affect their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Any adverse effects on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities are greatly reduced. if any at all. Many people continue with their normal daily activities such as holding down a job as well as having an active social life.

Therefore it can be said that people living with HIV should not be considered disabled.



# **“People Living With HIV Should not Be Considered Disabled”**

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Before



Now