OVER 105,200 PEOPLE ARE LIVING WITH HIV IN THE UK. GLOBALLY, THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 38 MILLION PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE VIRUS. DESPITE THE VIRUS ONLY BEING IDENTIFIED IN 1984, MORE THAN 35 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE DIED OF HIV OR AIDS RELATED ILLNESSES, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE PANDEMICS IN HISTORY • TODAY, SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES HAVE BEEN MADE IN HIV TREATMENT. THERE ARE LAWS TO PROTECT PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND WE UNDERSTAND SO MUCH MORE ABOUT THE CONDITION • DESPITE THIS, EACH YEAR IN THE UK OVER 4,139 PEOPLE ARE DIAGNOSED WITH HIV. PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS, AND STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION REMAIN A REALITY FOR MANY PEOPLE LIVING WITH THE CONDITION.WORLD AIDS DAY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT REMINDS THE PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT THAT HIV HAS NOT GONE AWAY – THERE IS STILL A VITAL NEED TO RAISE MONEY, INCREASE AWARENESS, FIGHT PREJUDICE AND IMPROVE EDUCATION •