

# TRAJECTORIES: AIDS ACTIVISM IN WESTERN EUROPE

Nikolaos Papadogiannis, Rachel E. Love, Terry Anderson



St Andrews, 2022

## Contributors

Nikolaos Papadogiannis and Rachel E. Love have written the stories for this comic book, and Terry Anderson has drawn its cartoons.

Nikolaos Papadogiannis is a Research Fellow in History at the University of St Andrews. He is the PI of the AHRC-funded project on transnational aids activism in Western Europe in the 1980s and 1990s. He is also the author of *Militant around the Clock? Left-wing Youth Politics, Leisure and Sexuality in Post-Dictatorship Greece, 1974-1981* (Oxford/New York, Berghahn Books, 2015). He has published on the history of protest and/or sexuality in journals, such as the *European Review of History*, the *European History Quarterly* and *Contemporary European History*.

Rachel E. Love's scholarship examines how media, music, and cultural exchange informed activist movements in Italy, from the upheavals of the 1960s to the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s. As a Research Fellow in History of the University of St Andrews, she collaborated with Nikolaos Papdogiannis on the AHRC-funded transnational aids activism project, conducting archival research and oral history interviews. She has also published articles on transatlantic cultural exchange, anti-Fascism, and anticolonialism in the journals *Popular Music*, *Modern Italy*, and *Interventions*.

Terry Anderson is co-ordinator at the Scottish Cartoon Art Studio; a member of the Professional Cartoonists' Organization (UK), France-Cartoons and Cartoon Movement; a past president of the Scottish Artists Union, representing all visual artists in the country; and currently serves as executive director at Cartoonists Rights Network International, the human rights organisation for threatened cartoonists. He won the *Prix Gérard Vandenbroucke* at the *Salon International de la Caricature, du Dessin de Presse et d'Humour* in 2022. In addition to the UK and France he was workshopped, spoken or written on cartooning in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Spain, USA, and Vietnam.

## Funder

This comic book has been funded by an AHRC Research, Development and Engagement Fellowship.

## **Project partners**

The European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) and the European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA) have read earlier versions of the comic book and provided the authors and the cartoonist with their feedback, which has helped shape the final iteration of the book.

The European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) is a patient-led NGO that advocates for the rights and interests of people living with or affected by HIV/ AIDS and related co-infections within the WHO Europe region. Founded in 1992, the EATG is a network of more than 150 members from 45 countries in Europe. Our members are PLHIV and representatives of different communities affected by HIV/AIDS and co-infections. EATG represents the diversity of more than 2.3 million people living with HIV in Europe as well as those affected by HIV/AIDS and co-infections.

Website: [www.eatg.org](http://www.eatg.org)

Address : Interoffices | Avenue des Arts 56-4c 1000 Brussels , Belgium

The ESWA is a sex worker-led network proudly representing more than 100 organisations in 30 countries across Europe and Central Asia. Its aim is to ensure that all sex worker voices are heard and that their human, health and labour rights are recognised and protected. With its actions and approach inspired by our membership community, the ESWA works to build a strong, vibrant and sustainable network that mobilises national, regional and international advocacy activity that moves us towards long-term, systemic change.

Website: [https://www.eswalliance.org/about\\_eswa](https://www.eswalliance.org/about_eswa)

Address: Eerste Helmersstraat 17 D \* 1054 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands

## **Clarification**

In the comic book we have not capitalised hiv and aids, a decision we made based on feedback we have received from German scholars and some Greek activists. The former differentiate between 'Aids' as a sociopolitical phenomenon and 'AIDS' as an illness. The latter claim that capitalising hiv and aids in general makes those

conditions sound too scary and closer to a 'death sentence'. Thus, they argue that this is not conducive to their aim to present them as difficult and challenging conditions, but, still, ones with which people can live (at least since the mid-1990s), if they take the appropriate course of action.

Moreover, words or phrases in the original language are accompanied by a translation in English, which begins with an asterisk.

### **Acknowledgments**

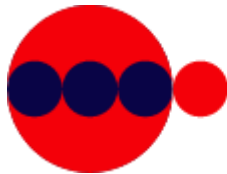
Nikolaos Papadogiannis and Rachel E. Love would also like to express their gratitude to Michael Bochow and Hannah Elizabeth for reading earlier drafts of chapters of this comic book and offering their comments. The contributors of the comic book are fully responsible for any errors and any omissions in the stories presented in this book. Sean Rippington from the University of St Andrews has offered invaluable advice on copyright issues. Claudia Hein copyedited the translation of the comic book into German. Mary Woodcock Kroble, also from the University of St Andrews, has worked tirelessly to incorporate the comic book into the website of the transnational AIDS activism project. Last but not least, Lina Hadji-Kyriacou and Andrew Eccles have reviewed and enhanced the quality of the audio recording of the comic book, which is available on the project website. An impact grant from the School of History, University of St Andrews, has funded Lina's work.



Arts and  
Humanities  
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European  
AIDS Treatment  
Group

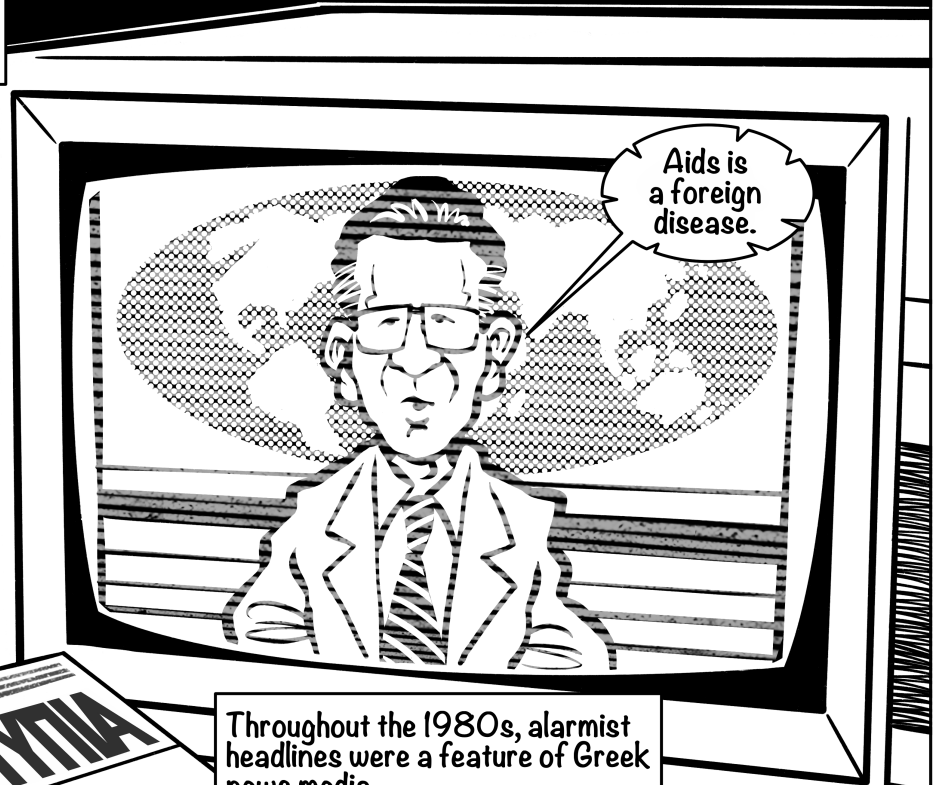
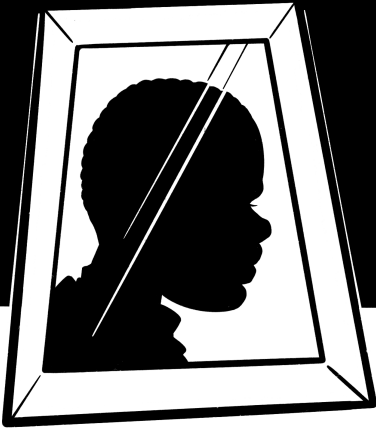


sex workers  
rights



# CASE STUDY: GREECE

In 1983, a 25-year-old student from Zambia was the first to die of aids in Greece...



Throughout the 1980s, alarmist headlines were a feature of Greek news media...



\* AIDS found in 10% of homosexuals



By 1992, total reported cases stood at 1,154...

As the numbers dying from aids increased, certificates often did not include mention of the true cause of death...



\* Death certificate - no cause given

Grigoris Vallianatos, a gay cis man, had been active in the gay liberation movement since the 1970s. He remembers:



When people died of aids their bodies were put into plastic bags...

...and their coffins were not opened during their funerals.



Daisy Galliatsatou, a trans man active in Italian & Greek protest movements since the the 1970s recalls visiting Andreas Syggros Hospital, Athens...



A doctor treated my friend in a terrible manner. "You spread the disease, go away - we have no beds."

"A trolley passed every day, carrying the dead, it made a terrible noise..."



"... the other people with aids heard it and wondered when their turn would come."

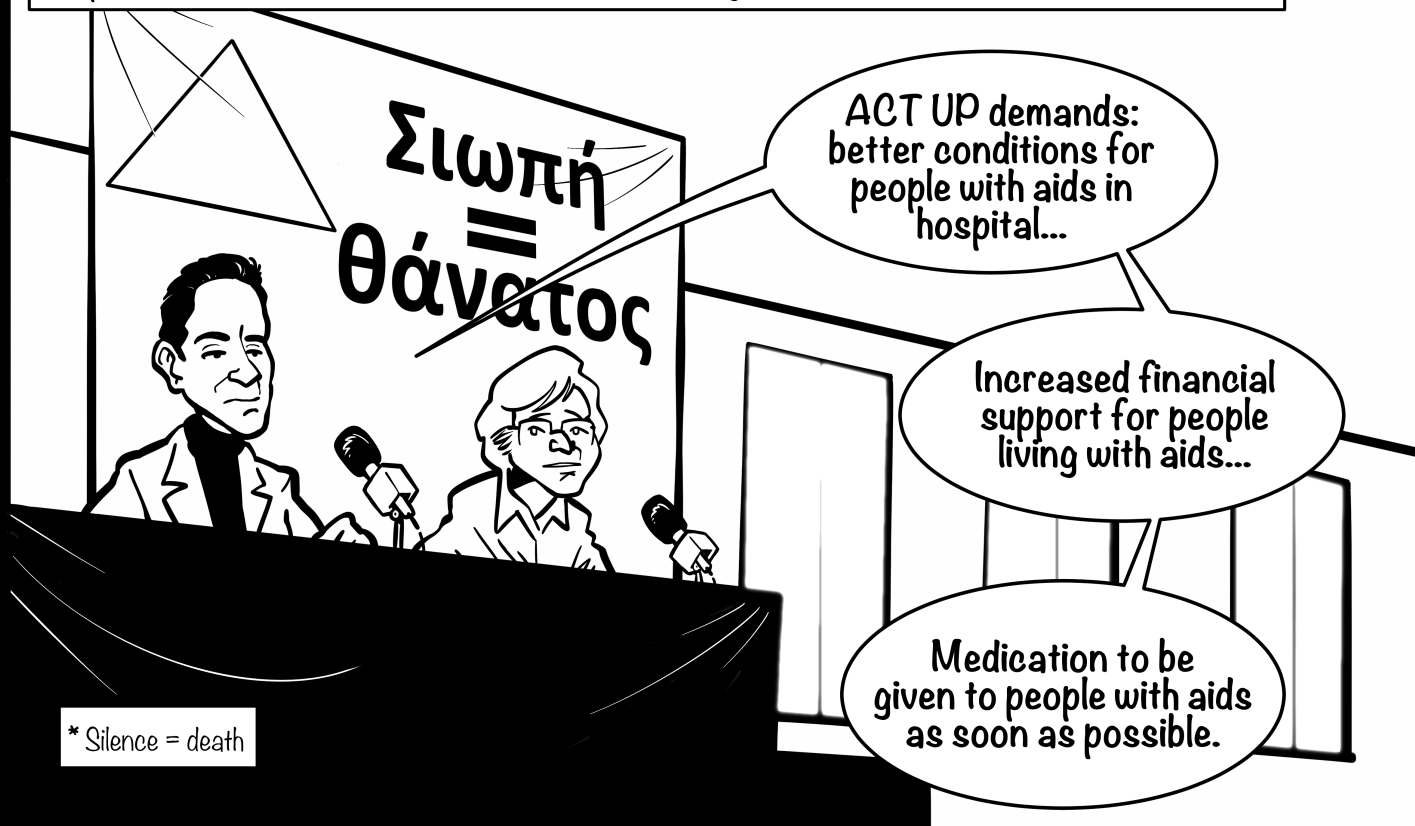
Groups campaigning about aids emerged - the first was Prostastia, a collective of doctors created in 1985. Two more groups were Elpida, created in 1989, and the Centre for Inspirational Living, founded in 1990.



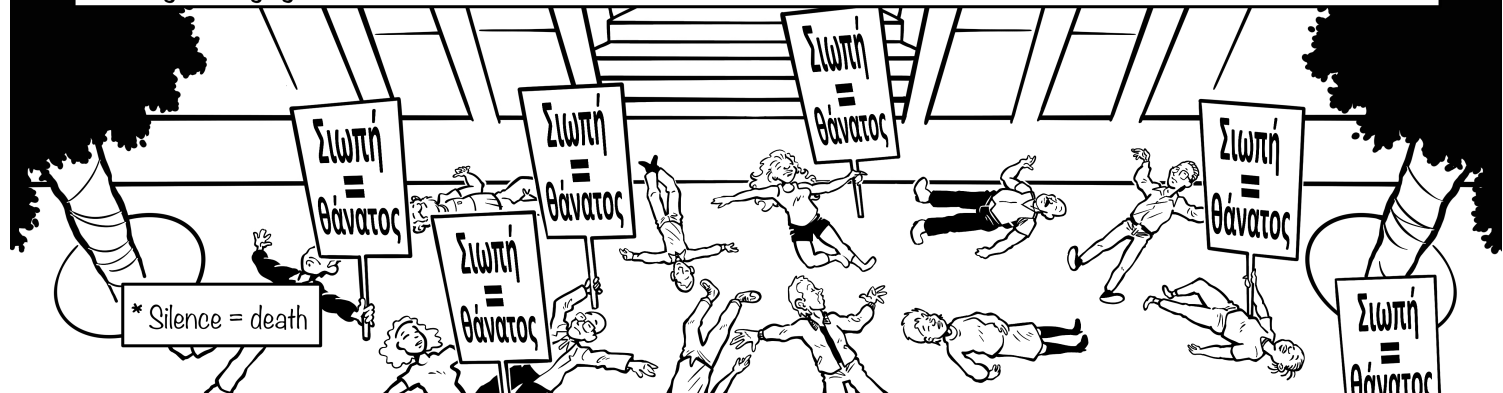
Among their many services, the Centre's volunteers offered both practical assistance and company to people with aids - this was the buddy system...



A more radical initiative – ACT UP – was established in 1992. It was inspired by branches in North America and other European countries. Vallianatos and Galiatsatou were both leading members in Greek ACT UP...

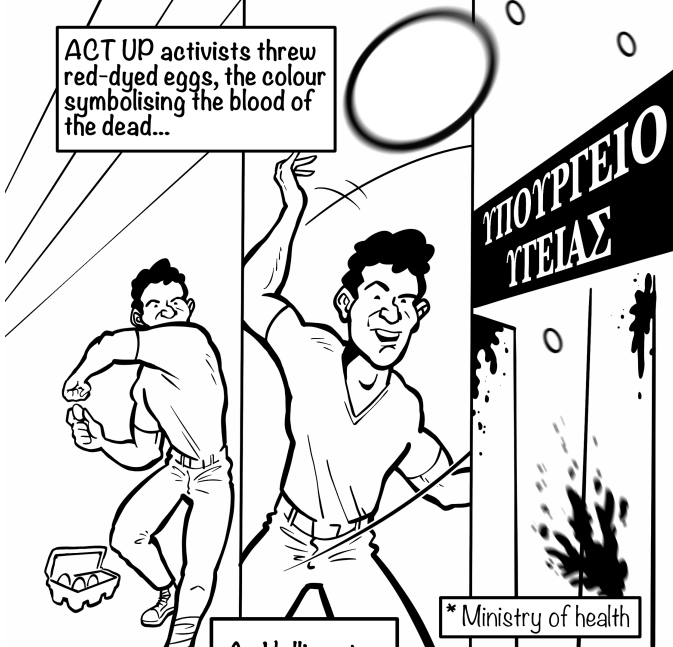


ACT UP groups elsewhere, such as in the USA, had already performed public “die-ins” extensively, lying on the ground pretending that they were dying. The Greek branch did likewise...





ACT UP activists threw red-dyed eggs, the colour symbolising the blood of the dead...



\* Ministry of health

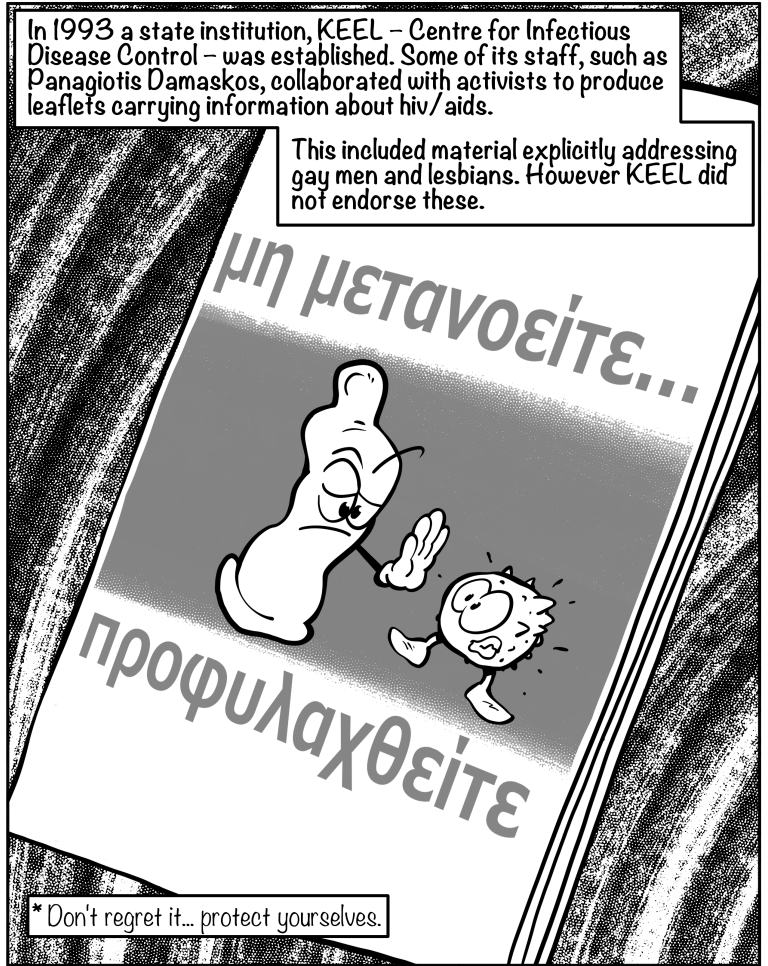
As Vallianatos aptly remarks:



Hiv led to a backlash against the rights of LGBT individuals. But it also made them more visible.

In 1993 a state institution, KEEL - Centre for Infectious Disease Control - was established. Some of its staff, such as Panagiotis Damaskos, collaborated with activists to produce leaflets carrying information about hiv/ aids.

This included material explicitly addressing gay men and lesbians. However KEEL did not endorse these.



\* Don't regret it... protect yourselves.

Gay men were stigmatised as carriers and spreaders of hiv.



Aids activism brought forward a more positive message.

Hiv medication became more effective with the introduction of the triple-drug therapy in 1996.

Since 2009 the Positive Voice association has offered support to all in Greece living with hiv/ aids.



However the history of aids in Greece is not simply a success story; to this day people grieve for those who died needlessly, while sex education and learning about aids are subjects still excluded from the state school curriculum...



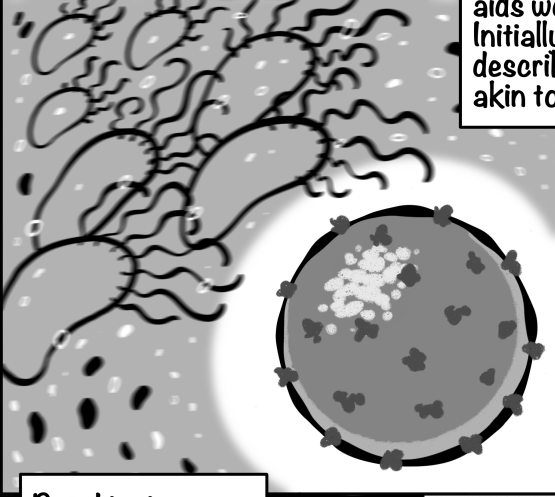
\*Senior high school.

ENDS

# CASE STUDY: GERMANY

NB - this section contains triggering images.

Germany's first cases of aids were identified in 1982. Initially, mainstream media described it as an "epidemic" akin to cholera...

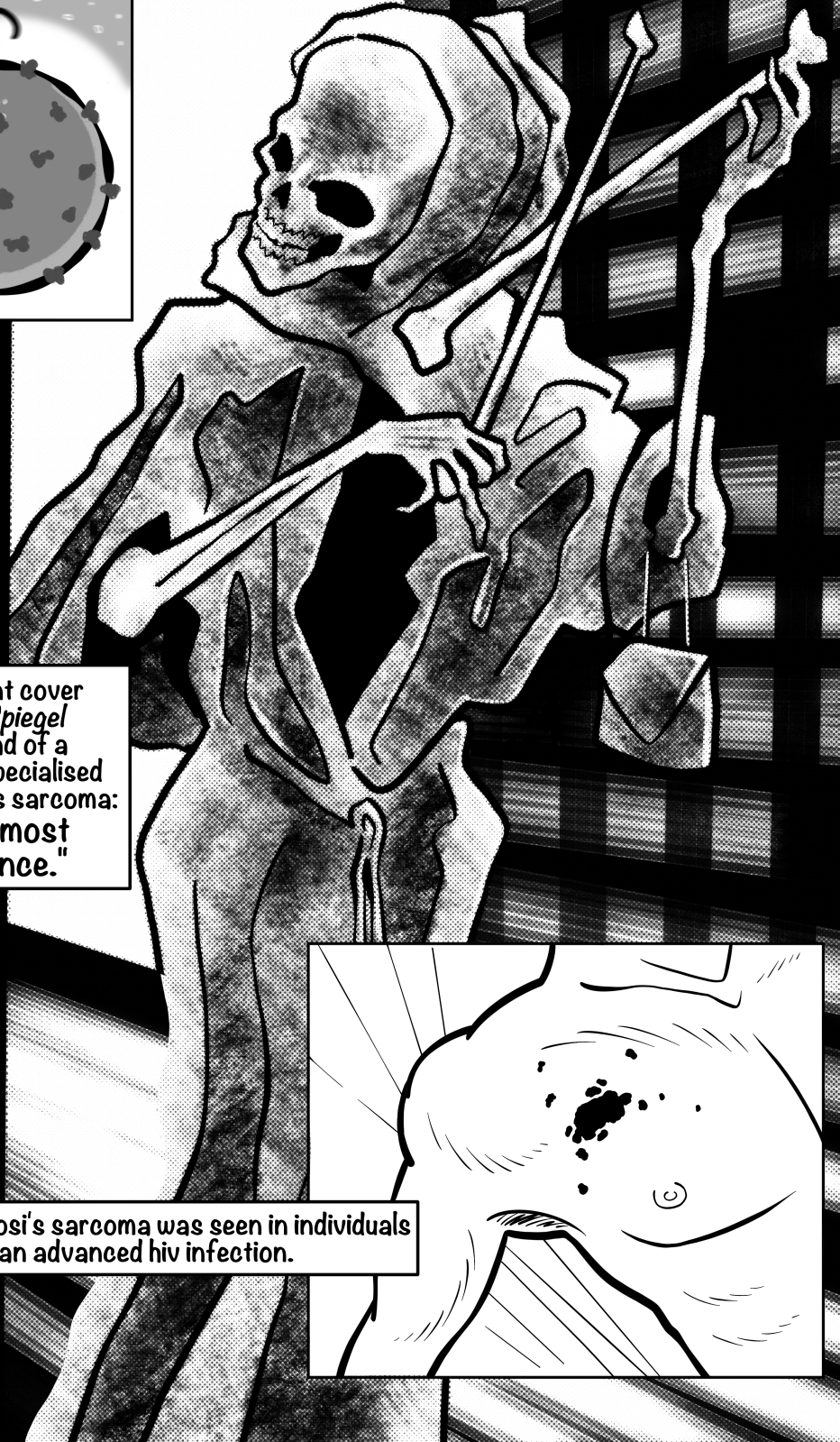


But this time the danger was "gay promiscuity."

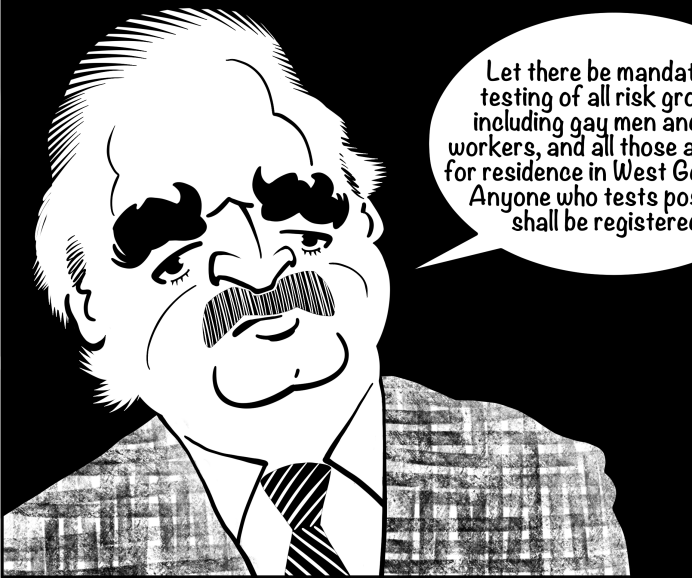
With a notoriously grim front cover illustration, magazine *Der Spiegel* spread fear, quoting the head of a San Francisco clinic that specialised in the treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma: "our diagnosis is almost like a death sentence."

Seen in the image at right, skeletal figure from the cover of *Der Spiegel* #187, 1982

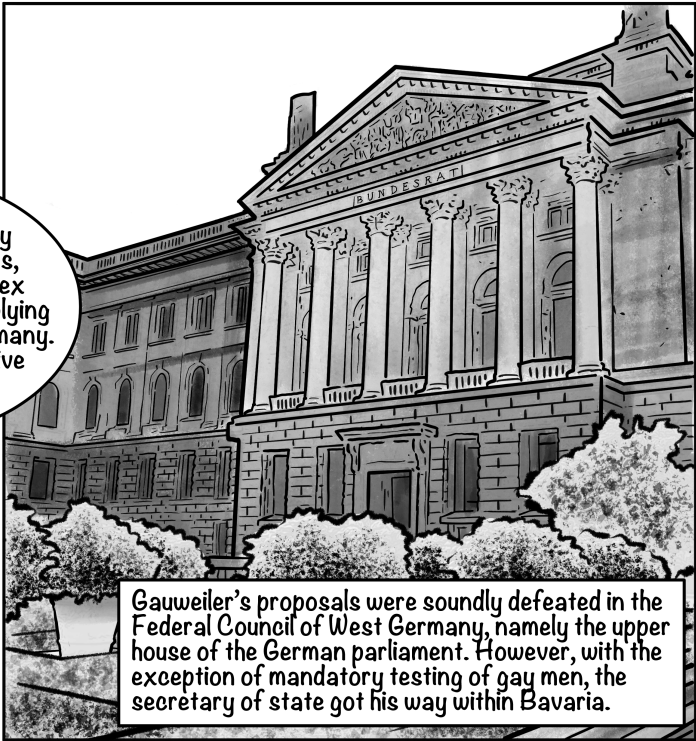
Kaposi's sarcoma was seen in individuals with an advanced hiv infection.



Peter Gauweiler, member of the CSU (Christian Social Union) and secretary of state in the Bavarian Interior Ministry, was in favour of strict measures...

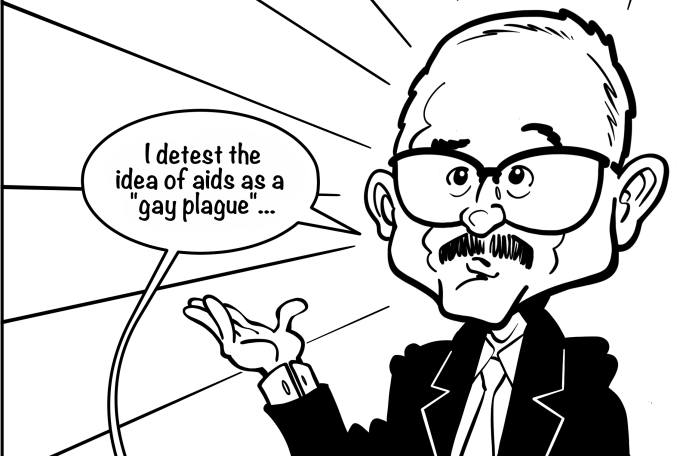


Let there be mandatory testing of all risk groups, including gay men and sex workers, and all those applying for residence in West Germany. Anyone who tests positive shall be registered.

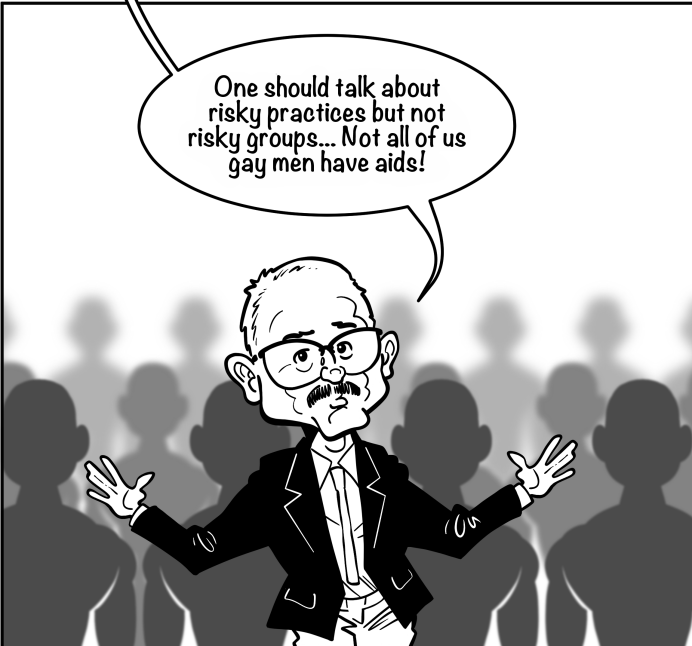


Gauweiler's proposals were soundly defeated in the Federal Council of West Germany, namely the upper house of the German parliament. However, with the exception of mandatory testing of gay men, the secretary of state got his way within Bavaria.

Gradually, alternative voices surfaced such as sexologist Martin Dannecker...



I detest the idea of aids as a "gay plague"...



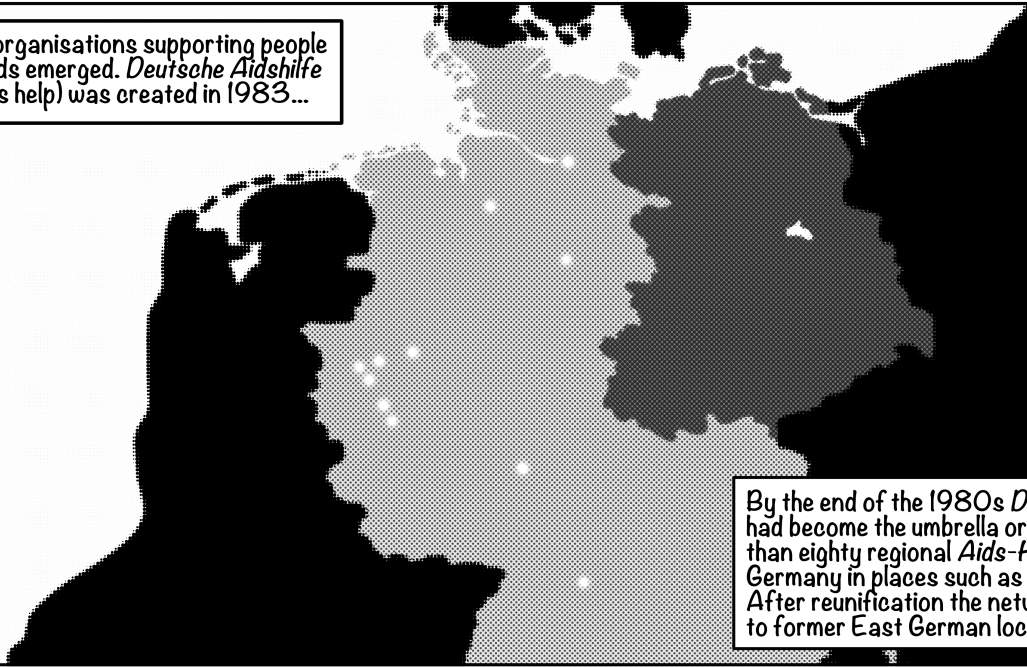
One should talk about risky practices but not risky groups... Not all of us gay men have aids!

In time, a liberal consensus prevailed among policymakers too. The Christian Democrat Federal Minister of Health Rita Süßmuth argued that "we are battling the disease, not those infected."



She permitted *Der Spiegel* to publish a cover photo showing her inside a full-body condom.

Meanwhile, organisations supporting people living with aids emerged. *Deutsche Aidshilfe* (German aids help) was created in 1983...



By the end of the 1980s *Deutsche Aidshilfe* had become the umbrella organisation of more than eighty regional *Aids-Hilfen* across West Germany in places such as Cologne and Berlin. After reunification the network spread quickly to former East German locations...

Although founded as a self-help group fighting against the stigmatisation of gay sexuality, *Deutsche Aidshilfe* came to argue that there was no intimate link between homosexuality and aids.



**LIEBEN  
LACHEN  
KÄMPFEN**  
Gemeinsam gegen  
Fremdenfeindlichkeit  
und Homophobie

They also stood against stigmatisation of other social groups. *Deutsche Aidshilfe*'s 1992 poster campaign featured men of colour and the caption - "LOVE, LAUGH, FIGHT: Together against Xenophobia and Homophobia."

Another group, ACT UP, appeared in West Germany in 1989. Its German branches were well-connected with those in the USA. German activist Andreas Salmen has witnessed first-hand their activity in New York. ACT UP's German groups participated in various pan-European meetings in 1991 & '92. And as elsewhere their slogan was: SILENCE = DEATH.

Salmen was unequivocal...

Unless gay men fight back against state interventions, certain death awaits them.

ACT UP in Germany staged public "die-ins".



Schweigen = Tod

\* Silence = death



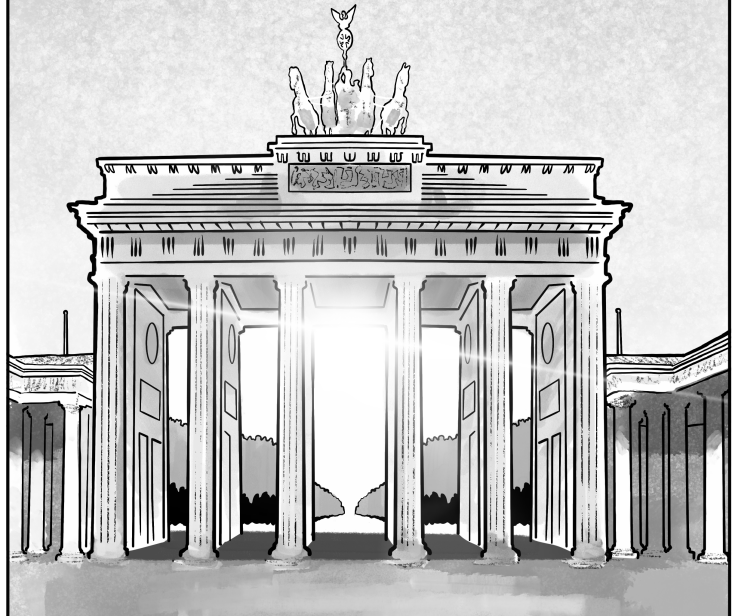
A spectacular die-in was organised during the Catholic Conference of Bishops in September '91. ACT UP members protested in front of the altar and outside the cathedral of Fulda...

They particularly detested the Bishop of Fulda, Johannes Dyba, who had claimed:

Aids is the renunciation of God.



In '93 ACT UP also intervened at the Berlin international aids conference, protesting at the Brandenburger Tor.





Meanwhile, public discourse unfairly stigmatised sex workers as a risk group and spreaders of the illness...

The *Basis Projekt*, created in Hamburg in 1987, supported sex workers – and males in particular. Elsewhere, activists were advocating for the rights of sex workers in Bochum, Frankfurt and Berlin...



Berlin-based Hydra opened a centre for sex workers, offering aids advice...

They also ran humorous advertising campaigns for safer sex. Hydra made a video featuring a pair of bus inspectors who instead of checking tickets chanted:

On public transport  
it is no longer possible to  
travel without a condom!

Hydra also approached migrant sex workers, distributing safer sex info in Polish. Despite such efforts Polish sex workers proved hard to reach, with many reluctant to join an activist group.



w twoim  
języku

\* In your language

Some organisations, like ACT UP, had petered out in the early 1990s. Others like *Deutsche Aidshilfe* and Hydra continued working and are still offering valued assistance to those at risk and in need of best advice.

Germany would prove to be the cradle of aids activism across Europe with the formation of European aids treatment group (EATG) in Berlin in 1992, stemming from an initiative of *Deutsche Aidshilfe* and Terrence Higgins Trust members such as Robin Gorna and Matthias Wienold...



\* European AIDS Treatment News



EATG aimed to take more action, facilitating access to and distributing info about treatment, and securing standards of ethical conduct. One way to do so was via their publications.

Meanwhile the late '90s saw remarkable medical advances take effect within Germany and across the world. Combination therapies meant those with aids could live for many more years.

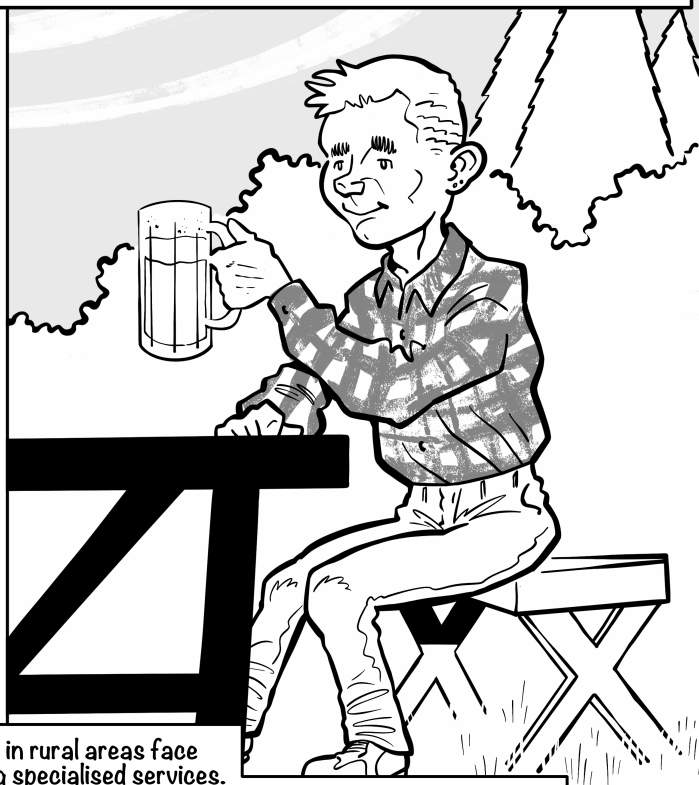


Therefore can German aids prevention and treatment be considered a success? Figures from 2017 show that 95% of people who received aids treatment in the country were virally suppressed i.e. the amount of hiv in their bodies was low enough to prevent illness. That exceeded the Joint United Nations Programme on hiv/aids (UNAIDS)'s target to achieve 90% by 2020...



Nevertheless, more needs to be done to tackle inequality of access.

For example, those in rural areas face difficulties reaching specialised services.



This isn't simply a tale of victory.

ENDS

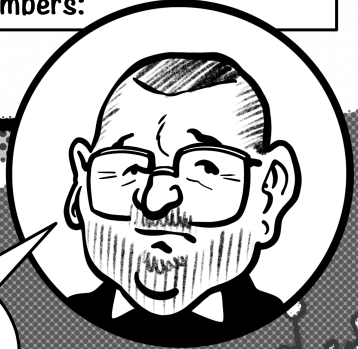
# CASE STUDY: ITALY

On June 8th 1983, *La Repubblica* announced:  
"The 'gay disease' arrives in Italy."

Enzo Cucco and other members of the gay liberation group FUORI! had learned more about aids when they attended the International Lesbian & Gay Association conference in Washington DC in July of 1982. He remembers:



When we came back to Italy, we made copies of a flyer with information we had picked up in America.



Doctors asked for copies of these documents, because they didn't have the information either.





By 1985, the sharing of needles by intravenous drug users overtook unprotected sex as the primary means of transmission of hiv in Italy...



The lack of a prevention campaign by state health organizations meant hiv/aids flourished. Between 1984 and 1988, Italy's rate of aids cases per million population increased 100 times.

Intravenous drug users, men who have sex with men, and sex workers faced harsh stigma. To deal with the crisis, activists founded local organisations to help people with aids and prevent the spread of hiv...



The *Associazione Solidarietà Aids* in Milan, founded by gay activists in 1985, ran an information hotline, self-help groups, and home assistance for people with hiv/aids. ANLAIDS, founded by doctors, researchers, and activists, fostered research and spread awareness about hiv/aids and prevention.

The *Lega italiana per la lotta contro l'Aids* (LILA), a federation founded in 1987, united gay activists (*Arcigay*), sex workers, and addiction recovery, harm reduction, and youth advocacy groups (*Gruppo Abele*).



Activists and queer media like *Babilonia* disseminated information in translation from organizations in other countries, like Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, and the US.

Diego Scudiero, a gay activist in LILA Bologna, recalls:



"We very much used material from other countries [posters by *Deutsche Aidshilfe*, for example], translated from a linguistic and also from a cultural point of view."

The arrival of hiv/aids was devastating for the fledging LGBTQ+ movement in Italy. Enzo Cucco once more: "Imagine what it means to be a gay person who has lived their whole life in the closet, who discovers themselves and comes out..."



"And there's the whole positive side of coming out, understanding yourself, exploring new friends and relationships and sex."

"And then you have aids, this punch in the gut."



Still, many gay militants like Cucco and Scudiero willingly took on the challenge.

Diverse activist groups like the *Circolo Mario Mieli*, the *Movimento Identità Trans* and the *Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostituite* worked within their communities to prevent transmission, to fight stigma, and to help people living with hiv/aids.

In 1987, when Minister of Health Carlo Donat-Cattin visited Bologna, Franco Grillini (co-founder of Arcigay and LILA) and other activists distributed 4,000 condoms to passersby in the piazza.

Donat-Cattin quipped to the press:

When I was their age, I gave roses to ladies.

Grillini remembers responding:

Roses have thorns and put holes in condoms.



In 1987, the Ministry of Health launched its first hiv/aids campaign. Press from The Vatican contested the promotion of condom use.

So in 1988 Donat-Cattin sent a letter to Italians saying:

Condoms have limits.

Abstinence or "normal practice in emotional & sexual relationships" offers the best protection.

With setbacks like these, local activism and individual testimony remained essential to the fight against stigma.

In 1991, the immunologist and ANLAIDS activist Fernando Aiuti and queer, hiv-positive activist Rosaria Iardino kissed to combat the enduring myth that hiv could be spread by casual contact.

In 1993, the *Comitato* joined TAMPEP, a European network dedicated to sex work advocacy and prevention of STIs among migrant sex workers.

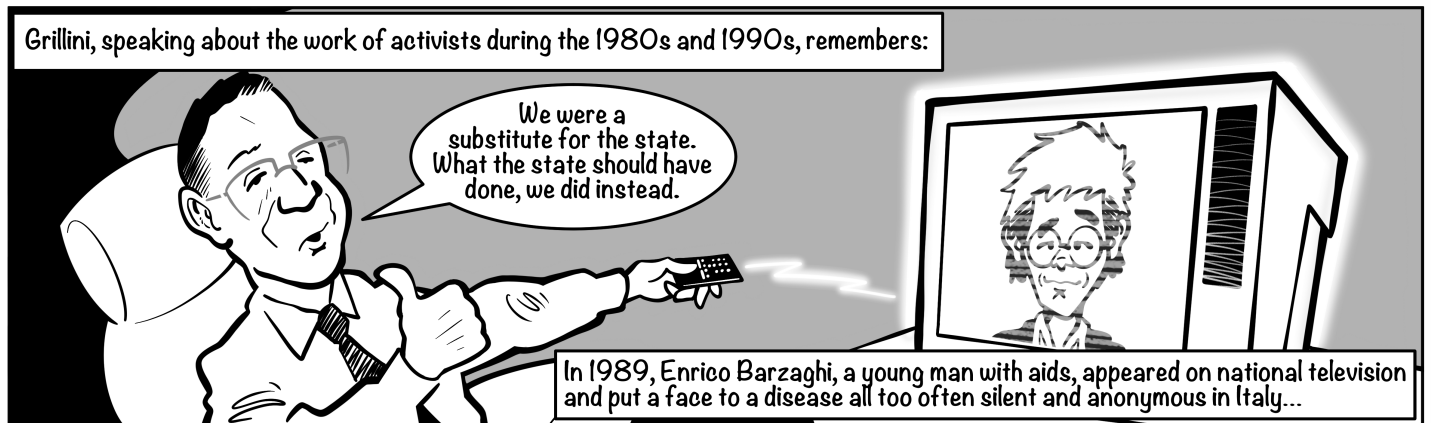
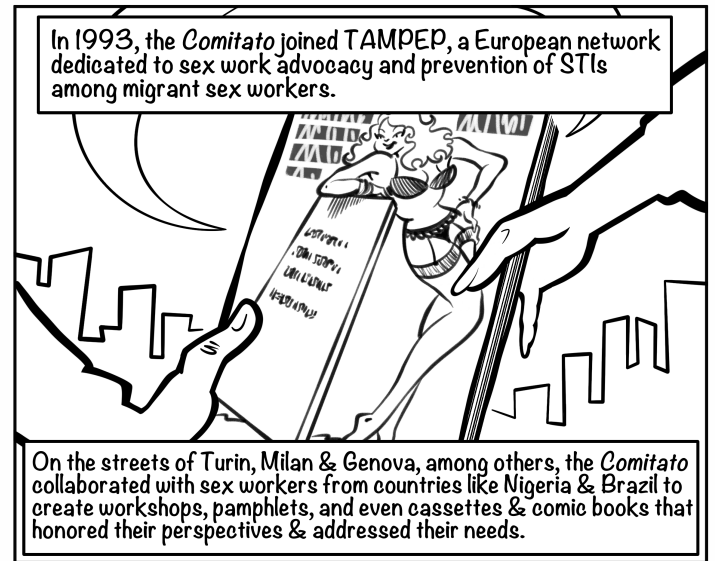
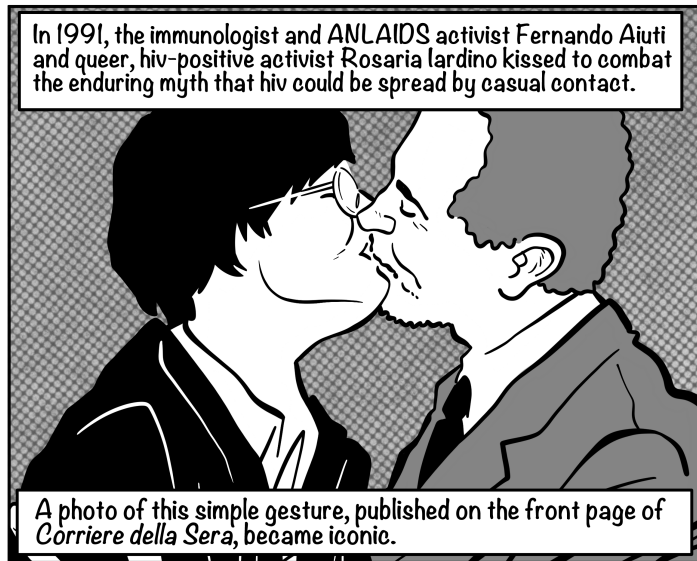
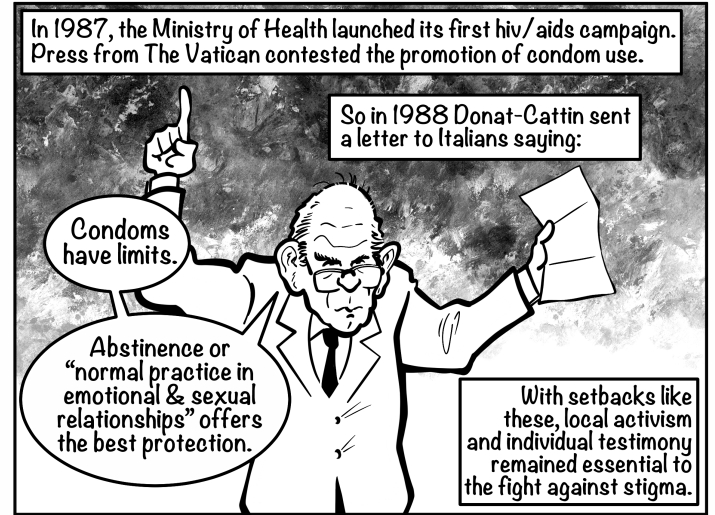
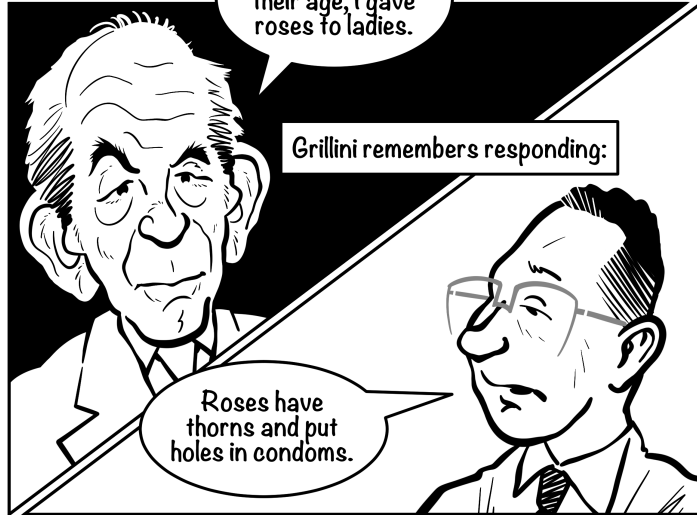
A photo of this simple gesture, published on the front page of *Corriere della Sera*, became iconic.

On the streets of Turin, Milan & Genova, among others, the *Comitato* collaborated with sex workers from countries like Nigeria & Brazil to create workshops, pamphlets, and even cassettes & comic books that honored their perspectives & addressed their needs.

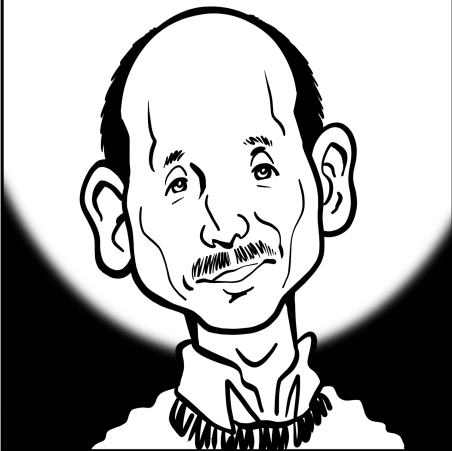
Grillini, speaking about the work of activists during the 1980s and 1990s, remembers:

We were a substitute for the state. What the state should have done, we did instead.

In 1989, Enrico Barzaghi, a young man with aids, appeared on national television and put a face to a disease all too often silent and anonymous in Italy...



Giovanni Forti, a journalist, published his experience with aids in the February 1992 issue of *L'Espresso*, his face on the cover, and then appeared on TV to discuss it openly and to encourage all Italians to use condoms.



Activists often used direct action to protest the slow response of Italian bureaucracy and health industries. The 7th International Conference on Aids, held in Florence in 1991, was disrupted when members of ACT UP Europe unfurled a sheet painted with the words **KILLING TIME, KILLING LIFE** at the opening ceremony.



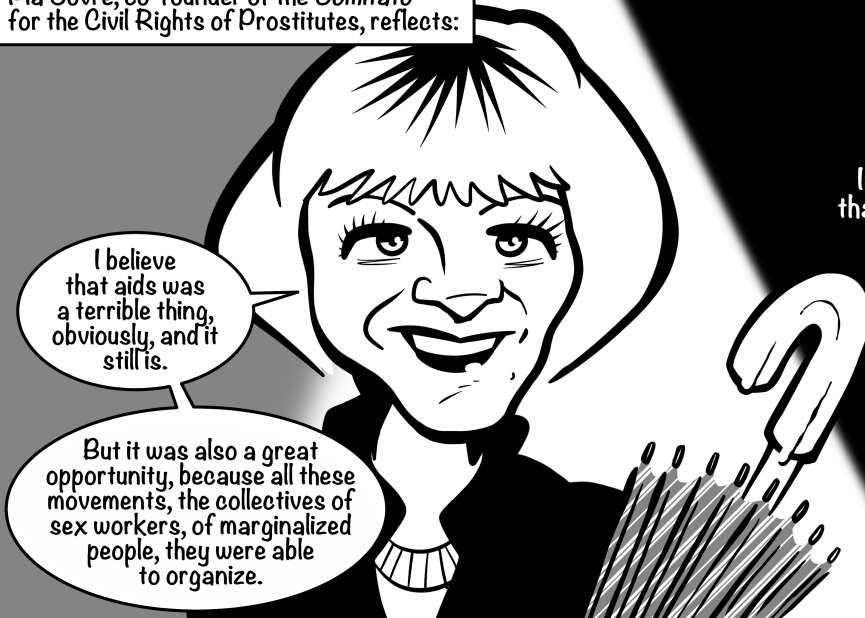
On World Aids Day, December 1st 1995, hiv+ people and activists from LILA and Gruppo Abele occupied the new wing of the Spallanzani Hospital in Rome, which had been empty for two years...



Scudiero recalls the emotion of the time: "There was such a relief with the new drug therapies. Deaths, one after another like that, were so, so difficult to endure."



Dia Cove, co-founder of the *Comitato* for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes, reflects:



I believe that aids was a terrible thing, obviously, and it still is.

But it was also a great opportunity, because all these movements, the collectives of sex workers, of marginalized people, they were able to organize.

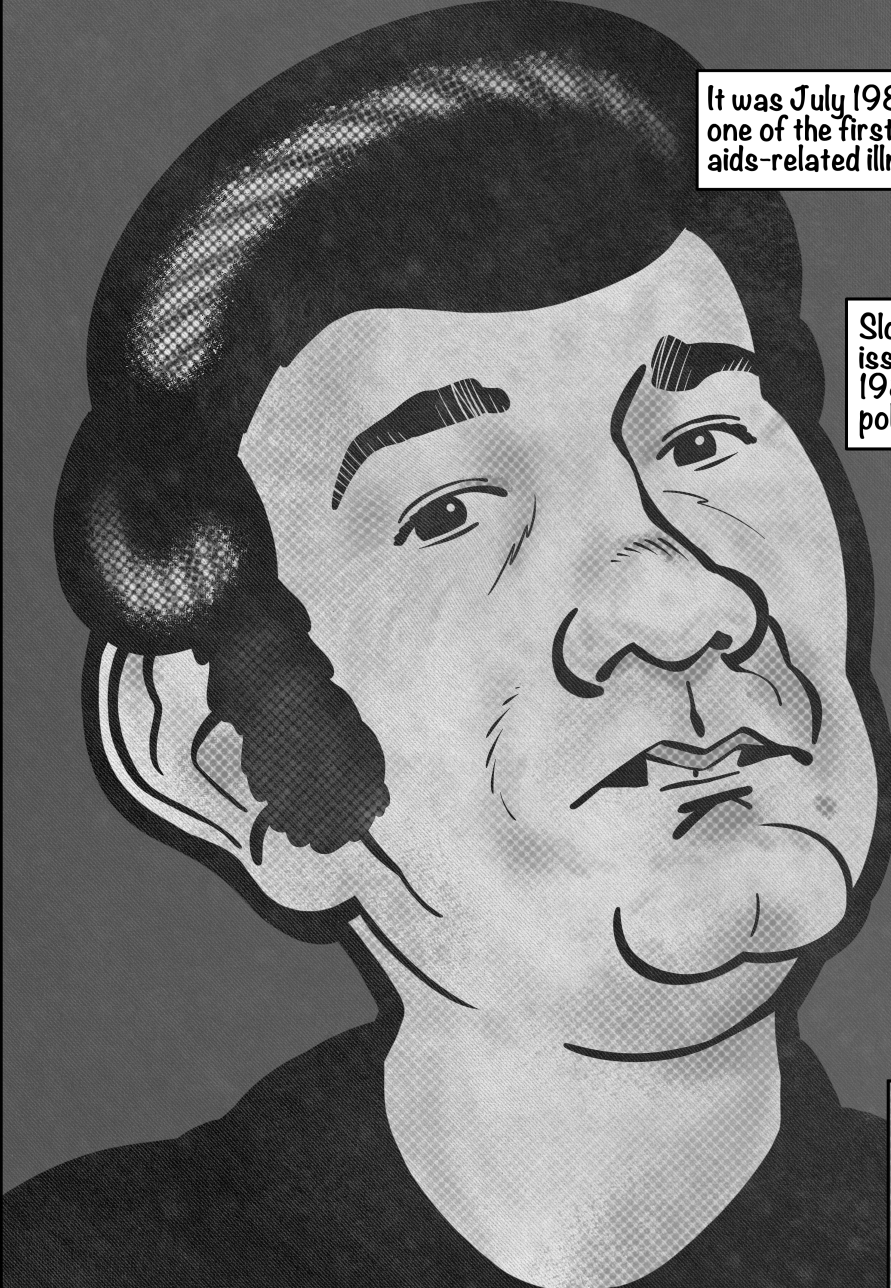
Hiv+ people in Italy still face stigma, and misinformation about the virus endures.

In the absence of effective state campaigns that encourage widespread testing, expanded access to preventative treatments, and raised awareness that treated hiv is now "Undetectable = Untransmittable", the virus continues to spread.

And activists across Italy continue their work.

ENDS

# CASE STUDY: UK



It was July 1982 when Terry Higgins died – one of the first people in the UK to die of an aids-related illness...

Slowly, aids became a national issue in the UK. However, through 1981 to 1985 there was no consistent policy agenda about aids...

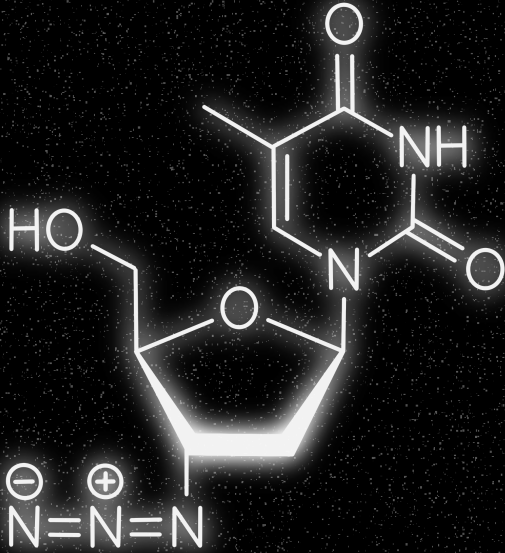
Aids moved to a position of highest priority for the Conservative government in 1986/87.

Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, promoted a non-punitive response to aids through a national campaign of advice on safer sex...

Gradually, aids came to be seen as a more conventional disease, regarded as non-epidemic by 1987 through 1989.

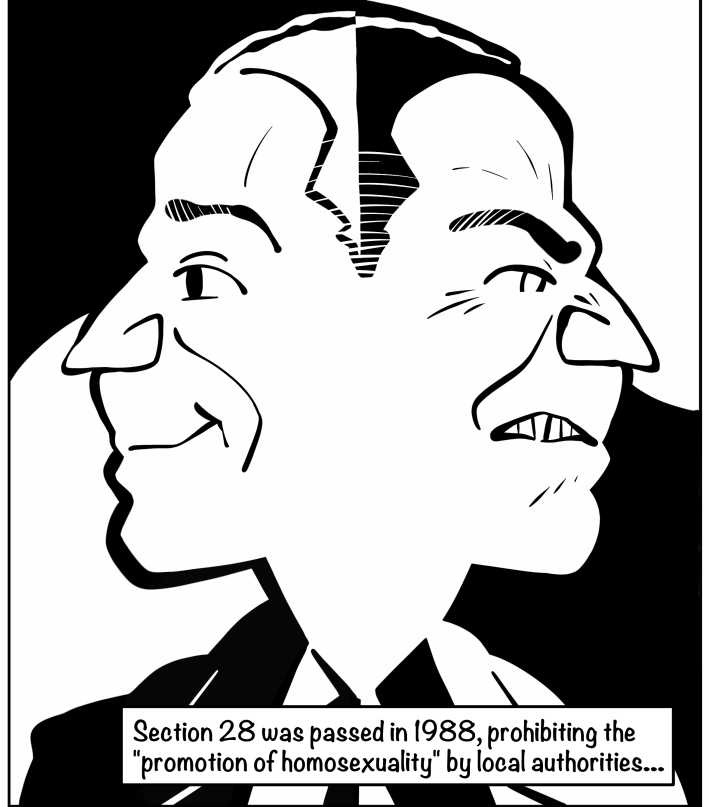


The development of the medication AZT was such a positive step that it prompted one journalist to declare that aids had "become a disease like diabetes... a chronic disease requiring maintenance doses throughout life."



In February 1987, television broadcasters grappled with the crisis in relatively measured tones with programming for a special "aids week"...

Nevertheless, the Conservative government's response to aids was not consistently liberal.



Section 28 was passed in 1988, prohibiting the "promotion of homosexuality" by local authorities...

Through 1990 to 1994, opposition grew toward any liberal approach within and outside government.



Media panicked.

Outlets such as *The Sunday Times* spread false claims of a "gay conspiracy" to present aids as a threat to heterosexual people.

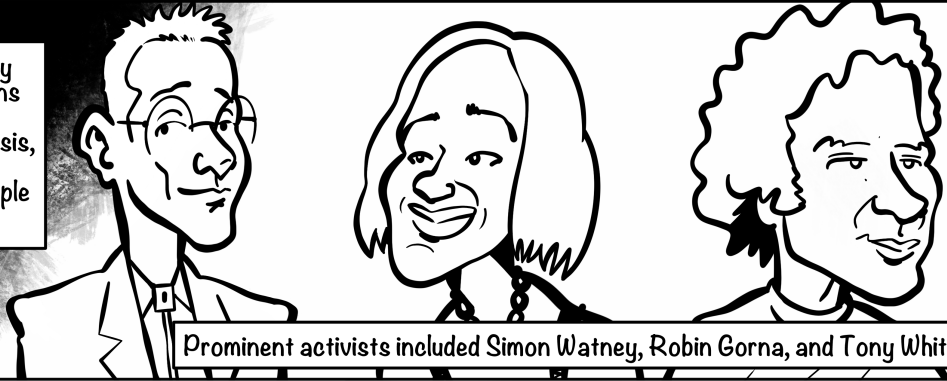
Black and Asian people were also stigmatised due to aids. Those men in particular found it more difficult to enter the UK...



However from the early '80s self-help groups appeared involving the gay community, clinicians, and scientists.

A significant group of campaigners that emerged in 1982 was the Terry Higgins Trust, later renamed the Terrence Higgins Trust.

Initially composed of primarily gay men, the Terrence Higgins Trust was influenced by the USA's Gay Men's Health Crisis, the world's first aids service organisation, supporting people with aids...

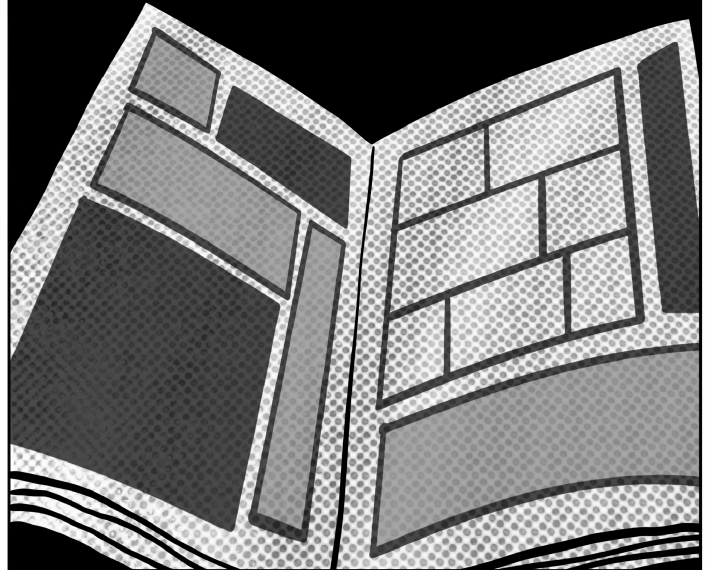


Prominent activists included Simon Watney, Robin Gorna, and Tony Whitehead.

The trust emphasised the use of condoms in its campaigns. As Whitehead remembers, "we tried to be very positive about the different ways you can have great sex."



Campaigners on aids-related issues were diverse in their social background and the agenda they pursued...



The NGO Brook addressed sexually active heterosexual adolescents. Published in 1987, their leaflet *Love Carefully* offered advice on safer sex, imitating teenage magazines.

Aids activism also involved injection drug users, both current and former. A case in point was John Mordaunt.

Mordaunt was a harm reduction activist. He promoted ways to make the use of drugs less harmful for users while acknowledging that some of them are unable or unwilling to stop using them...

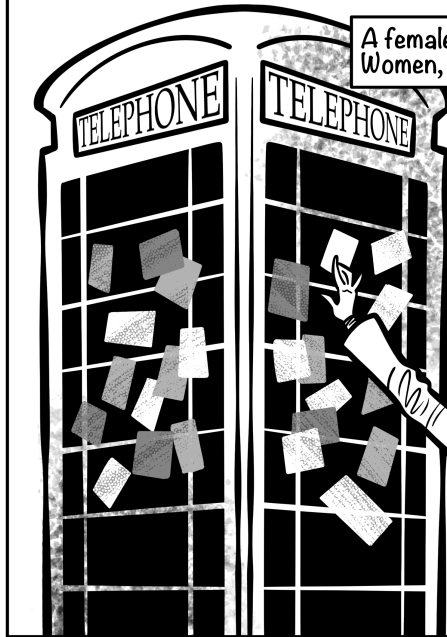
He also featured in the BBC documentary "Facing Up to Aids", where he narrated how he reshaped his life through contact with groups such as the Terrence Higgins Trust.



Groups addressing aids and involving people of colour also appeared in the UK in the 1990s...

## The NAZ Project

One was the NAZ Project in London, an hiv/ aids service for the city's South Asian and Muslim communities.



A female-centred initiative, Positively Women, was created in 1987.

Two hiv-positive women, Sheila & Jayne, put stickers in phone boxes encouraging others to contact them...

Kate Thomson responded and joined the group. She recalls:



We spoke to people and tried to sensitise them around hiv & aids. We visited schools, prisons, and midwives.

Thomson was also involved in meetings which resulted in the creation of the International Community of Women. The Community involved women living with aids in several regions, including the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa.

Prostitute women  
and AIDS

Female sex workers also engaged in aids activism

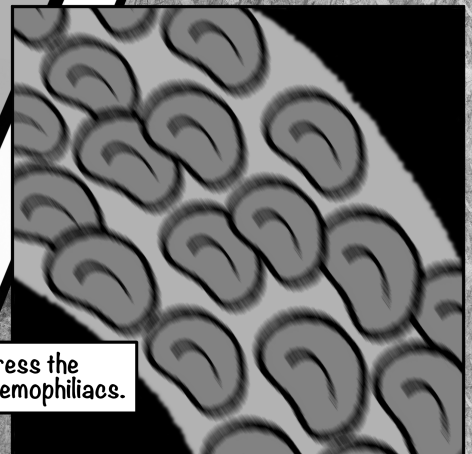
**RESISTING  
THE VIRUS OF  
REPRESSION**

In 1992 the English Collective of Prostitutes published *Resisting the Virus of Repression*, arguing against the ways in which sex labour was stigmatised as a transmitter of hiv.

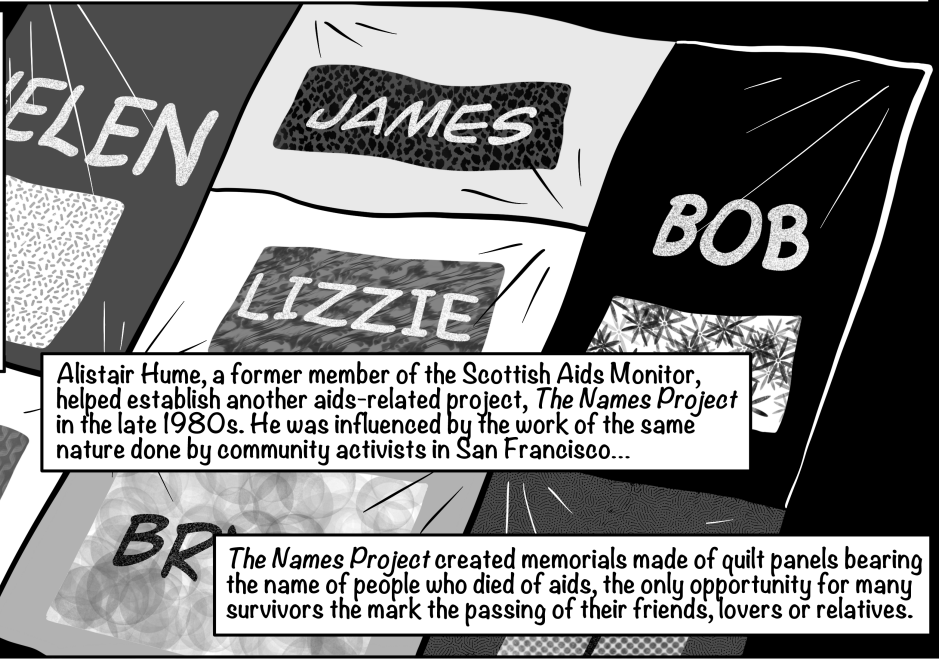
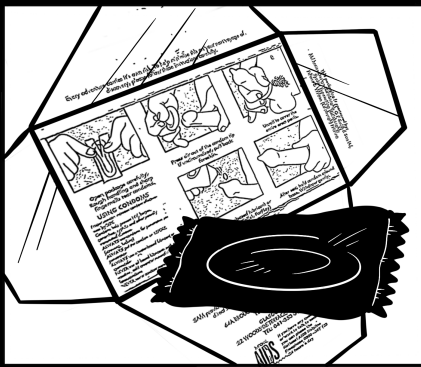
Edited by  
Nina Lopez-Jones  
for the  
English Collective of Prostitutes

Haemophiliacs, 1077 of whom had become hiv-positive by the autumn of 1989 due to the transfusion of infected blood, were active too.

The Haemophilia Society quietly contacted various MPs and forged a coalition to press the government on the creation of a full-scale compensation scheme for hiv-positive haemophiliacs.



Aids activism appeared in various parts of the UK. Scottish Aids Monitor was active between 1983 and 1996. It initially focused on the promotion of condom use among gay men. Later, the Scottish Aids Monitor reached out to further groups, like sex workers of all sexual orientations...

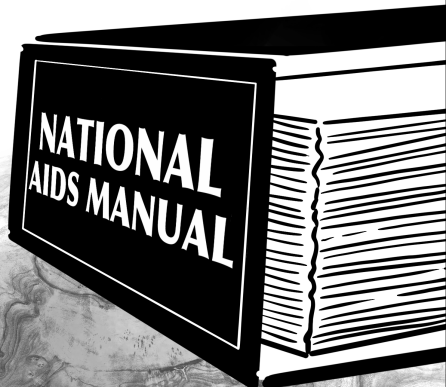


Alistair Hume, a former member of the Scottish Aids Monitor, helped establish another aids-related project, *The Names Project* in the late 1980s. He was influenced by the work of the same nature done by community activists in San Francisco...

*The Names Project* created memorials made of quilt panels bearing the name of people who died of aids, the only opportunity for many survivors the mark the passing of their friends, lovers or relatives.

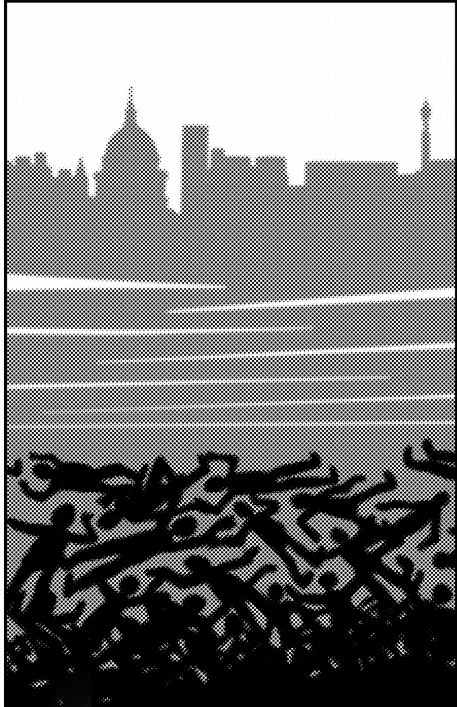
The National Aids Manual was released in 1987. It offered educational material on aids as well as information on treatment.

It included a treatment directory so that those managing relevant helpines and organisations in the UK could have that information in one reference resource.



More confrontational aids activists also appeared in the UK. ACT UP had a campaigning presence in several British cities and provincial towns.

Activists like Peter Tatchell were involved.



The UK version was founded in London in 1988 and continued to exist until the mid-1990s.

Like ACT UP in other countries, ACT UP London ran "die-ins", large scale protests at venues such as the offices of *The Sunday Telegraph* which had published articles referring to aids in ways that stigmatised queer individuals.

Alongside ACT UP groups in other European countries they ran the *Little Bad Book* initiative, circulating a list of businesses whose policies discriminated against hiv-positive people.



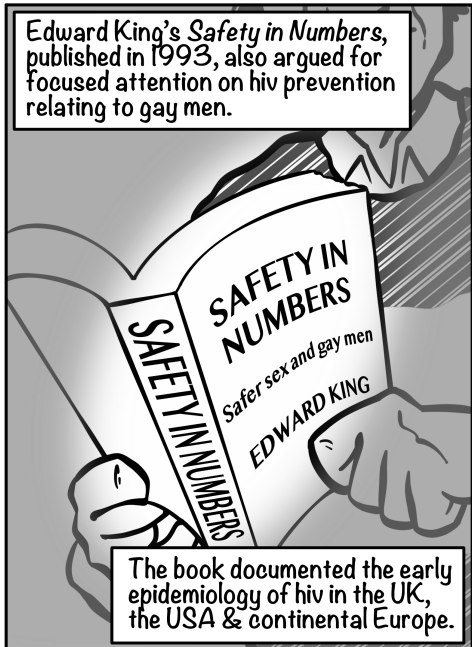
Such a variety of aims and agendas could lead to both collaboration and friction between hiv/ aids campaigners. The Terrence Higgins Trust's new Chief Executive in 1988, Martin Eede, wanted to dispel the gay image of the Trust.



Against this backdrop Gay Men Fighting Aids appeared in 1992. This project argued that there was not enough hiv prevention work targeting gay men explicitly.

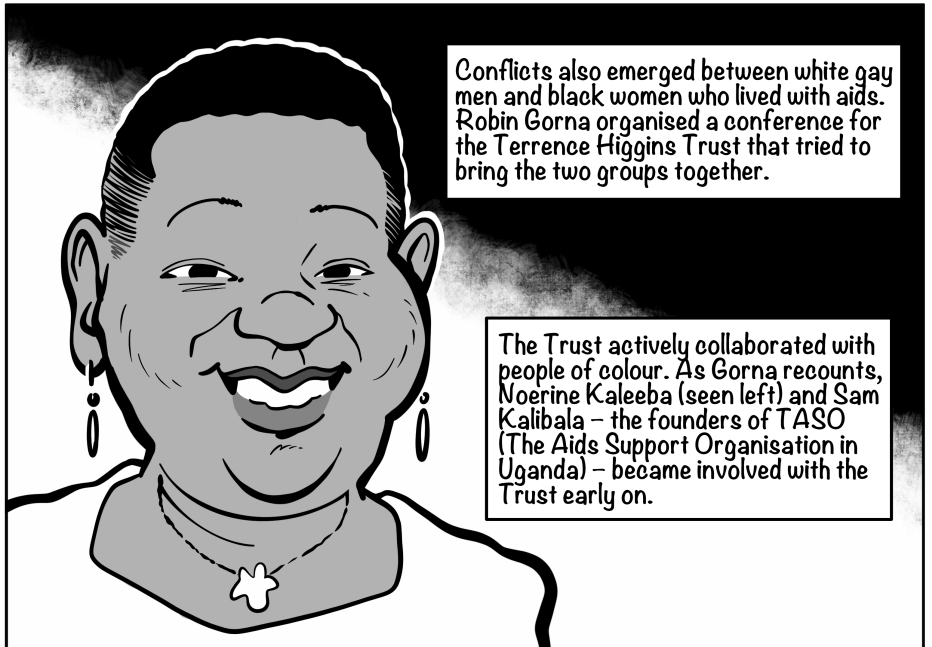


Edward King's *Safety in Numbers*, published in 1993, also argued for focused attention on hiv prevention relating to gay men.



The book documented the early epidemiology of hiv in the UK, the USA & continental Europe.

Conflicts also emerged between white gay men and black women who lived with aids. Robin Gorna organised a conference for the Terrence Higgins Trust that tried to bring the two groups together.



The Trust actively collaborated with people of colour. As Gorna recounts, Noerine Kaleeba (seen left) and Sam Kalibala – the founders of TASO (The Aids Support Organisation in Uganda) – became involved with the Trust early on.

Meanwhile, according to Tony Whitehead, the relationship between the Terrence Higgins Trust and ACT UP was complicated...

The Trust was seen as being very close to medical establishments.



Despite such divergence, hiv/ aids activism is resilient in the UK and is tackling diffuse aids-related challenges today.



Crucially, access to PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, a drug taken by hiv-negative people that minimises the chance of hiv infection) is uneven. Black communities in the UK have limited knowledge of this form of hiv prevention, and the disproportionate effect of hiv upon them requires urgent attention.

ENDS

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