

# 2. Yes, you can live with HIV

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Bonga Melaphi

## Who I am

I was born in East London, South Africa, and I am 21. I have lived most of my life in Cape Town, spending many years in an orphanage before eventually meeting my biological mother in 2008. I have been living with HIV for seven years after testing HIV positive while at Athlone High School. I am currently a drama facilitator at Yabonga, an NGO doing support and advocacy work around children, HIV and AIDS.

## Why I am telling my story

I'm telling my story to leave a legacy and to make a difference. I'm doing it for myself and for the people out there, who at first do not want to disclose they are HIV positive just like I didn't want to. I hope they read my story and they have a change of heart because of my story. I want them to read about me as a young person, who is in the same situation as them, so they can see how I am living positively and how well I am.

