

# 10. Sculptures of time

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## Who I am

I was born in Bandundu Province and grew up in Le Petit Plateau, Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I am 32. I realised I was attracted to men when I was about 17 and I felt comfortable with who I am. By 2006, I felt unable to breathe and to be fully open about my gayness in my home country, so I fled the DRC and crossed Zambia and Zimbabwe before reaching South Africa. My challenging journey has since brought me from Johannesburg to Cape Town as an asylum seeker and work seeker, while surviving xenophobia, homophobia and, to crown it all, testing HIV positive in 2008.

## Why I am telling my story

My passion is the human being as one of the wonders of this world. I am telling my story to break my own anonymity in surviving HIV and other challenges, such as being a refugee and being gay. I hope my story changes the mindset of people and helps them to think about their own lives. I wish to share my sculptures of time with you – time is a long process during which I have gained experience and matured as a human being.

