

11. *The hero lies in you*

Nomfundo Xotyeni

Who I am

I was born in Duncan Village in East London, South Africa, and I am 40. I grew up in Mdantsane and Vergenoeg, and completed a Senior Primary Teacher's Diploma in Queenstown. I have been living with HIV for 11 years after volunteering to do an HIV test in 1999. I have been on a double stigma train journey since then in gradually being open about my HIV status and being a proud black lesbian. I have worked for various HIV-related projects and am currently employed by South Africa Partners to manage NGOs in running an HIV care, support and treatment package.

Why I am telling my story

My wish is to motivate all those of you living with HIV to rise above your HIV status and anything that will stop you achieving your dreams. I hope that my story shows you that we can use the changes that happen in our lives to bring us to better places and to be better people if we believe in ourselves. My aim is to encourage you, however rough the road, to reach your destination and claim your rights as a human being to live your life and to love with and beyond HIV.

