

# 6. What lies behind my rainbow

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Richard Mukuka

## Who I am

I was born in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, and I am 54. While my roots are Zambian, I grew up in Zimbabwe. I moved to the Netherlands in 1988, but have returned to Zimbabwe over the years in pain and in joy. I have survived the pain of losing two sisters and a brother to AIDS. A dear lesbian friend and I decided to have children by artificial insemination, supported by our respective partners. So I have returned to Zimbabwe in joy too as a proud gay parent of two beautiful daughters to visit my mother. I work as a librarian in Breda in the Netherlands.

## Why I am telling my story

I have always wanted to put everything I have gone through over the years on paper. I longed to share my feelings and experiences about life and death in my family, including the loss of my four siblings. The need to talk openly about HIV and AIDS inspired me to write this family story. I hope my story opens up a dialogue with everyone out there who is or was in the same position as myself.

