

Captions:

POZITIF Encounter with a reality in Mauritius

Photographic documentary
Vera FON SING
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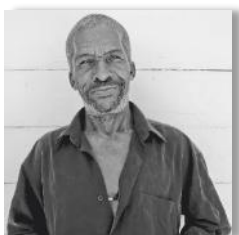


Photo 01 - *"I was infected in prison in 1999. (...) There could have been 75 detainees there, using the same needle! Unfortunately, some are already dead."*
Jacques, 57, homeless.



Photo 02 - *"I was 16 years old. I was in 4th year. I was raped. In these cases, it is a mere formality: I saw a doctor who sent me for an AIDS test. (...) I had been infected."*
M., 20, office worker.



Photo 03 - *"Last year, I started getting sick. I had an abscess and I started to lose weight. I had no idea that I could have had 'that'. I was HIV positive and I did not know it. My T4 cells rated 21. I was dying."*
G., 29, bricklayer.



Photo 04 - *"I was screened in 1994. I no longer fear AIDS. I know that I can live like anyone else. There are positive people who live up to 87 years!"*
N., 49, social worker.



Photo 05 -

"In 2006, I had a health problem. I had to undergo surgery. They refused to do it because I was HIV positive. (...) I had to go to Reunion Island to have the surgery."

Dhiren, 45, AIDS activist



Photo 06 -

"I was infected by my partner who did not tell me that he had the virus. (...) When you're a mother, you are overwhelmed! You wonder if your child has been contaminated too."

E., 37, mother



Photo 07 -

"It's been 7 years since I learned that I was HIV positive. I used to be a sex worker. It is really a violent world. I preferred to stop. Today, I'm trying to start a new life, raising my son."

Wendy, 30, hawker



Photo 08 -

"It would be great to have a methadone scheme in prison. If they gave methadone to addicts who were willing to start rehab while in prison, I would not have AIDS today."

Jean, 45, artist.



Photo 09 -

"When my husband discovered he was HIV positive, I chose to be tested too. That's how I found out. That was in 2006."

B., 50, mother



Photo 10 - *"I am an old man. I'm not far from death. I don't care if people know that I'm sick. On the contrary: please do mention my name! Let everyone know!"*
Finlay, 62, unemployed.



Photo 11 - *"I don't feel comfortable with condoms. It does not seem natural to me. But because of this disease, I need to be careful."*
X., 27, factory worker.



Photo 12 - *"If you go to the hospital because you got hurt, and if they know that you have this disease, they can treat you just like a dog: put you in a corner. (...) Before tending to your injuries, they would put on four pairs of gloves!"*
Jennifer, 26, mother of 3 children.



Photo 13 - *"Some people think that when you have this disease, you carry death along with you. They avoid you, give you funny looks, refuse to hang out with you. Basically, they do not really know what this disease is."*
Fanfan, 60, handyman.



Photo 14 - *"I was born with the virus, but nobody knew it. Ever since I was a baby, I've been going to the hospital again and again. I was always sick. I was admitted to hospital, but they did not know what I had and they would give me paracetamol. It was eventually found out that I had this disease when I was 10. "*
K., 12, schoolgirl.



Photo 15 - *"I've been HIV positive for 10 years. When people know, they take you for less than nothing: they look at you from head to toe."*
Fabiola, 30, sex worker.



Photo 16 - *"The way people look at us must change so that people who are infected can speak out more easily."*
L., 30, hawker.



Photo 17 - *"At that time, I was really into drugs. My daughter was 2 months old. I decided to give her away to be adopted. When she was about to leave for France, she was tested. They then told me that I had to be tested too. This is how I found out that I was HIV positive."*
Diana, 28, hawker.



Photo 18 - *"I learned that I was HIV positive in 2002. I had been infected through a transfusion. I decided not to sue the doctors, because at the same time... they had saved my life."*
N., 57, unemployed.



Photo 19 - *"I take no medication at all. It's too complicated for me: to get up in the morning and swallow 5 pills, when you don't even eat properly..., it is not easy."*
Baby, 43, painter



Photo 20 - *"I lived 10 years with my husband who had HIV. (...) I did not want to use condoms because I didn't want to offend him."*
Mimi, 29, former sex-worker.



Photo 21 - *"Fortunately, the government gives us methadone and the right treatment to fight against HIV!"*
Simon, 48, unemployed.



Photo 22 - *"In Mauritius, there are still many people who believe that it is only drug addicts, sex workers and homosexuals who get it. They forget that there may be someone who is HIV-positive in their own family."*
T., 33, field worker.



Photo 23 - *"In prison, up to 200 people can be using the same needle! But fortunately, here on the outside, there are now needle exchange programmes we can use."*
Yasin, 30, supporter of Liverpool FC.