

The following article is about the AIDS crisis. Read the text and answer the questions below.

## **AIDS and the Violation of Human Rights**

### **Human rights abuses cause infection:**

Since the early 1980s, HIV/AIDS has killed 22 million people and infected over 60 million, and it will kill millions more before it is controlled. The problem is made worse by a wide range of human rights violations, including sexual violence faced by women and girls, discrimination against homosexuals, abuses against prostitutes and drug users, and violations of the right of young people to information on HIV transmission.

In prisons, HIV spreads with frightening efficiency due to sexual violence, lack of access to condoms, lack of help for drug users, and lack of information.

Violations of human rights only add to the discrimination against people at highest risk of infection and thus cause those who most desperately need information, preventive services, and treatment to hide.

### **Abuses follow infection:**

People living with the disease are subject to discrimination in society, including at work and in access to government services. Women whose husbands have died of AIDS are regularly rejected by their families and by their husband's families, and their property is frequently taken from them. Thousands of children who have lost parents to AIDS, or whose parents are living with the disease, have lost their inheritance rights, have had to accept dangerous jobs, including prostitution, and have been forced to live on the streets where they are subject to police violence and other abuses.

### **Research:**

Documenting human rights abuses related to HIV/AIDS and raising awareness about them is essential to fighting the epidemic.

### **Ensuring protection:**

Human Rights Watch continues to campaign for legal protection for people affected by, or at high risk of, HIV/AIDS. For children affected by AIDS, the protection of girls against sexual abuse and the availability of legal help for children who have no relatives are urgently needed. Protecting the rights of prostitutes, and helping them to demand safe sex of clients, are extremely important.

Without a focus on human rights, many HIV/AIDS programs and policies are certain to fail.

**QUESTION 1**

Answer the following questions, using complete sentences and your own words.

According to the article:

1.1 How do violations of human rights cause the spread of HIV/AIDS? Mention **two** ways.

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1.2 What sort of human rights abuses do people suffer after becoming infected? Mention **two** points.

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1.3 What could (or should) be done to improve the situation? Mention **two** possibilities.

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**QUESTION 2**

Referring to your answer to question 1.3, what do you imagine to be the difficulties or obstacles that this campaign would face? You should write about 80 words.

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### QUESTION 3

Read the quote below and answer the question.

“Almost 6 million people in developing countries are in need of treatment for HIV/AIDS, yet only about 400,000 received it in 2003... Antiretroviral treatment is the key to change.”

World Health Organisation

The solution to fighting HIV/AIDS suggested by this quote is different to the suggestion made in the article. Which do you think is more important? Justify your answer. You should write about 100 words.

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