

Statement

The logo for BZgA (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung) consists of the letters 'BZgA' in a white, sans-serif font, set against a light green rectangular background.

**Bundeszentrale
für
gesundheitliche
Aufklärung**

Statement by the Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung

Effective AIDS prevention must be based on sound science and exclude negative discrimination. Shock-horror images are counterproductive.

Cologne, 10 September 2009. In view of the current public debate surrounding recent and deliberately shocking motifs regarding the AIDS question, the Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung would like to put the discussion on a more sober footing by pointing out the following facts:

1. The AIDS prevention practised in Germany for more than 25 years works! Germany today has a lower infection rate per million inhabitants than any other country in western Europe; after many years of slight increase, the number of new HIV infections did not rise significantly in 2008, safe behaviour has never been so widespread, and condom sales figures have never been so high.
2. The prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases is based on the most up-to-date science at any given time. The measures and campaigns are scientifically evaluated, the effects tested in a transparent fashion, and the results made available to the public.
3. The results of all available scientific investigations show that while shock-horror motifs and the fear they trigger can arouse attention in the short term, they are counterproductive in the mid to long term and thus detrimental to the declared aim of reducing the number of HIV infections.
4. Effective prevention must be “real”: it must set out protective measures which those addressed can actually integrate into their own sexual behaviour. It must be guaranteed before the messages are published and deployed that they cannot be misunderstood in any way whatever.
5. It is an important aim of our work to create a lasting social climate in which those affected or at risk are not marginalized or discriminated against. From this perspective also, indeed particularly, we are firmly convinced that negative associations such as the identification of people with “mass murderers” show a profound disrespect for human dignity and are as such unacceptable.

Adresse:
Ostmerheimer Str. 220, 51109 Köln

Tel.: 0221/8992-280
Internet: www.bzga.de

Fax : 0221/8992-201
E-Mail: voelker-albert@bzga.de

This statement can be found in the internet under www.gib-aids-keine-chance.de