

**UND**

# HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka

Living a  
“positively”  
Gay Life

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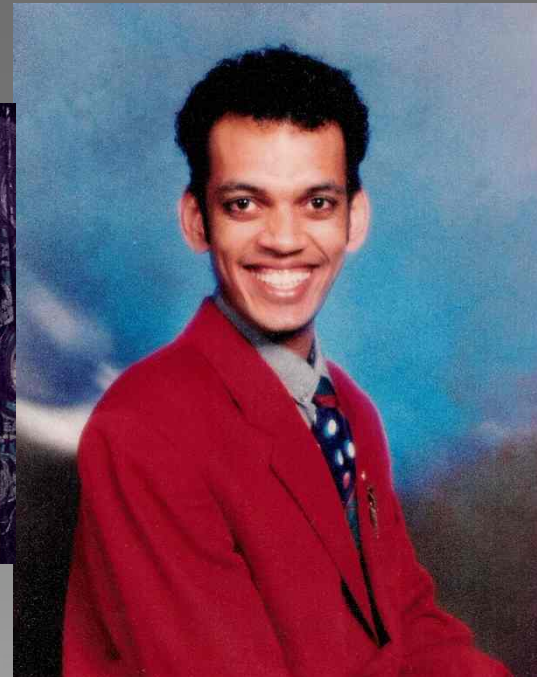
**EQU**

- Low Prevalence Country
  - 96% - Unsafe sex (11% Gay and Bi – 85% Hetero)
  - 3% - PTC
  - 1% - Infected Blood
- “Sex” in itself, is a taboo subject
- Most programmes are focussed on “MSM”
- LGBT issues are beyond the comfort zone of the mainstream agenda
- Issues on Sexual Health and HIV & AIDS in relation to LGBT

# My Life before EQUAL GROUND



- Chef on board a cruise liner – 1990 – 95
- Infected may 8<sup>th</sup> 1994
- Detected August 21<sup>st</sup> 1995



## My new Life

- First loss of job due to status  
1996
- Loss of home 1997
- Unemployed – 2000 – 2008



# Relationships.....



- My 1<sup>st</sup> relationship  
1997 - 1999
- 2<sup>nd</sup> relationship  
2000 - 2003
- 3<sup>rd</sup> relationship  
2004 - 2007

## What I did (Post diagnosis)



- Started Lanka+ - PLHIV organization 2001
- Worked alongside The NSACP in sensitization programmes on HIV and Positive speaking around the country with many organizations.

Namely – The Salvation Army, WSG, CDS, The Red Cross, OXFAM, Action Aid, UN agencies, and other private companies, etc...

## My new Life

- Complete acceptance by my Family (HIV) 2007
- Started work at EG 2008
- Complete acceptance by my Family (Gay) 2008 – After Colombo Pride



Now.....

- Using my experience –
  - Counseling for LGBTIQ persons
  - Positive speaking and prevention programmes
  - Care and support of fellow PLHIV
  - **The Longest Living PLHIV recorded, without Meds in Sri Lanka. (15 years) until a month ago.**



# WORKSHOPS

- Residential workshops – For peer educators
- One day workshops – on General Sensitization.
- Workshops with other organizations and communities





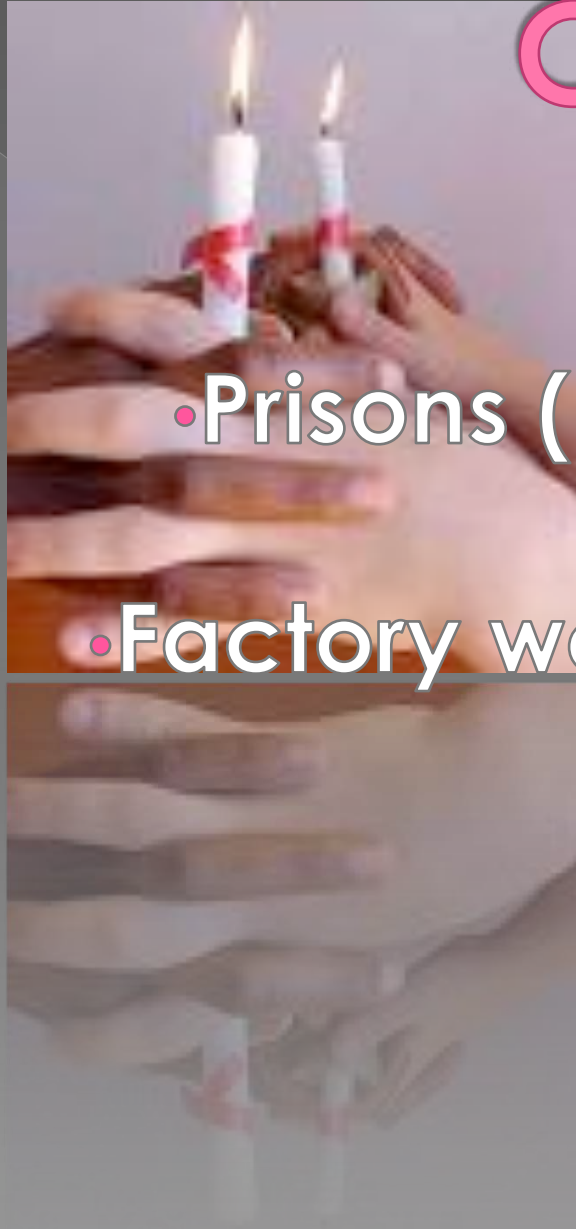
# Communities

- Staff of Community Based Organizations
- Staff and Management of Corporate sector
- Forces



# Communities

cont...



- Prisons (prisoners and prison official)
- Factory workers (BOI Projects)
  - Hotel Staff
  - Beach boys
- Three wheel drivers

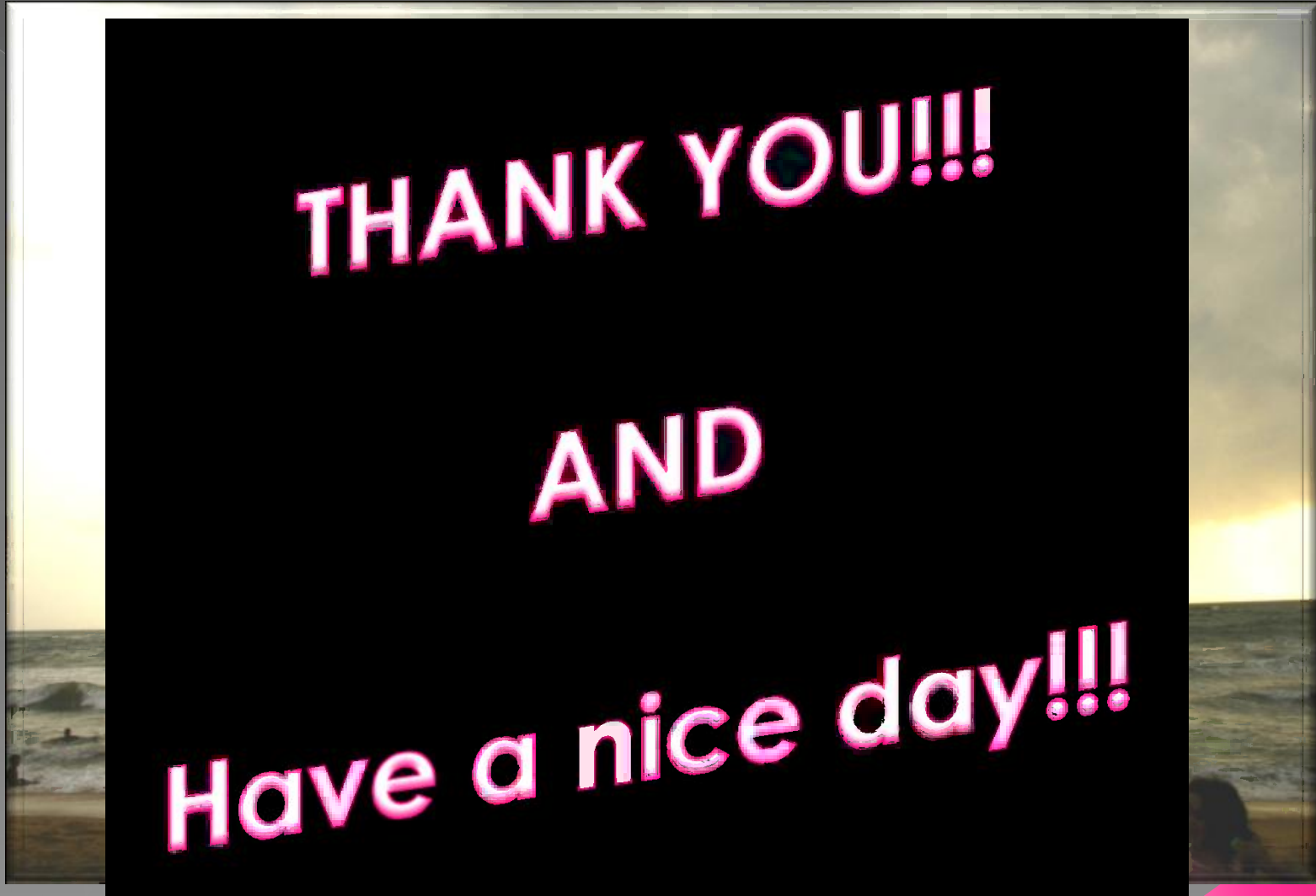
# TOPICS COVERED



- Values, Norms and Attitudes
  - Health
  - Sexual health
  - HIV & AIDS
  - Positive Living
- High and Low risks
- Equality and Equity
  - Sex and Gender
  - Sexuality
- Sexual behavior
  - LGBT Rights
- Communications

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◉ Need to look into gaps, where LGBT friendly services need to be fine tuned.
- ◉ Sensitization of Clinic staff and other service providers.
- ◉ Sharing information and building up of self esteem of our LGBT community in order to access services available.
- ◉ All stake holders to move forward under one theme in order to bridge the gap from service providers to receivers.



**THANK YOU!!!**

**AND**

**Have a nice day!!!**