

Gloria Takalani Khorombi



“My biggest challenge in living with HIV in Soweto is  
LACK OF SUPPORT & COMMUNICATION ABOUT HIV.”

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## Gloria Takalani Khorombi

*Knowingly living with HIV since 2002 and on treatment since 2009.*

I was diagnosed with HIV on the 8th of January 2002 (after I had a bad rash in December of the previous year) and was encouraged to test for HIV. It was not easy to accept my status and after I disclosed to my family and neighbours, it was more difficult because I became the topic of discussion in the community. I lost my son in 2004, which nearly drove me crazy, but with the assistance of the counseling group at Baragwanath (now Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital); I was able to regain my confidence and strength, which encouraged me to start an organisation (Takalani Creative Production).

My biggest challenge in living with HIV in Soweto is the **LACK OF SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATION ABOUT HIV.**

My neighbour has been the most supportive person in my journey with HIV. I work mostly with children and it pains me to see that their parents are not making space for discussion around issues of HIV and sexuality. I would also like to see a day when parents living with HIV are able to disclose freely to their children, but children have to be informed about HIV before they can understand the implications of it on their parents and themselves.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

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