

Terrence Higgins Trust

The section below is where our service users would be affected – HIV is covered by the Equality Act 2010.

4. DISCRIMINATION

4.1. Publishers must not refer pejoratively to a person on the basis of that person's age, disability, gender reassignment or identity, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation or another characteristic which makes that person vulnerable to discrimination.

4.2. Publishers must not refer to a person's disability, gender reassignment or identity, pregnancy, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation unless this characteristic is relevant to the story.

4.3. Publishers must not incite hatred against any group on the basis of that group's age, disability, gender reassignment or identity, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Our only comments would be that it would be important to include "or prejudicially" in 4.1 (eg. Publishers must not refer pejoratively or prejudicially..). This is because damaging, prejudiced references to individuals living with HIV are not all covered by the word "pejorative".

We also feel that "incite hatred" is a very high threshold towards groups, and it would be better to be changed to something like "publish unjustified prejudice against" - this would still mean it was a higher threshold than the individual references in 4.1 but it would better protect people living with HIV as a group from stigma and prejudice in the media.