HIV and AIDS

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE

A WELCOMING AND DISCRIMINATION - FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEES AND RETURNEES

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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A REFUGEE IS SOMEONE OUTSIDE HIS OR HER OWN COUNTRY WHO HAS A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF BEING PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF HIS OR HER RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY OR MEMBERSHIP OF A PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP OR POLITICAL OPINION AND WHO CANNOT OR IS UNWILLING TO GO BACK TO HIS OR HER COUNTRY.
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) IS A VIRUS THAT DAMAGES THE DEFENCE SYSTEM OF THE BODY. HIV INFECTS CELLS OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND DESTROYS THEIR FUNCTION LEADING TO "IMMUNE DEFICIENCY". A PERSON INFECTED WITH HIV MAY LOOK AND FEEL HEALTHY FOR MANY YEARS. HOWEVER, THE PERSON IS STILL ABLE TO PASS ON THE VIRUS.
AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) IS CAUSED BY INFECTION WITH THE HIV VIRUS. OVER TIME THE IMMUNE SYSTEM BECOMES SERIOUSLY WEAKENED SO THAT THE BODY LOSES ITS ABILITY TO FIGHT OFF INFECTION THAT IT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE FOUGHT. THE INFECTED PERSON DEVELOPS A NUMBER OF SERIOUS INFECTIONS AND ILLNESSES WHICH EVENTUALLY LEADS TO DEATH. ONCE A PERSON WHO HAS HIV GETS ONE OR MORE OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS, THAT PERSON IS SAID TO HAVE AIDS. SOME PEOPLE DEVELOP AIDS SHORTLY AFTER BEING INFECTED WITH HIV, YET SOME LIVE WITH HIV FOR TEN OR MORE YEARS BEFORE DEVELOPING AIDS.
ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS. EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND GOVERNMENTS HAVE A RESPONSABILITY TO ENSURE EVERYONE IS TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY. IT DOES NOT MATTER IF SOMEONE IS ILL OR IF THEY ARE OUTSIDE THEIR OWN COUNTRY.
REFUGEES ENJOY THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND SHOULD RECEIVE THE SAME BASIC HELP AS ANYONE ELSE. THIS INCLUDES FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND DEGRADING TREATMENT AS WELL AS FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION.
REFUGEES SHOULD ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE, THE RIGHT TO GO TO SCHOOL AND THE RIGHT TO WORK IN THEIR COUNTRY OF ASYLUM.

ONE DAY THE VILLAGE OF THE FAMILY KARAGU WAS ATTACKED BY REBELS AND THEY ALL FLED TO THE BORDER OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY.
COME IN WHY DID YOU FLEE YOUR COUNTRY...
SIR, BEFORE THE WAR STARTED, WE LIVED A NORMAL LIFE LIKE YOU. WE HAD A HOUSE ANIMALS AND OUR CHILDREN WENT TO SCHOOL...
THEN MY TWO BROTHERS WERE KILLED, MY HOUSE WAS BURNED DOWN, WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT AND IT IS NO LONGER SAFE TO LIVE IN OUR VILLAGE.
?!
STOP. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE AIDS.

STOP! WHY IS HAMED KARAGU NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY WITH HIS FAMILY?
THE 1951 GENEVA REFUGEE CONVENTION STATES THAT GOVERNMENTS CANNOT RETURN A REFUGEE TO A COUNTRY WHERE THEY FACE PERSECUTION. IT DEFINES WHO IS A REFUGEE, THEIR RIGHTS, AND THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF STATES...
...SOMEONE CANNOT BE DENIED REFUGEE STATUS OR SENT BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN BECAUSE THEY ARE HIV POSITIVE OR HAVE AIDS.
FOUR MONTHS LATER IN THE KALUFU REFUGEE CAMP...

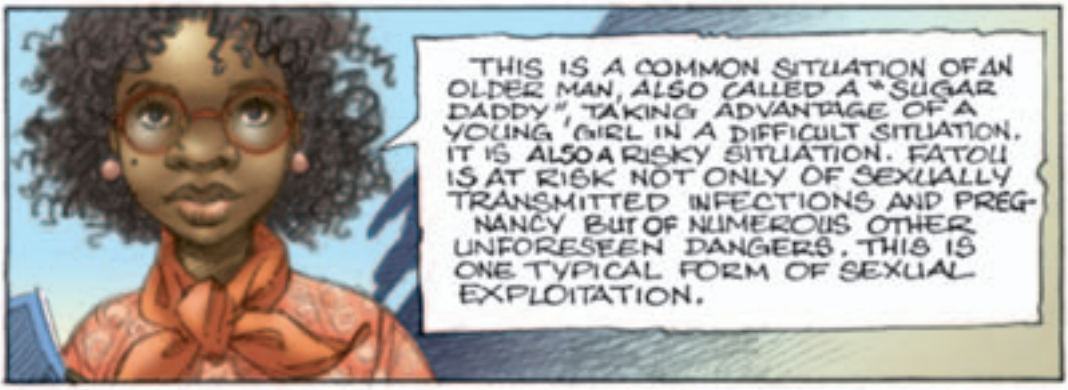
PAPA I AM HUNGRY. WE HAVEN'T EATEN FOR A WHILE.
FATOU, I KNOW YOU'RE HUNGRY, BUT I'M NOT WELL AND TOO TIRED TO GO TO THE MARKET.

YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH US. YOUR FATHER HAS AIDS AND WE DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH KIDS LIKE YOU.
CHILDREN, YOU SHOULD NOT TREAT PIERRE THAT WAY BECAUSE YOU THINK HIS FATHER IS SICK...

ALL PEOPLE DESERVE RESPECT AND LOVE REGARDLESS IF THEY ARE SICK OR NOT. YOU CANNOT GET HIV OR AIDS SIMPLY BY PLAYING TOGETHER.

THE NEXT DAY IN SCHOOL...
ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION
MODES OF TRANSMISSION OF HIV
THE HIV VIRUS IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF HIV INFECTED BODY FLUIDS THROUGH :
1 UNPROTECTED (WITHOUT A CONDOM) SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH SOMEONE WHO IS INFECTED.
2 UNSTERILISED EQUIPMENT INCLUDING NEEDLES SYRINGES, RAZOR BLADES AND OTHER ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY USED BY SOMEONE WHO IS INFECTED.
3 TRANSFUSION OF INFECTED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN THE HIV VIRUS.
4 AN INFECTED MOTHER TO HER CHILD DURING PREGNANCY, AT CHILDBIRTH OR THROUGH BREASTFEEDING.
THE HIV VIRUS CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH SHAKING HANDS, HUGGING, KISSING, TOUCHING, PLAYING SPORTS, BUMING FOOD, SNEEZING, MOSQUITO BITES, OR SHARING BED LINEN.
YOU KNOW, THEY MAY THINK HE'S DIFFERENT BUT HE'S NOT. MY PAPA MAY BE SICK, BUT HE IS JUST THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE AND I LOVE HIM.

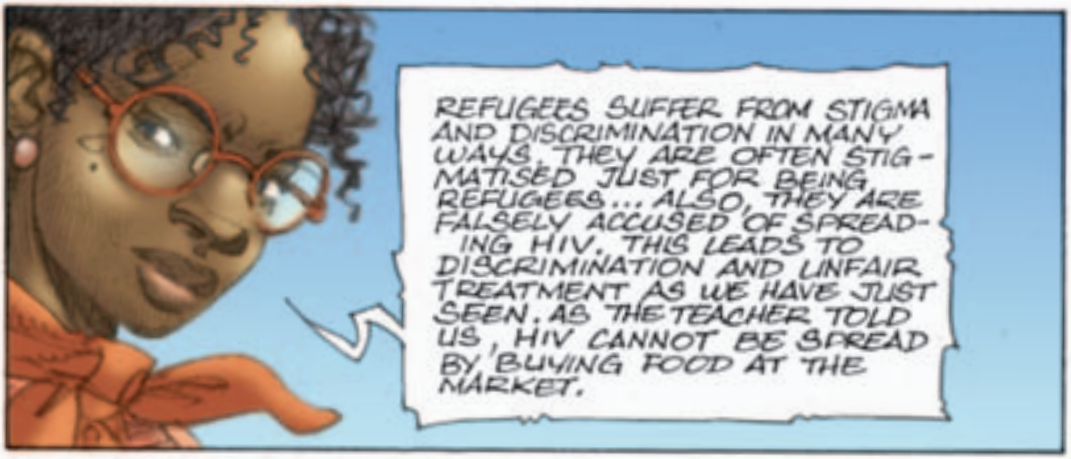
PSSST!..
OH!
YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL GIRL. IF YOU COME WITH ME I WILL GIVE YOU SOME SOAP AND MONEY.
MY FAMILY COULD REALLY USE THE MONEY... BUT THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.


THIS IS A COMMON SITUATION OF AN OLDER MAN, ALSO CALLED A "SUGAR DADDY", TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A YOUNG GIRL IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION. IT IS ALSO A RISKY SITUATION. FATOU IS AT RISK NOT ONLY OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND PREGNANCY BUT OF NUMEROUS OTHER UNFORESEEN DANGERS. THIS IS ONE TYPICAL FORM OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

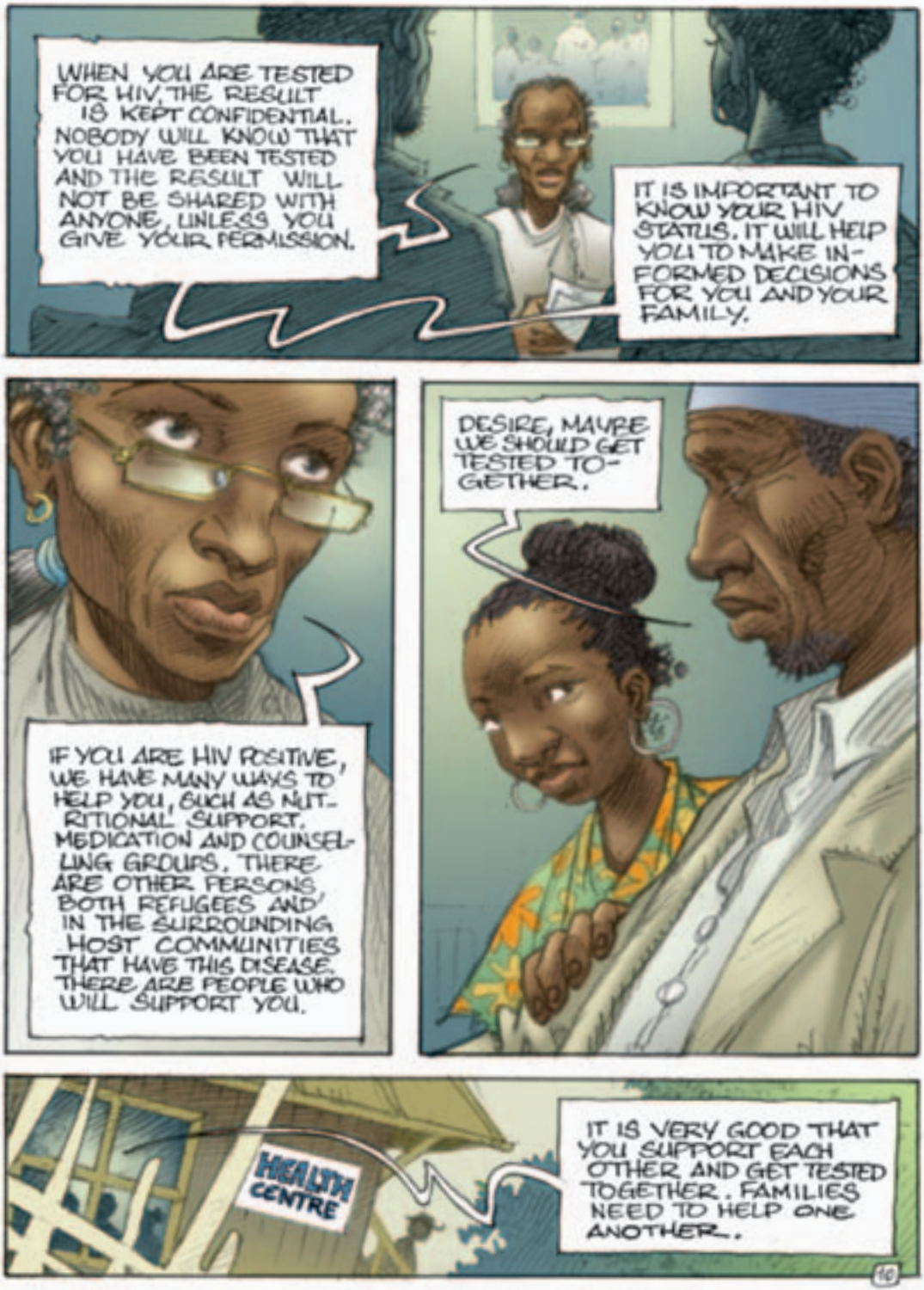
HEY GIRL, YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK TO ME. I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

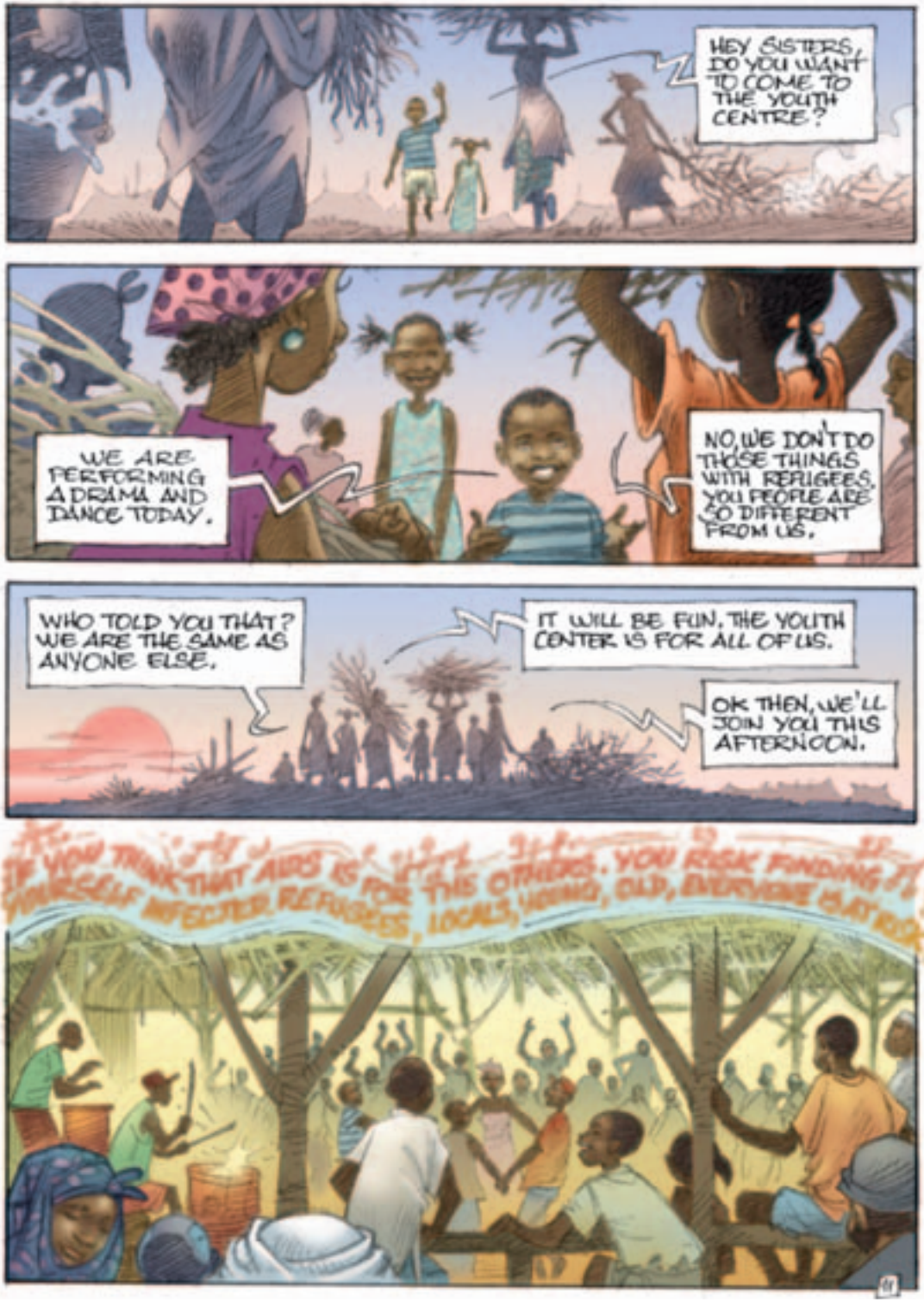
MY DEAR FATOU, YOU DID WELL TO RUN AWAY AS THIS IS NOT A SOLUTION FOR YOU OR YOUR FAMILY. YOU MUST FINISH YOUR SCHOOL. THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS TO EARN A LITTLE MONEY TO HELP YOUR FAMILY. YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS MUST LEARN TO SAY NO TO A MAN LIKE THAT.

THE NEXT DAY...
PAPA, I KNOW YOU ARE NOT WELL. THERE IS NO SCHOOL TODAY. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU AND MOTHER AT THE MARKET.
LOOK AT THAT REFUGEE. HE IS SICK. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE HAS AIDS. I WON'T BUY ANYTHING FROM HIM.
I HAVE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE. THESE REFUGEES COME, TAKE OUR LAND AND THEN THEY GIVE US AIDS!



TWO WEEKS LATER AT THE VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING CENTRE.


WHEN YOU ARE TESTED FOR HIV, THE RESULT IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. NOBODY WILL KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TESTED AND THE RESULT WILL NOT BE SHARED WITH ANYONE, UNLESS YOU GIVE YOUR PERMISSION.
IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS. IT WILL HELP YOU TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
IF YOU ARE HIV POSITIVE, WE HAVE MANY WAYS TO HELP YOU, SUCH AS NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT, MEDICATION AND COUNSELLING GROUPS. THERE ARE OTHER PERSONS, BOTH REFUGEES AND IN THE SURROUNDING HOST COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE THIS DISEASE. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL SUPPORT YOU.
DESIRE, MAYBE WE SHOULD GET TESTED TOGETHER.
HEALTH CENTRE
IT IS VERY GOOD THAT YOU SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND GET TESTED TOGETHER. FAMILIES NEED TO HELP ONE ANOTHER.


HEY SISTERS, DO YOU WANT TO COME TO THE YOUTH CENTRE?
WE ARE PERFORMING A DRAMA AND DANCE TODAY.
NO, WE DON'T DO THOSE THINGS WITH REFUGEES. YOU PEOPLE ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM US.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT? WE ARE THE SAME AS ANYONE ELSE.
IT WILL BE FUN. THE YOUTH CENTER IS FOR ALL OF US.
OK THEN, WE'LL JOIN YOU THIS AFTERNOON.
IF YOU THINK THAT AIDS IS FOR THIS OTHERS, YOU RISK FINDING IT YOURSELF INFECTED. REFUGEES, LOCALS, YOUNG, OLD, EVERYONE IS AT RISK!

THE NEXT DAY...
COME ON EVERYONE. LET'S ALL GO BACK TO THE YOUTH CENTRE. THERE ARE MANY ACTIVITIES WE CAN DO AND THEY ARE SHOWING A GOOD VIDEO ON HIV.

FIVE YEARS LATER, PAPA HAMED KARAGLI HAS DIED AND MAMA KARAGLI IS SICK... PEACE HAS COME AND THE FAMILY KARAGLI PREPARES TO RETURN HOME.
WHEN REFUGEES VOLUNTARILY RETURN HOME IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED WILL BE SUPPORTED IN A CONFIDENTIAL AND DIGNIFIED MANNER.
THE SKILL AND EDUCATION GATHERED FROM YEARS OF LIVING AS A REFUGEE SHOULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE UPON RETURN. REFUGEES WHO RETURN HOME ALWAYS HAVE MANY IMPORTANT SKILLS AND MUCH KNOWLEDGE TO CONTRIBUTE.

IT IS GOOD THAT THERE IS PEACE AND THEY ARE COMING HOME, BUT I HOPE THEY DON'T BRING BACK DISEASES FROM THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THEY LIVED.
HERE IS SOME MORE INFORMATION ON HIV THAT WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS BACK IN YOUR VILLAGE.
THE END

HOW MUCH DID YOU LEARN? TAKE THE QUIZ AND FIND OUT.

① THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT REFUGEE RIGHTS AND HIV

	YES	NO
a) REFUGEES ENJOY THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AS ANYONE ELSE.	☐	☐
b) REFUGEES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE, SCHOOLING AND THE RIGHT TO WORK.	☐	☐
c) REFUGEES ALWAYS HAVE HIGHER HIV RATES THAN SURROUNDING HOST COMMUNITIES.	☐	☐

② WHICH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IS NOT A MODE OF HIV TRANSMISSION?

a) ☐ SEXUAL CONTACT
b) ☐ INJECTION DRUG USE AND SHARING NEEDLES
c) ☐ BLOOD
d) ☐ SHARING FOOD

③ DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY NO TO SEX? (choose one answer only)

a) ☐ YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY NO AT ALL TIMES.
b) ☐ YOU CANNOT SAY NO IF YOU HAVE ALREADY HAD SEX ONCE WITH THE PERSON.
c) ☐ YOU CANNOT CHANGE YOUR MIND AND SAY NO AFTER YOU HAVE AGREED TO HAVE SEX.

④ WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING OUT IF YOU HAVE HIV... (choose one answer only)

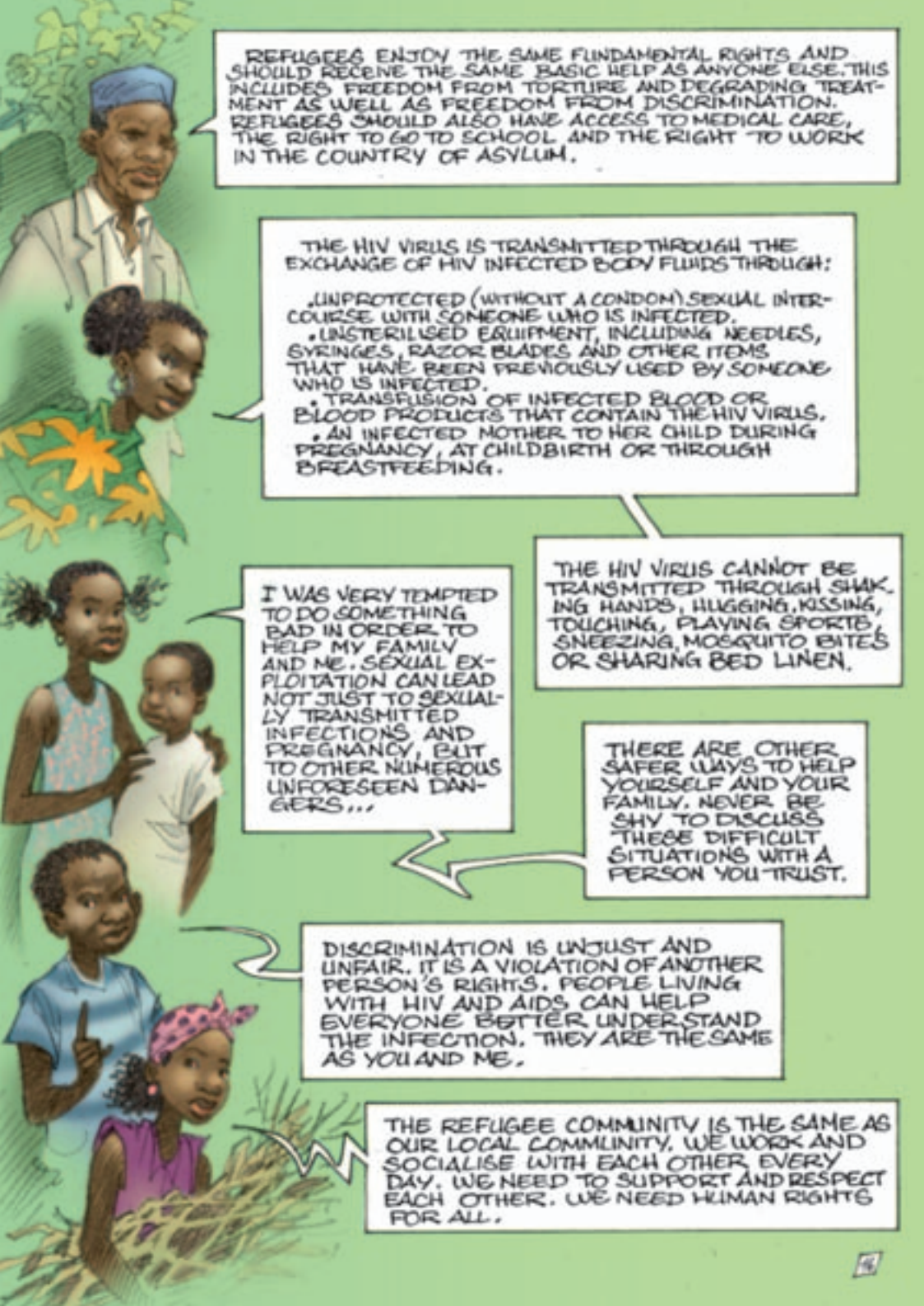
a) ☐ YOU WOULD BE BETTER OFF NOT TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE IT.
b) ☐ I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
c) ☐ YOUR HEALTH COULD BE BETTER IF YOU KNEW.

⑤ THERE IS NOTHING TO BE DONE IF A PERSON LEARNS HE/SHE HAS HIV.

TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

ANSWERS:

① a) YES b) YES c) NO ② d) ③ a) YES ④ c) ⑤ FALSE.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THE HIV VIRUS CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH SHAKING HANDS, HUGGING, KISSING, TOUCHING, PLAYING SPORTS, SNEEZING, MOSQUITO BITES OR SHARING BED LINEN.
I WAS VERY TEMPTED TO DO SOMETHING BAD IN ORDER TO HELP MY FAMILY AND ME. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CAN LEAD NOT JUST TO SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND PREGNANCY, BUT TO OTHER NUMEROUS UNFORESEEN DANGERS...
THERE ARE OTHER SAFER WAYS TO HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY. NEVER BE SHY TO DISCUSS THESE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS WITH A PERSON YOU TRUST.
DISCRIMINATION IS UNJUST AND UNFAIR. IT IS A VIOLATION OF ANOTHER PERSON'S RIGHTS. PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS CAN HELP EVERYONE BETTER UNDERSTAND THE INFECTION. THEY ARE THE SAME AS YOU AND ME.
THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY IS THE SAME AS OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. WE WORK AND SOCIALISE WITH EACH OTHER EVERY DAY. WE NEED TO SUPPORT AND RESPECT EACH OTHER. WE NEED HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL.

WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

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