



Speaking from Experience *Living with HIV/AIDS*

Transcript for chapter 5 of 10: The AIDS stigma

Kevin - There were times that I'd go out for a drink and someone would pick you in a pub or a bar and say, "You've got AIDS."

Michael - I have encountered subtle discrimination. I am certainly aware that there is a stigma. People I know have experienced overt discrimination.

Kevin - It doesn't make you feel good at all. It hits home, really badly. I just can't cope with that. It stops me from going out for weeks on end.

Geoffrey - I think there's been a lot of change that's gone on over the last 6-7 years. Especially with things like the Disability Discrimination Act. That's made it much easier for people with HIV to feel more comfortable with themselves and also to be protected by law.

David - I usually had the 'coffee cup' jokes, and so forth, at work very early on. People didn't understand. When people found out that I was positive, when I actually spoke on-to-one with people, I found everyone was accepting.

Spike - I was on a blind date and had this person actually jumping up and screaming, in a public arena, something along the lines of, "You AIDS infected faggot!" or something, when I discussed the fact that I was positive. That's the only direct discrimination I've had myself.