

## **Catholics for AIDS Prevention and Support**

Dear friends, Colleagues and Supporters,

With regret CAPS has today decided to cancel all HIV Peer support group meetings until further notice. People living with HIV are particularly vulnerable to infection with COVID-19, and are amongst those whom the govt. are advising to stay as 'socially-distant' or isolated as possible. We have judged the risks to health to outweigh benefits at this time. Our volunteers are willing to continue to provide peer support group meetings, but unfortunately none of us can be sure that we are not infected with COVID-19, and therefore we cannot take the risk that even those who are willing to help others in this way would pose a risk to the health of our members.

CAPS will institute an alternative strategy for Pastoral support. We intend to increase tel. contact with existing members, especially for those known to be especially vulnerable.

We are acutely aware that as other HIV voluntary sector and state services are suspended, many of our families with children, the poorest, most socially isolated, physically frail, older or psychologically vulnerable members, will need more support, not less, at this time. Therefore, where we identify serious and urgent pastoral need personal support visits may be made by our team and Positive Catholics community volunteers, following a risk assessment, on a case by case basis.

**Should you know of individuals or families in need who are also affected by HIV directly, they can still contact us via our tel. helpline 07505608655 or our website <https://caps-uk.org/> or via email [info@positivecatholics.com](mailto:info@positivecatholics.com) We continue to provide pastoral support as best we can at this time.**