

## The AIDS crisis and the founding of Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe

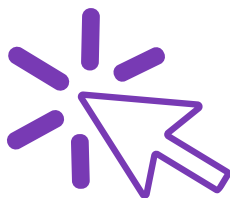


September 23rd, 1983

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In the early 1980s, AIDS was a new, nameless and cruel disease that initially affected and killed mainly gay and bisexual men. AIDS support groups were founded in many places in Germany to counter the threat of repression against the gay community and to educate the population. On 23 September 1983, Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe was founded. It is thanks to the then Federal Minister of Health, Rita Süßmuth, that the fight against AIDS in Germany was based on education and personal responsibility rather than coercive measures. AIDS support organisations quickly developed into central and recognised players in counselling, prevention and disease management. For a long time, the gay community was traumatised by the high death rate. The drug AZT, which had not yet been thoroughly researched, caused severe side effects. It was not until 1996 that life-prolonging combinations of active ingredients (ART) came onto the market, triggering both hope and scepticism. ART brought countless seriously ill people back to life.

**For more information click here!**



Source: <https://www.aidshilfe.de/de>