

Ruth Esther Webb BVetMed MRCVS

Chairman European Coalition of Positive People

I graduated from The Royal Veterinary College, University of London, June in 1986 as a Veterinary Surgeon, and then worked in mixed practice in Devon until the end of 1987. In 1988 I moved to Malawi to work as a government vet with responsibility for the Central Region of the country, including Public Health, in particular Rabies Control. In 1989 I went with my husband to Nepal where I ran a First Aid Clinic for quarry workers in Nepal before returning to UK to work as a veterinary surgeon in general practice until 1994. I was diagnosed with HIV in 1993, and stopped working as a vet in 1994 to care for my husband. I set up HINTS newsletter with my husband, and ran this until 1998. In 1999 I joined the Board of the UK Coalition of Positive People and became Chairman in September 1999, staying until August 2002.

I have been Chairman of the European Coalition of Positive People since it was set up. I continue to be a member of a number of community HIV organisations including ICW, GNP+ and EATG. I was a community member on the BHIVA Executive Committee February 2000-August 2002 during which time I was involved in the rewriting of the BHIVA pregnancy guidelines. I have been a community representative on the Royal College of GP's HIV Working Party since 2000, and have also been a community member on West Sussex HIV Forum since its inception

I have attended numerous HIV and health conferences including the International AIDS Conferences in Vancouver, Geneva and Durban and have written pieces for Positive Nation in relation to the conferences and other important issues. I have also continued to be involved in training healthcare workers and community members in HIV matters both in UK and abroad.

I am the mother of two healthy girls - Sarah, born February 1998, and Anna, born May 2000.