



## MINURCAT HIV/AIDS UNIT

### The Red Ribbon



The Red Ribbon is an international symbol worn by many people to express solidarity with HIV/AIDS victims.

#### Background

The Red Ribbon was created by *Visual Aids Artists Caucus* (a group of American Artists) and Franck Moore (an artist who lives and works in New York) to be worn close to the heart aimed at expressing solidarity with HIV/AIDS victims. The idea originated from the yellow ribbon often exhibited by American families for the safe return of their relatives from war.

During the Gulf war in 1991, Franck Moore was surprised to see so many people wearing the yellow ribbon exhibiting their hope for the safe return of their loved ones. He then came with the idea of the red ribbon in memory of the 130,000 people who had died of AIDS and to show support to the struggle against AIDS.

#### Help and Understanding

The Red Ribbon worn by an increasing number of people throughout the world clearly demonstrates our support and understanding to HIV/AIDS victims: those who are sick, those who have died as well as their loved ones.

#### Hope

The Red Ribbon is a symbol of hope.  
The color red represents blood.  
The shape represents infinite life shattered too early.

The Red Ribbon is worn as an upsidedown V with the hope that it will be conquered one day and then, it may be reversed upward showing the V for victory.

To wear a red ribbon is the first step towards conquering the HIV/AIDS plague. It can be worn anytime, especially during the HIV/AIDS World Day. The second step towards the struggle against the HIV/AIDS would be to contact the HIV/AIDS Unit or the United Nations Clinic.

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