



Invisible Lives **HIV on the Fringes of Society**

Colet van der Ven

Adriaan Backer

Foreword by Peter Piot

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- A powerful plea to break through the taboo surrounding HIV and AIDS in stigmatised high-risk groups
- Portraits of people with HIV and AIDS in the most vulnerable subcultures
- Unique series of reports from all over the world with intimate and powerful photographs
- Appears in the run-up to the International Aids Conference in Amsterdam from 23 to 27 July 2018

With the exception of Africa, the highest percentage of HIV infections are found in high-risk groups such as drugs users, prostitutes, the transgender community, gay men, street children or prisoners. They encounter more stigmatisation and discrimination than other groups, which makes it harder for aid to reach them. Writer Colet van der Ven and photographer Adriaan Backer travelled around the world to give these people a voice: women in patriarchal Tadjikistan, victims of political violence in Kenya, black homosexuals in the deeply religious southern states of America, transgenders in India, (ex-)prisoners in South Africa and drug users in Myanmar. They also interviewed a representative of the first generation of AIDS patients in the Netherlands and a female refugee in the Ukraine.

Colet van der Ven worked for many years in international aid organisations, in India and Haiti among other countries. Since 1985 she has written for various Dutch newspapers and journals. She has published nine books, including *Het kwaad en ik* (Evil and I), an exploration into the roots of violence. She has also worked as a radio and television presenter. Adriaan Backer has been active for twenty years now as a documentary photographer. He has worked for several relief organisations and his photographs have appeared in various daily newspapers and weeklies. Together with Ricus Dullaert he produced *A Call to Witness*, about AIDS in South Africa. With Colet van der Ven he published *Slagschaduwen, erfenis van een koloniaal verleden* (Cast shadows, legacy of a colonial past) on the traces left by slavery in present-day Curacao. Foreword is by international AIDS expert Peter Piot.