

Headline	Do not disclose unnecessary information		
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## *Do not disclose unnecessary information*

**I** REFER to a report on a news portal which highlighted that a 43-year-old single mother, who was sent to the gallows for drug trafficking, was HIV positive.

Not only is it improper to freely discuss an individual's personal medical situation but it is also a violation of human rights.

Those who reveal such confidential information should carefully consider their grounds for doing so and be clear that there is either consent, lawful authority or some public interest justification.

The writer, newspaper or online portal should not disclose any more information than is absolutely necessary.

The subject should be made aware of the disclosure and informed why you are disclosing the information.

Nobody should know anything about you without your consent. Professionals, like writers and journalists, should be in the forefront to stop the stigma and discrimination against those who have AIDS and are HIV positive.

Together, we can make a difference.

**Isaac Tan**, Kuala Lumpur