

## LOVE LINES *Continued from page 82*

Building a local network of friends can be tough. "It's been really daunting making friends here," says Camille Acey, who lives in Radovljica with her Slovenian partner. "I am outgoing, but friendships here are built on something else, and I think that something else is time."

As intimidating as the challenges seem, the rewards can be significant.

### RESOURCES

To learn more about these ladies and their experiences abroad, check out their blogs.

- Whitney Love's blog [vakkerkvinne.blogspot.com](http://vakkerkvinne.blogspot.com)
- Camille Acey's blog [wheelville.blogspot.com](http://wheelville.blogspot.com)
- Carolyn Vines' Blog [blackandabroad.com](http://blackandabroad.com)
- Rosalind Cummings-Yeates [RosalindCummingsYeates.com](http://RosalindCummingsYeates.com)
- Black Women in Europe [blackwomenineurope.com](http://blackwomenineurope.com)

Learning she could thrive in a whole different culture is one of the rewards Carolyn Vines found. For 12 years, she and her husband have lived in Voorschoten, Netherlands; she is currently penning a book about her experiences.

Opportunities to understand different cultures as well as raise children in a multi-ethnic environment have more and more black women seeking love abroad. "I'd encourage anyone who is thinking of making a move abroad to study the country they're considering to learn more about everyday life there," advises Tara Bradley, who resides in Hampshire, England, with her spouse.

Finding someone who connects with you on every level can be difficult. Finding him or her halfway across the globe? Not so fulfilling at first. But realizing there's no other place you'd rather be than with that person is priceless. "The odds of a successful relationship are greater if you share a common background and goals, but who's to say you can't find similar values across ethnic groups?" Cummings-Yeates notes. "It just takes a little effort and an adventurous spirit." ♥

*Lola Akinmade is moving to Europe soon.*

### MUSSENIA

#### ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

3.1%

**1 WAY TO HELP:** In Africa's most populous country, 2.6 million people have HIV or AIDS and 1.2 million children have lost one or both parents to the disease. Donate money or supplies to the Lady Mitz Foundation ([ladymitz.org](http://ladymitz.org)), an HIV-awareness nonprofit founded by Nigerian-American fashion designer Mercy Adamma Egbuchulam-Onyianta.

### SENEGAL

#### ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

1%

**ARRESTED FOR AIDS WORK:** Last year nine activists from a leading AIDS service organization were arrested for distributing condoms to men who have sex with men and sentenced to eight years for what law enforcement deemed an "indecent act against nature." Although the workers were freed on appeal in April, the arrests still haunt people who work with stigmatized populations.

**2 WAYS TO HELP:** Support Alliance Nationale Contre le SIDA ([ancs.sn](http://ancs.sn)). Also, donate to Family Health International ([fhi.org](http://fhi.org)), which runs treatment, education and microfinance programs for people with HIV.

### SIERRA LEONE

#### ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

1.7%

**GOOD NEWS:** Sierra Leone has a relatively low HIV rate among adults. Experts haven't pinpointed why, but suspect its 80 percent circumcision rate—a regional high—makes men less vulnerable to contracting HIV.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Seven years after its horrific decade-long civil war, Sierra Leone is focused on preventing new HIV infections and treating existing ones.

## MAPPING AIDS *Continued from page 69*

**1 WAY TO HELP:** Donate to All As One ([allasone.org](http://allasone.org)), a Sierra Leone nonprofit that gives medical care, shelter and education to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, war and the blood diamond trade.

### TOGO

#### ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

3.3%

**HOMOPHOBIA AND HIV:** Togo is one of 36 African countries where homosexual acts are illegal. As a result Togolese men who have sex with men (MSM) are denied even basic HIV education.

**1 WAY TO HELP:** Donate to Population Services International ([psi.org](http://psi.org)), which tailors HIV awareness, peer education training, counseling and testing to Togolese MSM.

### ISLANDS

### COMOROS

#### ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

.1%

### MADAGASCAR

#### ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

.1%

**1 WAY TO HELP:** Support the International AIDS Alliance ([aidsalliance.org](http://aidsalliance.org)), a global nonprofit that backs community organizations like Madagascar's FIZIMORE, which fights for HIV-positive sex workers.

### SEYCHELLES

#### ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

.3% ♥

*\*Countries not included in this feature (Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Reunion, Canary Islands, Saint Helena, Western Sahara) provided no data. Akiba Solomon, a New York City-based freelance editor and writer, spent months chasing down this story. She is co-editor of Naked: Black Women Bare All About Their Skin, Hair, Hips, Lips and Other Parts.*