



Deco Ribeiro, Brazil

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Deco Ribeiro is a young gay man who leads several other gay and lesbian youths in projects to fight AIDS in Brazil. Through a website that he created with and for these teenagers, <http://E-jovem.com>, **Deco** hopes to give information and support to those kids who are coming to terms with their own sexuality and find out that they don't share the same sexual orientation of everyone else. The work was done only by virtual means from 2001 until 2004, but this year **Deco** has brought his network of gay and lesbian youths to life: the *E-jovem Group* is now organized in several cities of the country, and it's involved in real - not virtual - actions against AIDS and discrimination. The *E-jovem Group* has headquarters in Campinas, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba, Florianopolis and at the capital, Brasilia. An estimated 1,000 young men and women participate in this project, be it on the internet or in the real world. "Being gay can be better than you think," is one of his favourite phrases.