

FEMALE CONDOMS in Zimbabwe

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International Community of Women

Living with HIV and AIDS (ICW)

PREVENTION

- 1.6 million Zimbabweans are HIV positive, 62% whom are women, making it clearly visible that women are at a greater risk of HIV
- Thus preventive methods such as the female condom and microbicides are greatly needed.
- Prevent re-infection
- Prevent unplanned pregnancies
- Prevent against STIs
- Prevent infecting partners

PROTECTION

- Access to female condoms will make women more confident about their intimate/sex life
- They will not be deprived of what HIV negative women can have
- Sexual independence

ACCEPTABILITY

- Both men and women liked the idea of dual contraception and protection
- *“it is associated with femininity, spontaneity and independence because it is something that does not need an erect penis to be inserted”* anonymous
- In rural areas very few have used it but several women (93%) liked the condom, especially young women between 20-39 years
- 98% felt it very important to have their own female condom

SOLID TRUTH

Opportunities

- Lesser HIV infections as well other STIs
- Empowerment of women
- Mostly distributed in hair salons
- Women are free to express themselves sexually.

Challenges

- Positive response but male centered
- Not enough information in remote/rural areas
- Stigma still associated with women carrying condoms
- Cultural barriers
- Second option
- Availability