

● = changes or additions

TRANSCRIPT
SIDE BY SIDE:
WOMEN AGAINST AIDS IN ZIMBABWE

SCENE: WOMAN SINGING (Shona): We have used all kinds of drugs, doctors, and traditional healers, all have failed. AIDS is incurable.

SCENE: MONTAGE OF WOMEN, WITH ON-SCREEN TEXT AT FREEZE FRAMES:

In Zimbabwe, it is estimated that one in ten people carries the AIDS virus.

In most African countries, the burden of the disease falls most heavily upon women.

Faced with this crisis, women are uniting to seek new strategies to halt the spread of the disease.

TITLE (over women at pump):

SIDE BY SIDE: WOMEN AGAINST AIDS IN ZIMBABWE

SCENE: SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING DAY, KUWADZANA TOWNSHIP (English)

Schoolchildren sing: *AIDS gonna kill. Beware!* (Repeated several times.)

Schoolgirl: We want to tell you about AIDS

Schoolchildren: What is AIDS?

Schoolgirl: AIDS is spread by having many sexual partners, if you are a man by having many girlfriends, if you are a woman by having many boyfriends.

Anatolia (Shona): Good afternoon, parents, I am back again. The children have just presented a play about AIDS. Others may see it as just a play, but every day at our hospitals people are dying of AIDS. AIDS cannot be ignored...

SCENE: TISA'S GROUP IN REHEARSAL DANCING AND SINGING

SCENE: MEETING OF WOMEN AND AIDS SUPPORT NETWORK (English)

Sunanda (Voice Over): Tisa Chifunyise and Anatolia Mushaya are basically involved in AIDS education activities apart from their routine, everyday work, but come together for meetings of the Women and AIDS Support Network to share ideas and their experiences.

Sunanda (English): But as a women's group, we also have to take on board the attitude that people have had, for instance, of women as people who spread the infection, okay.

Tisa: When it comes to the attitude toward AIDS itself it makes it even more complicated, because as Sunanda said, um, the impression that we have is that it's, it's, it's a women's disease and women cause it. And until society itself adopts the attitude that it's everybody's area of responsibility, um, even if, even if people want to change, and, on, on an individual basis, if society at

large remains blaming one's, one group of society, I think the, the problem will be difficult to handle.

Valeria: As Zimbabweans, we need to unite, as women in society, in the community. We mustn't also adopt a defeatist attitude that we are not going to do anything about it. It's our responsibility, and we need to work together as a family.

SCENE: SUNANDA INTERVIEW

Sunanda (English): The Women and AIDS Support Network was primarily set up to, to give women information on how they could protect themselves. But also to try and foster a more supportive atmosphere towards women who were already infected. We found that many of the women who find that they're HIV Positive were very isolated, were very stigmatized. Uh, many of them lost their jobs if they were child-minders or whatever, and had very little to fall back on. And we felt that really a lot of the suffering they were going through was as a result of the kind of prejudice that was prevalent in, in our society at the time, so we really set out to try and counter-balance that.

SCENE: WASN MEETING

Patricia (English): We focus our, our activities as, as a group of ah, women, standing for women's rights to focus our activities ah, on women carrying out the action. Maybe we also need to involve the men. You know, maybe formulate strategies where we involve men in order to empower us.

Sunanda (English): Do we really expect, if, if men are in a position of power, do we really expect them, out of the kindness of their hearts, to, to empower us, you know, when it might be to their disadvantage. And in a sense that's why we've tried to focus on empowering ourselves, of actually saying that we have to take our strengths and build on them.

Anatolia (Shona): I think that it's the duty of each one of us here to find those who we think can help us spread AIDS awareness. What can we do, because we women suffer the most because of it? The people in high positions, do they understand this problem?

I'd like to challenge you all to do something about AIDS

SCENE: ANATOLIA WALKS IN TOWNSHIP, VISITS HIV POSITIVE BABY

(Shona)

Anatolia: Good afternoon.

Woman: Welcome.

Anatolia (Voice Over, English): I work for the Abandoned Babies Committee. It is a charitable organization working to prevent abandonment and infanticide. Baby-dumping is a problem, especially for single mothers who are HIV positive. Our outreach programme encourages HIV single mothers to keep their babies.

Anatolia: Does Kholani spend the day here?

Woman: His granny brought him back.

Anatolia: What has he come for?

Woman: He came to play.

Anatolia: Where does he stay?

Woman: There.

Anatolia: Hello, Pori. Get a bowl and we'll give him a bath. Hello, Prosper. Come, come, come. Get a bowl and put some water in it. Are you happy? Are you happy with granny? Didn't you notice he had messed himself?

Woman: No.

Anatolia: Where is his mother? Where is the soap?

Woman: We don't have any soap.

Anatolia: Wash him down then.

(They bathe the baby)

Anatolia: He's two years old, but can't walk. He has trouble sitting, too. Don't cry, my little one.

SCENE: TISA IN REHEARSAL WITH DRAMA GROUP

Tisa (Voice Over, English): The women rehearsing this play are all from the townships. They are interested in acting, but also want to draw attention to the AIDS threat. The play is aimed primarily at women's and youth groups.

SCENE: FUNGAI'S ROOM (English)

Anatolia: In this room we have come to see Fungai and Prudent. Prudent is her AIDS baby. And the father of Prudent promised to marry Fungai, but when Fungai had pregnancy, the father didn't like the pregnancy, because Fungai was on and off illness. So they decided to go to see a doctor, both of them. Fungai and the father of Prudent. So both of them were proved to be HIV Positive. So at the time when it came for Fungai to deliver, the same applied to the baby, as you can see now, the baby is also HIV Positive. So when the child was on and off illness, the husband chased her away. So Fungai had nowhere to go, because even her parents also were unable to take her back. So Fungai has got many problems. When she started coming to my office, trying to counsel her, she was raising some issues that she intended to kill herself, because the problems were many on her head.

(Fungai hands baby to Anatolia)

Anatolia: Ah, we tried our best as an organization of Abandoned Babies to let Fungai get support from the father of the child. But it's very impossible, because the father of the child is not working now. So for the maintenance to be processed, the husband must work, so Fungai has no means of supporting this baby, although the baby can't spend 2 days before, ah, be, before visiting the hospital, like this morning she was from the hospital, she was admitted yesterday in Harare Hospital. And she was discharged this morning. So it's on and off illness. As you know the clients of HIV Positive, they are never, they are never strong. They are always on, on, in, in the hospital. And her herself, now she has stomach trouble, she's ever coughing too. So we don't know when it will be AIDS, full-blown AIDS. And sometimes she cries, thinking, How is she going to care this baby.

Fungai (Anatolia translates):

Anatolia: Shelter for her is a problem and also the money to buy clothes or food, because now, although the baby is HIV Positive, but the medical doctors are saying, also the lack of nutritious foods are contribution to this continuous illness, especially for coughing and diarrhoea.

SCENE: BEER- HALL IN KUWADZANA TOWNSHIP (Shona):

Anatolia and Single Mothers singing: *AIDS cannot be cured, cannot be cured, cannot be cured.*

Anatolia (Voice Over, English): These single mothers- some of them are HIV Positive, and some are not. So when we were planning for our awareness campaign for the AIDS, they choose to perform in the beer hall, because they know that in the beer-hall men, after drinking, they leave their morals, and take the prostitutes and they don't use condoms- they are under the influence of the beer.

Men singing (Shona): *AIDS can be cured. Can be cured. Can be cured.*

Women singing: *AIDS cannot be cured, cannot be cured, cannot be cured.*

Single Mother (English): Greetings to you all. We are a group of women from Kuwadzana and we would like to act a drama for you which is about AIDS.

(Anatolia plays the part of a Traditional Healer.)

Anatolia: Ohh, it looks like my grandchildren had forgotten about me.

Nephew: Yes.

Anatolia: Tell her to come in.

Nephew: Alright, uncle. Uncle said you can come in.

Visitor: Alright. Hello, Grandfather.

Anatolia: Uh, uh hello my child.

Visitor: Hello, grandfather.

Anatolia: But why are you getting so thin?

Visitor: I really don't know, I am just getting thin and diarrhoea, I am just having diarrhoea but I don't know what is causing it.

Anatolia: Did you go to see the specialists?

Visitor: I told the specialists and they said that I have AIDS.

First Man in Crowd: (interrupts): I have got a question. I have got a question I would like to ask.

Second Man in Crowd: Go ahead and ask.

Third Man: Are you looking for trouble?

First Man: I want to ask something.

Third Man: Can't you see this is serious? Listen, you can ask her when she has finished. You can ask her when she is through. It doesn't help to get drunk and keep interrupting.

Fourth Man: Let's get on with the play.

(Play continues)

Anatolia (as Traditional Healer): Sit here, sit here, young man.

Young Man: I am not able to sleep.

Anatolia: You can't sleep.

Young Man: Because of problems with my health.

Anatolia: Diseases.

Young Man: My children lie in bed with diarrhoea all the time.

Anatolia: Diarrhoea.

Young Man: Coughing all the time....

Anatolia: You must lead your everyday life like you used to, do you understand me? This is a disease which has spread to many people's homes, do you hear me?

Fifth Man: This is AIDS, we thank you so much for teaching us about these things, because in future we'll control ourselves and not go running after other women.

Woman in crowd: If you men would just stay faithful, women wouldn't have to worry about AIDS.

(General argument)

(Freeze on sign, "No condoms, no sex")

SCENE: EDITORIAL OFFICE, PROBE MAGAZINE, HARARE, (English)

Tisa: What about just using that, the AIDS logo there?

Jeff: Without the-

Tisa: Without the two people.

Jeff: OK.

Tisa: I was thinking we should, we should find out a way of extending this, so that there isn't that sharp line also there, and that sharp line there.

Jeff: OK.

Tisa (To Camera): We started Probe magazine because we wanted to give a chance to teenagers to talk about issues that concern their own sexuality, their own development, both physically and emotionally, um, because culturally they are issues that they can't talk about to their parents.

SCENE: AIDS WORKSHOP, RURAL SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAHVUDZI

Tisa (English): What do you ask them, or what do you talk about? She's hiding behind there:

Girl 1 (Shona): They only say, Child, behave yourself properly at school. I just keep my mouth shut. [Laugh]

Tisa (English): How many of you have had discussions like that with your parents?

Teacher (English): What do they say? Speak.

Boy 1 (Shona): OK. My parents threaten me. They warn me that once you bring your girlfriend home, find yourself another place to live. This makes me think that I am still young and what would I do with a wife? That is a deterrent in itself, and it makes me behave. [Laughter]

Tisa (English): Do your parents know that you have a girlfriend?

Boy 1: Ah, no.

[Laughter]

Girl 2 (Shona): They talk about, If you come home pregnant, that's it. They don't tell me the details about sex. Only, "As you are going to school now, if you get pregnant, you can just pack up your belongings and leave".

[Clap]

Boy 1 (Shona): So doesn't that discourage you?

Girl 2 (Shona): No, what I am saying is, that's all they tell you.

Boy 1 (Shona): Well, isn't that enough?

Girl 2 (Shona): You don't know much about it, it's just "You, Boy, if you are going to school, then just forget about girls." (English) You are not told much about it.

SCENE: OFFICE OF PROBE MAGAZINE (English)

Tisa: How come we don't have any women talking in here?

Jeff: Ehh-

Tisa: There's only one-

Jeff: (Laugh) This is supposed to be a girl, a girl. This is a girl, and a boy.

Tisa: OK, can you make her hair longer-

Jeff: Okay.

Tisa: -so that she's clearly a woman- or maybe, or maybe give her some earrings?

Jeff: Yah, on this one, okay, I'll put the earrings, yah.

Tisa (to camera): So, we thought if we begin a magazine which gives them an opportunity to discuss those kinds of questions, um, then we would, we would be helping them develop their own way of thinking as well.

SCENE: ANATOLIA ON MINIBUS

Anatolia (Shona): What do you think, ladies and gentlemen? Have you heard about AIDS and HIV? Is there anyone who hasn't heard about the great disease?

First Man (English): How it affects...?

Anatolia (English): How it affects...

First Man (Shona): That is what is troubling us.

Anatolia (Shona): Is that what is troubling you? Okay, it is good for you to know. Most people think it's a disease of promiscuity. Gentlemen, I know we are created differently. And I know you cannot spend three months *more than 3 months* without a woman. If you abstain, you will feel a need for a woman. Perhaps that woman has AIDS. That is why we encourage you to use condoms.

First Man (Shona): So the best prevention is condoms?

Anatolia (Shona): For now, yes!

Second Man (Shona): Now we see Protector Condoms being sold...

Anatolia (Shona): Some time ago, they were free. They were donated by Canada, Norway, and other countries. Now they don't donate: people know the use of condoms. So if a person sees that condoms save his life, let him buy one.

Let's say you suffer from hard economic conditions : if you need condoms, we can give you them free. But if you have a regular job, like my husband, you can afford to pay. And you can earn more money to buy more condoms.

Second Man (Shona): Now I understand.

Anatolia (Shona): I'm glad you understand.

SCENE: OFFICE OF PROBE MAGAZINE (English)

Tisa: OK. This must be the last line, so bring it up to that line.

Tisa (to camera): We, we thought the issue of AIDS and AIDS education, just information they have access to, is something that the magazine can contribute. So every issue carries two pages on AIDS education.

(Probe clips)

Tisa: In this issue, we're working on an article which was the result of a discussion that we had at one of the workshops. Um, we are focusing on the question, Should people who have HIV be isolated?

SCENE: MAHVUDZI SECONDARY SCHOOL

A22 :

Tisa (English): The students who are HIV positive should be expelled from school.

First Girl (Shona): I would like to know about those that we say should be expelled. Are we supposed to mix with them when we know that they have AIDS? Answer me first before I proceed.

Second Boy (Shona): You, don't you know there are blood tests, that's where they are caught.

Third Boy (Shona): A person who suffers from AIDS is different from a leper who's isolated. If the student is expelled, where he or she goes there are also people. So there's no point in expulsion. Instead we should help people in such situations. If we expel them, this will cause increased mental stress. So I can't see the point of expelling them.

[Clap, clap]

Second Boy (English): Girls- they will propose love, and obviously they won't refuse, because they'll be looking for some people to give the virus. And, obviously they won't refuse, er, people will be tempted, because we can, we can find that people who have AIDS are the beautiful ones.

[Scornful laughter]

Second Boy: I'm trying to reduce the number of AIDS victims...

(General arguing)

Tisa (Voice Over, English): At the end of the discussion, we changed it from "People who are HIV positive should be isolated" to "If I were HIV positive, I should be isolated." And then it was interesting to see that the kids then were thinking, "Ah, why should I be isolated? What about my family? What would I do if nobody comes to see me?" And that was the stage where they actually started relating the disease and it's effects to themselves.

SCENE: ANATOLIA ON STREET (mainly Shona)

(Anatolia shows young man a packet of condoms)

Anatolia: Do you know how to use them?

First Man: Quite well.

Anatolia: How do you use them?

First Man: Ah, madam, do you think I can tell you?

Anatolia: Explain to the others.

Second Man: We open it like this.

First Man: Open it, please.

Second Man: We remove it from the pack, then we put it on.

Anatolia: Okay, you put it on.

Second Man: We put it on properly.

Anatolia: Yes.

Second Man (English): Then we start the business after all. Yaa.

Anatolia (English): Alright.

Second Man: Yes.

Anatolia (English): What do you do afterwards?

Second Man: You remove it.

Anatolia: Yes.

Second Man: You throw it where the children cannot play with it because otherwise they must, might get some diseases.

Anatolia: Yes.

Second Man: Somewhere like the toilet or anywhere but where the kids cannot play with it.

Anatolia: Where the kids cannot play with it.

Men: Yes.

Anatolia (English): Okay, you have missed one point.

Second Man: Yes.

Anatolia (English): After removing it, tie it at the back so that when it is in the toilet it doesn't contain water because sometimes it can block the toilet.

Please remember to tie it after use, or tell your wife to tie it.

Second Man: Okay.

Anatolia (English): If possible, if you have got a nice place, burn it.

Second Man (English): Okay.

Anatolia (English): Yes. And sometimes if you are feeling some irritations because some skins are very sensitive...

First Man (English): Yes.

Anatolia (English): Just put baby powder on your skin first then put it on. And I've got these booklets. No, this doesn't mean that because I am giving you this booklet, you already have AIDS, but prevention is better than cure. Do you want one?

Woman (English): Yes.

Man (English): Yes.

Anatolia: This booklet, our booklet has got information. The information is about the AIDS disease and we Africans are ashamed to talk about it, but we have got it.

Woman: Yes.

Anatolia: Maybe I, the one who is talking to you now, when I go for a blood test, I'll find I've got it, you never know. Maybe you fell sick, and you went for a blood test. This booklet teaches you how you must live, it encourages you to get a hold of yourself, you must not say I don't like this type of food, you must eat and don't start saying that you no longer need to exercise.

Woman: So when you are about to get it, how do you feel? What are the symptoms? How do you know that you have it or you don't?

Anatolia: OK. When you start feeling weak and losing appetite, that's when you start getting thin, can you hear me? Then maybe later you start getting stomach problems, diarrhoea.

Woman: Ohhh.

Third Man: Here. What about some condoms?

(Laughter)

SCENE: WASN MEETING (English)

Tisa: I think over the last three years we've noticed that in terms of talking about using condoms and whatever, people were very sensitive at the beginning, but now it's opening up much more.

Sunanda: Well, the use of condoms has gone up 800%. 800%. So somebody must be using them, somewhere. The issue though, is who they're using them with. I think we still have the struggle about men using condoms with their wives. So in a sense the success of the condom issue means that the girlfriends are protected, but the wives are not. You know, and that is still a big struggle for us.

SCENE: INSIDE TAXI (Shona)

Taxi-driver: We hear about AIDS. That's right. We hear them encouraging the use of condoms.

Anatolia: But do you use condoms in your family?

Taxi-driver: Well, being married, I don't see the need.

Anatolia: Condoms are not only used by those who are not married. Even a married person ought to use condoms.

SCENE: WASN MEETING (English)

Sunanda: You know, our whole program depends on making sure that even if people have, you know, have other partners, or even with their regular partner, at least if they're using condoms, it will cut down transmission. When people come and ask us, you know, like in the health field they say, you know, what actions do you think would, you know, on a mass campaign level, would really make a difference, we say, one is free easy access to condoms.

SCENE: ON BUS (Shona)

Anatolia: As your grandmother who loves you so much, I have decided to bring you some condoms as presents. Is there anyone here who likes using condoms?

(Babble)

First Man: Can I have one?

Anatolia: This one is for a BIG man! Now let's help each other against this disease.

Second Man: Can you bring some here?

Third Man: She's coming.

SCENE: INSIDE TAXI

Anatolia: (English) Oh, when I was from home this morning, um, some men who were in that bus which we took yesterday, they started saying, Mrs. Mushaya, we are no more calling you Mrs, Mushaya, but Mrs. Condoms! Then I laughed, and started giving them some more condoms, plus a booklet.

Taxi driver (Shona): I admire your commitment.

Anatolia (English): And in my family there are some cases, some who lost their husbands; like my young sister, she lost the husband, and now I am carrying, it's a burden in my family, and I've got many relatives who passed away because of this AIDS, so it's a challenge really, in my life. So I'm devoted to talk, and I don't have any shyness to talk about it. (Shona) Shyness doesn't help when there are lives to be saved.

Taxi driver (Shona): People have to be told these things to save their lives.

Anatolia (Shona): Yes, that's true. Which road shall we take?

SCENE: SUNANDA INTERVIEW (English)

Sunanda: The major way in which the AIDS epidemic will have to be fought is by very fundamental changes in behavior. Now this means taking more responsibility in relationships, which can include both using condoms in casual relationships and in permanent relationships, like marriage. But also that people go into their relationships with the attitude that they're going to be

long term, and they're going to be faithful. Rather than, as in the past, where, uh, people had expectations of having multiple relationships.

SCENE: GLEN NORAH PLAYERS IN CAR SINGING

(Glen Norah Players sing "Side by Side" in the car as they travel to the Women Writers' Workshop in Chivu)

Tisa (Voice Over): We have travelled all over the country with our AIDS play. Now, we are visiting the Women Writers' Workshop in Chivu. Through their poems and stories the women share their problems and look for solutions.

WOMEN WRITERS' WORKSHOP- ARRIVAL SONG IN SHONA

SCENE: INTERDENOMINATIONAL MEETING OF CHURCH WOMEN, MUFAKOSE TOWNSHIP

Hymn.

SCENE: WOMEN WRITERS' WORKSHOP, CHIVU

Glen Norah Players sing (Shona)

Here comes AIDS,

The disease is here.

Here comes AIDS,

The disease is here .

If you are not careful, you will perish, the disease is here.

SCENE: PLAY PERFORMANCE. TISA PLAYS "AUNTIE" (Shona)

Auntie: Hello, hello

(They spread cloth on ground for Auntie to sit on)

First Player: How is your husband?

Auntie: He keeps on beating me. Says I must get out of the house. I was in the hospital, and the doctor said I had that disease. When I got back home-

Chenai: Which disease, Auntie?

Tisa: - when I got back home and told my husband, my God! He was furious. He shouted and shouted. I wish I hadn't told him. Why did I tell him?

Chenai: Auntie, do you have AIDS?

Second Player: Chenai! Keep quiet! Go outside!

Auntie: Oh no, please-

Second Player: A kid like you butting in on grown-ups' talk!

Auntie: Please, sister, I haven't seen her for a long time and I haven't had time to talk to her yet.

Second Player: No, Auntie, the girl has got no manners

Third Player: Auntie, did you say you had AIDS?

Auntie: Yes, that's why he sent me away. Do you know, brother? I kept the family for him? I've been looking after his relatives. I've looked after so many people for him.

AID

Second Player:
Chenai, find
that mat
for Auntie
to sit on.

Second Player: Sister, do you have to cry? I know that's what all husbands do. Even though he told you otherwise, he's going to come for you, so don't worry. It'll soon be over.

Auntie: This is very painful for me.

Second Player: Oh, please, Auntie. Men are very hardhearted, Auntie. You have to be strong, and don't be discouraged.

Everything will come out alright. Don't upset yourself. (English) Everything will be alright.

Auntie: How can it be alright, when I can't even go home?

Second Player: It will blow over.

Auntie: I was thinking that I could stay for a few days, while I sort out what to do next.

Third Player: Can't you see, Auntie, it's very difficult. This house is very small, we have children here. So it is impossible for you to stay here.

Auntie: You and I, we came from the same mother. Now you tell me I can't stay here.

Third Player: Auntie! It's not that we don't want you to stay. It's the disease.

Second Player: We've got kids here.

Auntie: So, what about the children?

Third Player: It's not a good idea for you to stay here.

Auntie: I'm going. But one day you'll think of me. I'm going.

Second Player: Auntie, wait!

Auntie: Why should I wait?!

Third Player: How can you go without having something to eat? Wait!

Second Player: Baba Chenai, how can you say things like that? What! You wanted her to stay here?!

Chenai: Mother, did you say Auntie has got AIDS?

Second Player: Chenai! We didn't say that! She said it herself! DON'T SIT THERE!!

(Audience laughter)

Second Player: We have to burn this mat. It must be burnt!

SCENE: CHURCH INTERIOR. HYMN ENDS (Shona)

Anatolia: I greet you all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Congregation: Amen.

Anatolia: I felt I had to be here on this day, so that I could share with you what is in my heart, to be a witness for you, concerning how to survive these days. Most of us think that most of those who die from AIDS are prostitutes. Many believe that if they go to a traditional healer, and he makes small cuts on the skin and rubs in medicine, they will be cured. But you don't know who else has been using that razor blade. Do you understand me, Mothers? I could have AIDS, but wouldn't know it unless I took a blood test. All of us here, if we took a test, could have AIDS.

• and those who frequent them. Mother, you don't get AIDS only from prostitutes

SCENE: WOMEN WRITERS' WORKSHOP, CHIVU (Shona)

Tisa: We have shown in the play how families react when stricken with AIDS. This is one of the ways to share problems, to write them down - this play is a vehicle for ideas. When a person has contracted AIDS, he or she can live for sometimes 8 years. What can we do to help them live a little longer, and enable him or

• if AIDS attacks a family member, how can the family work together to fight it? Not that we can cure it -

• sometimes

her to provide for the family before death intervenes. What should be done when any member of the family becomes infected with AIDS? These days condoms are now available for use as a means of protection against AIDS. But if you know that you are infected with AIDS ... (Switch to English)... it's very important that you must avoid whatever to get more germs into your body. But there are times when you know that your husband is there and you can't avoid being with him. But if your husband is understanding enough, you know that if you use condoms, you are protecting yourselves together, (Shona, then back to English) so that you don't get any more, and he doesn't get any more from you. (Shona) It is very difficult. Is there something that can be done?

SCENE : CHURCH

Anatolia (Shona): How many of you have shunned other people's homes because someone has AIDS? How many have rejected a relative with AIDS? Is that what Christians do? Are these not those who on Judgment Day will rise up and say, "You saw me sick and helped me not? You saw me hungry and you fed me not?" As Christians, what can we do?

SCENE: WOMEN WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Tisa (Voice Over, English): The Women Writer's workshop has been working on a project writing on AIDS. All these women are directly involved, and many of them have lost close relatives. Most of their husbands work in town, away from home sometimes for as long as four months, and in town they form new sexual relationships, and as a result, when the men come home, their wives fear that they will be infected.

SCENE: WOMEN READING THEIR POETRY

First Writer (Shona): "The truth will prevail. Everything has fallen apart. Oh, father of my child, what's the matter, why do you ignore me when we are together? Whenever I visit you in Harare, you just ignore me. You have hurt me, my husband"

"Be calm, my wife, and listen to the truth. I am reluctant to sleep with you, my dear. It is these casual relationships I have been having, which I never thought would end up like this.

"For us to be together is out of the question. I am afraid of passing this disease on to you. I don't want our children to become orphans."

Second Writer (English): "A disease killer, my name is AIDS - a virus into your blood - I can enter through your veins, or fluids - no specialist to me - my treatment is to kill. Who is going to be the liberator? Nobody else will, except God." By Constance Mangwanya.

Third writer (Shona): "If you respect me, I will respect you. In the beer-halls, where you enjoy yourselves - watch out for your lives."

Fourth Writer (Shona): At every Women Writers' meeting, we are starting to write down our domestic problems. Let's organize our homes together, let's

look after ourselves as women. Wherever you go, mothers are in the vanguard of development.

SCENE: SUNANDA INTERVIEW

Sunanda (to camera, English): We are all women in the same situation. You know, whether it was in our past, or whether it's in our present conditions, we have been exposed one way or the other, whether through our work, or our relationships or whatever, to, to the HIV infection, and that we're together in this, and that, you know, through solidarity with one another we will try and overcome. We may not be able to overcome the infection, but we can overcome the repercussions of the infections.

AIDS Day March and credits