

SEEDS OF HOPE: FROM RISK TO ACTION

Timecode	Speaker	Dialogue
0:00:53	Haregewoine Teshome, Girl's Club Member	If a woman says no to sex, she shouldn't have sex. They don't know they have this right. A woman generally doesn't stand up for herself. Her education is minimal, and she lacks a source of income, so she is forced to rely on a man.
0:01:15	Commercial Sex Worker	The education is now being given to women. Everyone knows about AIDS. But in practice, there is fear. Let's let go of fear and be bold.
0:01:29	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	It's spreading like wildfire. It's good if we can stop it there, if we can smother the fire with leaves. The only way to do this is to raise awareness of the problem.
0:01:56	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's Rights Attorney	As Ethiopians, we are proud of several cultural traits. The culture of supporting each other, having pride...and standing up for our beliefs. On the other hand, we also have traditions that aren't helpful to fight this disease. In Ethiopia, evidence shows 60% of those with AIDS are women and only 40% are men. Why is this so? it is because women don't take care of themselves? Or is it because women don't have power and are vulnerable? My answer is that women's vulnerability exposes them to the disease. So this problem is linked with the issue of women's status.
0:03:10	Haregewoine Teshome, Girl's Club Member	In my home, my parents are educated and aware, but they put a different standard on me than on my brother.
0:03:22	Kassahun Shiferaw, FGAE (Nazareth)	Currently, fewer girls than boys participate (in anti-AIDS clubs). Girls don't attend for many reasons. They have a heavy job burden, or they are under family supervision.
0:03:38	Haregewoine Teshome, Girl's Club Member	My parents say a girl shouldn't be out after 6pm. As they began to understand, they stopped objecting.
0:03:46	Woman in T-Shirt (white/blue)	The Girls' Club is beneficial, especially for its members. When one of us shares what she knows about being mistreated, her life becomes a lesson. We learn from each other and this is very useful.
0:04:06	Participant	I tell others to let me know of women who are troubled, who are having problems, to tell them there is a Girl's Club. I tell them to bring these women, and that a lot of work needs to be done in the Club.
0:04:40	Woman in Purple Suit	When men come to us, they don't look married or like they have kids. They want us to be concubines, or mistresses. They want to stay with us. I have met many such men.

0:04:46	Woman in T-Shirt (white/blue)	More than the women who work in bars (sex workers), it's girls in the neighborhood, who go out with boys, who lack the courage to speak (about safe sex).
0:04:56	Girl with Long Braids	There's this guy who follows me around and seems very curious. He asks with amazement " Are you still a virgin?" This makes me more resistant. I have feelings like everyone else. I would like to have sex. But there is a right time for it.
0:05:36	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's rights Attorney	At the college level, there are very few women. So, their income is restricted and most of them work at home. They have so much work, especially in the countryside. They are pushed into working 15 hours a day, but their work is not valued. It's not reflected in the nation's economy.
0:06:05	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	When I was in 9th grade, at 14, I was given away in marriage. While I was with my husband I continued school to 12th grade. Three days before the 12th grade exam, I gave birth to twins. With help from the health center, I was able to sit for the exam. I was expecting to get good grades, but I wasn't able to. My scores were very low. Since I have been living in this area, I have not been able to continue my education, or get a paying job. So I lead a country life, but thanks to God, I am raising my children.
0:07:19	Eden Teshome, Sex Worker Empowerment Project	The way I felt about sex workers before I got involved in this project, is very different from how I feel now. Although I didn't dislike them, I never understood the reasons that force them to lead this life. They come from rural areas due to various pressures -- such as marrying young, having an unwanted pregnancy, the death of parents, peer pressure, or being forced into that kind of life.
0:08:03	Commercial Sex Worker	My mother fought with her first husband, so she came to Addis Ababa. She had to raise four kids on her own, selling firewood and leaves. We struggled in this kind of life for a while. Since I am female and the oldest, there were many pressures and expectations on me. I had friends around here, so I hung out with them. I began roaming the streets. I was in grade six when I was at my mom's house. I went through grade 12 as a sex worker.
0:08:43	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's Rights Attorney	When we interview girls, we learn men are not willing to use condoms. We ask, "If men won't use condoms why do you do this work?" They say, " How else can we live?" " We and our families will go hungry if we don't."
0:09:08	Commercial Sex Worker	Some say they don't want condoms; some hit us. They stay over and steal from under my pillow in the morning. What they do is so different from humans. They show different behavior.
0:09:25	Eden Teshome, Sex Worker Empowerment Project	The women face abuse in the neighborhood and by police. It's a very sad situation.

0:09:35	Commercial Sex Worker 2	One morning at six a.m., some kids came and told us our friends had been captured. So me and my friend went out to find them. We followed them to the police station gate. I was in thin pajamas. The police noticed me, at the entrance. They said, "We looked for you, thanks for coming right here." They let me in, and eight of them beat me.
0:10:36	Samson Bekele, Sociologist & Registered Nurse	As for HIV prevention, there are few resources for finding out about HIV status, for voluntary testing. We have plans to arrange it, but services need to be in place. Services such as pre-test, post-test and follow-up counseling, and social, psychological, and economic support are essential.
0:11:12	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's rights Attorney	People are asking about testing before marriage. Women are pushing to understand their status. This is not always easy. Women may have to ask permission from their husbands. Or they might, after getting tested, be afraid to share the results. Husbands may ask, "Where did it come from?" or "Who's responsible?" So there is fear.
0:11:52	HIV+ Association Member	A counselor at the hospital urged me to get tested, because I had some physical symptoms. Most people believe with AIDS, a small wound will grow, or if they get sick, it will only get worse and kill them. But I got sick and then better, so I thought I was free of HIV. The counselor gave me money and I got tested, I gave blood and found out right away. I had no money, I spent it all on medical treatment. I just shut myself inside and cried. I stopped eating and wasn't happy. I didn't want to go out or go to church. My husband is negative. My son got tested and is negative. I don't know the status of my four-year-old daughter. In some families, the mother throws the daughter out. The parents tell her to take the disease back to where she got it. This isn't right, it isn't part of our culture.
0:13:15	HIV+ Association Member	We didn't ask for this illness. People should give us love, and embrace us, not shun us. Pointing at somebody is awful.
0:14:09	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's rights Attorney	From the very beginning, I've always had a passion for human rights. So some friends and I founded the Ethiopian Women Lawyer's Association, to focus on women's rights. Of the many issues we work on, violence against women is the main one. What comes to mind is beating and rapes. In relation to young girls, it's a big problem. What makes the issue even worse, is that through no fault of their own, girls become vulnerable to contracting the AIDS disease.
0:14:52	Haregewoine Teshome, Girl's Club Member	How we got started in creating this drama was through being aware of women's problems in our city. Women come to the city to find work, seeking a better life. They go to job placement agents, looking for work. Very often, these agents rape them.
0:15:20	Male Actor	Why the hell are you here?

0:15:22	Actress	Sir, now...
0:14:25	Male Actor	What are you doing here?!
0:15:30	Actress	What power do I have to say anything?
0:15:37	Dr. Erias Mulugeta	We had discussions with people from different regions. We talked about their thoughts on rape. They believed and knew that rape happens often. Most of the men said that women are responsible. They said, "The way she dressed was inappropriate...and this provoked me to have sex." This is accepted as normal, especially with virgin girls. Some people believed that virgins should be raped. For example, some felt that if a girl goes out at night, she is willing to have sex. This view was shared both by men and women. The sad thing is after rape is committed, due to shame and embarrassment, girls will not inform their parents or anyone else, about it.
0:15:55	Nardos Abebe, Girls' Club Member FGAE	Most of us women living in the city are fooled by money. We just go with men who have cars and money.
0:17:10	Nardos Abebe as Actress	Even today, with another woman.
0:17:15	Nardos Abebe, Girls' Club Member FGAE	The character I play was fooled. She slept with him not knowing his background.
0:17:23	Nardos Abebe as Actress	I'm sorry. You have ruined my life. Maybe you have also destroyed lives of many other women. How many women's hopes you have darkened.
0:17:40	Actor	What are you talking about?
0:17:42	Nardos Abebe as Actress	Do I know any other man besides you?
0:17:45	Actor	I don't know you.
0:17:46	Nardos Abebe as Actress	You don't know me? You don't know me? Of course you don't need me now. You have given me the AIDS virus!
0:18:02	Nardos Abebe, Girls' Club Member FGAE	She didn't know he was HIV+. Not knowing, she had sex with him. Then she contracted the virus.
0:18:16	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's Rights Attorney	These types of offenders who haven't been corrected, they are most likely to have sex with many women. This can also happen in the home with husband and wife, or lovers. When we look at their situation, in our country, rape within a marriage is not against the law. Even if women know their husbands have sex with other women, they can't protect themselves, since the law doesn't support them.

0:18:59	Actor/Teacher	The problem that was presented looks like this. She (the maid) was raped, and both contracted HIV. So altogether, what do women need to do?
0:19:14	student in black shirt	She needs to go to the law. He did this to her against her will, so legal measures should be taken, so other young men won't engage in this kind of horrible behavior.
0:19:31	Haregewoine Teshome, Girl's Club Member	The law has become strict, but rapists are released on bail. A rapist is asked to marry his victim. They shouldn't marry. Women don't want to marry and be pointed at or talked about. People might say, "This woman was raped, forced into sex." Usually when we just talk to girls (about women's issues) they say, "oh, it's so oppressive," and then they leave. But when we tell them through drama, they see there is a problem.
0:20:29	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's rights Attorney	735 of females undergo circumcision, in Ethiopia. They can be young girls or older girls. Usually, it is performed on girls under 18. The instruments used for circumcision are used repeatedly, without cleaning and sterilization. This procedure puts girls at high risk for the disease.
0:21:03	Father (Actor)	"She will be circumcised! Or else she'll go wild...like other girls."
0:21:11	Rosa	So said my dad with rage.
0:21:15	Father	I will not change my mind."
0:21:16	Rosa	As he said this, the house shook with anger. My mother, her voice breaking, said,
0:21:28	Mother acted by Father	"Please come down and listen...don't assume you know everything. I cannot allow my daughter to be exposed to blades. What law says she must be circumcised? Is it the Bible or the Koran? Do tell me, which one is it?"
0:21:47	Rosa	She said this to his face, while she pondered my fate. My father rose and spoke strongly. It was then decided, against my will, to cut a part of me.
0:22:06	Ashebir Ambaye, Anti-AIDS Club Coordinator	I wrote a poem for Rosa about female circumcision. Many watched and learned. We invited parents and talked about the issue. We explained female circumcision isn't right, and no religion accepts it.
0:22:25	Rosa	My hopes are dim, but promise to ay ' enough' to circumcision.

0:22:34	Ashebir Ambaye, Anti-AIDS Club Coordinator	When I found Rosa, though she is like any child, I took special notice of her. She is young, so she was scared when I asked her to participate. But then, she began to understand the issue and realized how AIDS is ravaging women and kids like her. She saw children being orphaned and living on the streets. Then she realized she wanted to educate fellow Ethiopians.
0:23:08	Risa Kedir, age 11, Anti-AIDS Club Member	Among my classmates, the kids lack awareness. I tell them AIDS destroys, and that it kills parents. By talking about thee things we learned and became aware.
0:23:24	Rosa as actress	I lost my mother first. My father, bed-ridden then, did not survive long. He soon followed her to the grave. I will tell you: they both died of AIDS.
0:23:45	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	Regarding HIV/AIDS, many people lack knowledge. Here, there are educators like us. Like a flicker of light inside a pot, people can learn from us. I fear that people who live far away, who don't have this opportunity, are suffering very much and dying in great numbers.
0:24:13	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	Who are those most affected by the disease? Someone point them out.
0:24:21	Man 1	Young people.
0:24:22	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	This is beautiful . I am happy...OK. Yes that is right. How about others?
0:24:27	Man 2	People living on the street.
0:24:30	Senkenesh Mengesha	Yes, that is right. How about others?
0:24:34	Man 3	Prostitutes.
0:24:34	Senkenesh Mengesha	Very good. [0:24:39] That's enough, these suggestions are sufficient. Prostitutes were mentioned. I want to add students, and why exclude drivers? And government workers? And farmers...that means you, those who are here. As we know, farmers usually live far from town. After the harvest, when they go to market to sell their crops, at that time they like to eat and drink. Drunkenness follows, and there are prostitutes who are washed, made up, and beautiful. The farmer compares them to country women, and no miracle can save him. He can't resist, stays the night, and spends the money he earned. First, he gets back with no money. Second, to his family, his innocent wife who knows little, who should be quietly raising her children, he brings her the disease.

0:25:52	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	There are cultural pressures. When I teach people, and they have questions about what we're discussing, our culture of embarrassment makes it hard for them to express feelings. [0:26:10] You may be shy to say what's good or bad about condoms. A person who uses condoms has changed his behavior, and is wise, in my opinion.
0:26:24	Tsegaye Man in Audience	If a man is told condoms will make him safe, he gets into adultery. How about this? Won't it encourage people to be adulterous? Everyone has a religion. Suggesting condoms may be an alternative, but basing education on religious beliefs is better.
0:26:46	Senkenesh Mengesha	Very good. But Tsegaye, what I want to say to you is: First is abstinence, refraining from sex. Until someone is married...there should be no sex. You have hear me say this, right? If married, be monogamous. If this isn't possible, let's use condoms.
0:27:19	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's Rights Attorney	This topic must be raised in families. Mothers should ask children, "Do you have a boyfriend? Or have sex? Do you use protection?" All of these issues, mothers, sisters, fathers, brothers must be able to discuss them.
0:27:42	Tinges Yohannes, Youth Educator	As a child I knew nothing about such matters. But when I grew older, and went to school, our teacher taught us about the nature of his illness. Our parents, who weren't highly educated, saw discussing these issues as impolite, and didn't talk about it.
0:28:09	Tinges reciting her poetry	AIDS rides in haste to finish us all, to hunt us wherever we go. Like fire viciously consuming us, dark light, poor, rich, man, woman.
0:28:04	Tinges Yohannes	Usually, I try to gather youth to teach them, especially those in my area. They think what they hear on mass media, about HIV/AIDS, is a lie.
0:28:45	TITLE	Tinges' poetry is broadcast into a community courtyard
0:28:46	Tinges Yohannes	There is nothing that stops it. The world has united against it, but it is without borders.
0:28:55	Tinges Yohannes	At the same time, may do accept me.
0:29:08	Facilitator at Sex Worker Empowerment Workshop	Based on the training you receive, your task for the next few months is to share knowledge with women in your neighborhood group.

0:29:21	Eden Teshome Sex Worker Empowerment Project	The goal of our project is to do health education for women, in various settings. First we have to find them. When we are out talking to the women, when we approach them, they may be trying to get clients. They might be at hotels, bars, or on the streets. We try our best to approach them, using friendly language. We explain our goals, and give them flyers with our address. We invite them to voluntarily join the educational program.
0:30:03	Commercial Sex Worker	I learned about the organization when I first became a sex worker. Some of my friends used to make fun of it. I was serious about education, so I would go constantly. Gradually we all liked it and continued to go. They taught us about STDs and birth control, and gave us condoms. That's how we learned about AIDS. The education we get in the daytime helps us save our lives at night. Let's not be ashamed. Let's be courageous and bring about behavior change.
0:30:46	Eden Teshome, Sex Worker Empowerment Project	When the project first began, there were some problems. They'd say, " You're going to make us change our religious beliefs....you're going to beg with our name." "You're going to take our pictures and words..." "...and exploit us." There were many challenges, until they understood our objectives, and came to us.
0:31:18	Commercial Sex Worker 2	I didn't know much about STDs or condoms. Apart from what I heard, I didn't know how to use them. But once I joined the organization, I learned more, and was able to teach others. When we meet girls from the countryside who have fled forced marriages, some as young as ten years old, we sit down and discuss their problems. If they don't know how to read, I teach them about condoms. I explain how to tell if a condom is expired, by how it looks.
0:32:03: 00	Co-Founder HIV/Association	A friend of mine and I went to a hotel bar for coffee. We began to chat with a sex worker. We talked about what she does. She said, "young men are cool. They are very gentle, and they know it all (about safe sex). The older guy is very difficult. He buys me coffee and we drink and relax. Later, he asks to see me in a room and I go with him. We go there.....then I offer him a condom and he insults me." He says, "You delinquent, I have kids your age! What do you think of me to offer me a condom?" What we see here is an example of role reversal. Those girls who are treated with contempt are knowledgeable. The older man, who we see as a responsible head of a family, is getting a lesson about HIV/AIDS, in a hotel room.
0:33:23	Eden Teshome, Sex Worker Empowerment Project	Just teaching women has not solved the problem. Men have knowingly chosen to walk into the fire. The question of how to bring behavior change becomes a sad one. In working with prostitutes I have seen men's perspective, too. They continue to go (to prostitutes), but when going, why not use a condom?

0:33:53	Samson Bekele, Sociologist & Registered Nurse	Most of the women now realize they can leave this lifestyle. It is possible to get out of sex work; to earn money through other work. The fact that they see this is a big change, and they talk about it. At this time, not every sex worker has left that life. Some are forced to continue on the side. They do this because they don't make enough to survive.
0:34:33	Commercial Sex Worker 3	Right now I work in the organization. I am trying to leave prostitution. I sell injera and beso (cereal). I am also trying to start a business selling various things, so I can leave. I have no desire to work as a prostitute. It's just that I have no choice.
0:35:14	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's Rights Attorney	When we look at the evidence about men over the age of 20, about 50% (of unmarried men) admit to having sexual encounters. And women also; 30% over age 20 (who are not married) report having sex. Studies suggest this. Even though this is so, the message from religious organizations is one-to-one relations only, and, if possible, no sex before marriage. If this were possible we'd all support it. The question is - can this be? Religious and community organizations with respected roles must teach the youth about sex and about the nature of men and women. These are not secrets.
0:36:19	TITLE	WOMEN'S MARCH AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE
0:36:30	Meaza Ashenafi, Women's Rights Attorney	Since we started the association, we have had some victories. For example, women's rights have become a national agenda. Six years ago, this was not the case. Now, women's issues are discussed on radios, TV, and in newspapers. Our association has given women the opportunity to seek justice especially poor women.
0:37:08	Haregewoine Teshome, Girl's Club Member	Women's problems are so vast, there isn't time to cover them all. When I have started (with drama) others have joined in. Why try to overcome these problems and make a difference.
0:37:28	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	All this hard work and effort is to stop this disease that is taking lives in Ethiopia and around the world. Those who have heard have to let others know about it. This means the effort is shared, not just made by one teacher.
0:37:47	Senkenesh Mengesha, Rural Volunteer AIDS Educator	Each person you saw today, who heard my lesson, who had questions and answers, is a teacher. Because I have made such a difference, I am happy. It makes me proud. I've grown as a person, and I feel joyful.