Facing the future together: Report of the Secretary General's Task Force on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa

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Description:
For several months in 2003, the Secretary General's Task Force on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa engaged in intensive on-the-ground consultations in the nine countries in the sub-region with the highest HIV prevalence rates - Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The report of the Task Force not only presents valuable empirical data on the scale and character of the pandemic; more importantly, it has identified six areas in which intervention is most urgently needed, and in which new strategies have a realistic prospect of success in halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, while at the same time attacking the gender inequality that has driven the pandemic.1. Prevention - we must protect girls from the risk of HIV infection by older men; 2. Education - we must take active measures to keep girls in school; 3. Violence - we must protect women and girls from the risk of exposure to HIV infection as a result of violence; 4. Property and inheritance - we must protect the right of women and girls to own and inherit land; 5. Women and girls as care-givers - we must have a volunteer charter; 6. We must remove the barriers that prevent women from gaining access to medical care and treatment

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