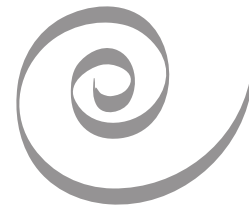


#### *Access to education*

All around the world policies and laws exist which prevent young women from using contraceptives till they reach adulthood, or prevent girls from gaining access to information about safe sexual practices and clinics that teach about reproductive health. Many cultures think young women should not have sex before marriage, which might prevent them from receiving life saving information.

#### *Economics*

Women have less access to economic power than men. Girls who have been orphaned or have family members who are sick are often heading the household. They may drop out of school and miss out on valuable information about safe sexual practices, or they may also feel that they need to turn to survival sex to get by. Sex exchanged with older men for taxi fare or for basic necessities and girls puts girls in a position where it is very difficult to insist on condom use.



### **Young Men's vulnerability and risk**

Young men are often expected to be knowledgeable about sex and so they don't feel comfortable asking questions about how to protect themselves. Gender roles also expect men to have many sexual partners that put them at greater risk of HIV infection. Young men are also expected to use drugs and alcohol and lead a more 'carefree' risky lifestyle.

Young men who have sex with other men may also be afraid of discrimination and stigma from being open about their sexual practices. This can make it difficult to reach these young men with prevention messages, and may also limit their access to clinics and information networks.