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Turning the Corner

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women do not ask their partners to use condoms because they are afraid of being accused of disloyalty.\textsuperscript{31} By being accused of infidelity, they are afraid “of jeopardizing a relationship in the building of which they have invested energy, emotion and many years of their life.”\textsuperscript{32} Many women are afraid of losing their economic stability if they ask to use protection. To some women, this fear of losing support is more imperative than the fear of contracting HIV.

Women’s fear of retaliation is one factor relating to the lack of condom use. Another is the cultural belief system, where gender inequality is supported by cultural convictions. For instance, some Haitian women believe that a woman is only right to ask her partner to use a condom when she is certain that he is being unfaithful; otherwise, she has no right to ask for protection during sexual intercourse.\textsuperscript{33} Haitian society drives the insubordination of women economically and sexually so that they have little say when it comes to protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

**Gender Power Dynamics**

All of the factors driving the spread of HIV infection deal with the dynamics of power between genders. Employing protective methods, such as condoms during sex depends entirely on the influence that each partner has within the relationship. Australian sociologist Raewyn Connell is the author of the theory of gender and power, which is comprised of three major categories: the sexual division of labor, structure of cathexis, and the sexual division of power.\textsuperscript{34} The sexual division of labor deals with control of money and economic stability. The structure of cathexis deals with gender differences in the investment of emotional energy in the relationship. The sexual division of power deals with the dynamics of power between the genders within the relationship, which often reflect the forces of power between