

# Vote with Your Feet: Example Bank

## Statements on Gender Roles

- A woman's place is in the home.
- The most important thing a woman can do is have babies.
- A man is only valued for his ability to make money and provide for his family.
- A man is more of a man once he has fathered a child.
- Women are naturally better parents than men.
- Men will feel threatened if too many women are in leadership roles.
- For women to succeed in the workplace, special benefits and dispensations must be made available to them.
- The burden of accommodating women's needs in the workplace is too costly.
- Gender equitable relationships should not be the goal of an FP/RH program.
- Female-controlled contraceptive methods perpetuate gender inequality in sexual relationships (because responsibility for contraceptive protection remains on women).
- It is unfair and inappropriate to expect service providers to mitigate power dynamics between the couple seeking services.

## Statements on Men and Reproductive Health

- Increasing men's participation in family planning and reproductive health programs will only further increase men's power over women.
- Family planning will always be a more important issue to a woman than to a man because she is the one who can get pregnant.
- Men are more concerned about STIs than women are.
- Clinics should concentrate on serving older, married men because adolescent males are highly unlikely to seek clinical services.
- Men are uncomfortable going to a female-oriented health facility or being treated by a female clinician.
- In today's world, a boy child is more valued than a girl child.
- A woman can do any kind of work a man can do.
- Family planning is a woman's responsibility.

- Sexuality is more important for men than for women.
- A man is a real man if he has fathered a child.
- It is normal for a man to watch the children and cook.
- A man has the right to have sex with his wife even if she does not want to.
- A man has the right to hit a woman.
- It is easier to be a man than a woman in today's world.
- A man should not have to compromise sexual pleasure for contraception or health.

### **Statements on HIV/AIDS**

- An HIV-positive woman should avoid getting pregnant if at all possible.
- Gender equitable relationships should be the goal of an HIV/AIDS program.
- HIV behavior change efforts would have greater success if they addressed sexual pleasure.
- MSM are more vulnerable to HIV because, in most countries, they cannot marry.
- A more "sex-positive" sociocultural environment—meaning an environment that promotes greater acceptance of sexuality and sexual desires—would decrease HIV risk and vulnerability.
- In a generalized epidemic, it is not important for HIV programs to focus on transgender people because they tend to be a small proportion of the population.

### **Statements on Gender and Sexuality**

- Men are more concerned about sexual performance than women.
- Sexual pleasure is more important to men than to women.
- These days, it's ok for a girl/woman to initiate sex.
- Oral sex is more intimate than intercourse.
- People who have multiple sexual partners concurrently are irresponsible.
- It is empowering for a woman to use her sexuality as a bargaining tool (e.g., by offering or withholding sex with her partner or another person).
- A sex worker is a victim.
- People in same-sex relationships have equal rights in my community.

- The ability to express one's sexuality and sexual diversity freely is key to contributing fully to society.
- A woman should have sex only with someone she loves.
- A man should have sex only with someone he loves.
- Sex is more important to men than to women.
- A woman should be a virgin at the time of marriage.
- It is okay for a man to have sex outside of marriage if his wife does not know about it.

### Statements on GBV

- Women are just as likely to perpetuate norms around violence as men are.
- In certain circumstances, women provoke violent behavior.
- Gender-based violence is too culturally sensitive an issue to be addressed in reproductive health projects.
- Men sometimes have a good reason to use violence against their partners. (This statement typically generates more discussion in overseas settings.)

### Statements on Safe Motherhood

- Increasing men's participation in antenatal care will only further increase men's control over women's fertility and health.
- Safe motherhood will always be a more important issue to a woman than to a man because she is the one who will give birth and care for the baby.
- Many health workers are uncomfortable counseling men on safe motherhood issues.
- Men are uncomfortable going to a female-oriented health facility.
- The most important thing a woman can do is to have babies and care for them.
- A man is most valued for his ability to make money and provide for his family.
- Women are naturally better parents than are men.
- A man is more of a man once he has fathered a child.