



REMOVE BARRIERS TO HEALTH FOR RURAL WOMEN

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**





Your Excellency,

In the last three years South Africa has made significant progress in combating HIV/AIDS. However, discrimination still prevents people in rural areas, particularly women, from realizing their right to health.

Physical barriers and poverty prevent people in poor, rural communities from accessing or remaining on life-saving antiretroviral treatment. Transport costs, poor road infrastructure and food insecurity mean they struggle to maintain their health. Furthermore, discrimination against women still persists, putting their health at risk.

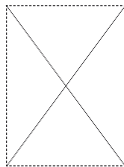
I urge you to:

- ensure that all branches of government are involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS and gender-based discrimination;
- vigorously prioritize rural development including improved road access and affordable transport links for all communities; and
- address food insecurity for poor households through social support programmes.

Yours sincerely,

Name _____

Country _____



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Image: Rural KwaZulu-Natal province, where women regularly care for those affected by HIV and AIDS. South Africa, June 2011. © Gille de Vlieg
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