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## HIV/AIDS in Zambia: A Gendered Epidemic

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Oral Presentation O6.1

**HIV/AIDS IN ZAMBIA: A GENDERED EPIDEMIC**

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International Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Zambia has one of the worst HIV prevalence rates in sub-Saharan Africa. About 55% of those living with HIV/AIDS are women. This presentation will examine the vulnerability of young married women, female AIDS orphans, and sex workers and the inadequate progress made by prevention programs run by Zambian and international organizations. This paper also examines the role that increased advocacy, improved power of local NGOs, and full debt cancellation could have on the effectiveness of prevention initiatives. I suggest that annual debt cancellation, especially, will improve Zambian health expenditures. Zambia has strong traditional roots that can facilitate a change in HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, but only if the international community allows the Zambian government to focus funds on its people where they are most needed.