

Dear Josephine

Marrying young does often cause problems, because young people are still changing and they don't yet know what they want from life. But you should know that many women these days are, like you, refusing to have sex with their husbands without using condoms. Many women are saying NO to their husband's unfaithfulness and NO to getting HIV because of it.

You are brave to be tough with Thulani to protect yourself, especially since you have a young child to consider too. One option is for you to use a female condom. But you can't go on like this forever. You both need to have a test. Talk to Thulani about it again. Be understanding about his fears. Is there anyone else who could encourage him to go for a test? If not, go to a testing centre for advice.

If Thulani still refuses, you will have to make some big decisions – about what is important to you and what to do next. Tell your husband what you are thinking and find out whether he wants to save your marriage. If you do stay together, this is a good opportunity to talk about what you each need from your marriage. Your family or a counsellor may be able to help.

Good luck to both of you.

Auntie Stella

ACTION POINTS

- **ROLEPLAY:** In pairs pretend to be a husband and wife (even if you are two boys or two girls). Have a conversation **either** when the wife wants the husband to use a condom **or** when she wants him to go for an HIV test.

Afterwards, tell your group what happened. How did the 'wives' and 'husbands' feel? What did you learn from the conversations?

- Is it easier for a girlfriend to ask her partner to use a condom or for a wife to ask her husband? Or is it the same? If it is different, why is this?
- In your groups draw a husband and wife who are happy together. On your picture write down or draw all the things that make a good marriage. Show your picture to the other groups. Did you all have the same ideas?