**Interview Guide**

Participants may be asked **some or all** of the following questions. As noted in the letter of consent, participants are free to decline to answer some or all of the questions posed. All transcripts of the interview will be kept in a secure location and will be confidential. **The interview takes roughly between 60-90 minutes, based on the 2 pilot interviews that have been already conducted.**

**1. BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

I would like to know more about your life history, or the story of your life. Can you tell me about your life up to the point?

PROBES

* 1. Can you tell me about the family that you grew up in?
  2. How far did you go in school?
     1. What subjects did you like?
     2. What were your educational or job/work goals?
     3. If you dropped out, when and why?
* Is/was religion an important aspect of your life?
* What did you do after school?
* Did/do you work?
  + 1. If so, do you control the money that you earn?
    2. What do/did you spend it on
* What was it like when you first came to Canada?
* Were you in a relationship?
* Did you work? What kind of job? Did you study?
* How was the money used?
* Have you ever been married or in a permanent relationship?
* Are you currently in a permanent relationship?

MARRIAGE/RELATIONSHIPS PROBES:

* Are you in a monogamous relationship?
* How did you meet your partner/husband?
* Is your partner in a monogamous relationship?
* How old were you when you got married?
* Have you ever been married before?
* What types of marriage arrangements?
* Do you have any children?
* If yes, how many children do you have?
* How do you describe your partner?
* How do you describe communication skills between you and your partner?
* Who makes major decisions related to children (education, discipline, purchases, etc.)
* Any alcohol or drug history?
* Any abuse in the relationship?
* Any abuse towards children?
* Do/Did you use family planning/birth control methods/protection?
  + 1. If yes, which method and why? If not, why not?
    2. If yes, does your husband know that you are using it? If not, can you say something about why he doesn't know?

ECONOMIC PROBES:

* What are the main sources of income at your household?
* In your household, how do you decide on the allocation of responsibilities such s child care, cleaning, cooking, etc.?
* Who actually gets the money?
* How do you pool your money, or do you keep separate accounts?
* How do you decide on allocating money for household things that everyone uses?
* Who makes the main decisions at home related to money?
* List the areas that you would have control over in your household?

1. **SOUTH ASIAN IDENTITY**

* What does it mean to be a South Asian woman?
* Traditions in your culture
* Typical roles of women in the South Asian community
* Typical roles of women in your family
* Typical roles of men in the South Asian community
* Typical roles of men in your family
* How important is your family of origin?
* In what ways does your family influence you?
* What are the expectations that your family has for you?
* Freedoms and decision making in relationships
* How important is religion in your life?
* What about values related to female sexuality?
* Male sexuality?
* Any other expectations in general?
* Any other comment about what it means to be South Asian and HIV positive

1. **IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE**

* What was it like when you first arrived to Canada?
* Why did you immigrate to Canada?
* How did you adjust to this new experience?
* Any support networks (family, friends, etc.)
* Who did you associate with when you first came?
* Who do you associate with now? Any different cultures?
* Any surprises when you came?
* How often do you travel back home?
* How much have you kept from the SA traditions over the years? When you first came? Is it different now? In what way?
* Now that you are HIV positive, do you prefer to be in your country origin or here in Canada?
* Where do you think you have more support? (medical, social, etc.)

1. **HIV/AIDS RISK, RISK PERCEPTION, AND EXPOSURES**

* Do you think that AIDS is a problem in your community?
* Do you think it is more of a problem to women or men? Why?
* How much of a problem?
* Why is AIDS a problem?
* Do you know many people with AIDS?
* Do you think women in your community are worried about getting infected with HIV?
  + 1. Why or why not?
    2. If they aren't worried, when do you think they would start worrying?
* Do you think men in your community are worried about getting infected with HIV?
  + 1. Why or why not?

- If they aren't worried, when do you think they would start worrying?

* What are some of the things that put people here in your own community at risk for AIDS?
  + 1. What is a risk factor for AIDS in your community? Why?
    2. Is having multiple partners a risk factor for AIDS for people in your

community?

* + 1. Why do women go outside marriage?
    2. Why do men go outside marriage?
* What puts women at risk in your own community?
  + 1. What do you see as the MOST important risk factor for women?
    2. What are some other reasons why women are at risk?
* What puts men at risk in your own community?
  + 1. What do you see as the MOST important risk factor for men?
    2. What are some other reasons why men are at risk?

1. **PERCEIVED BARRIERS AFFECTING APPLICATION OF HIV PREVENTION/INTERVENTION KNOWLEDGE:**

* What are some of the reasons that people in your community might find it hard to protect themselves from AIDS?
* What are some of the barriers that women in your community face against protecting themselves from AIDS?
* Why would someone want to use condoms?
* Do women/men use condoms mostly inside or outside the marriage?
* What does a wife/husband think if their spouse introduces a condom into a marriage?
* Do women buy condoms?
* What do you think when you see a woman with a condom with her handbag?
* Do you think other community members feel the same way? Why or why not?

1. **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS THESE BARRIERS MIGHT BE OVERCOME?**

* What do you think would be the best way to prevent AIDS?
* What can women do to prevent AIDS?
* What can men do to prevent AIDS?
* What can people do to reduce their risk?
  + 1. What can women do to reduce their risk?
    2. What can men do to reduce their risk?
* Are women/men in your own community able to reduce their risk of AIDS?
  + 1. Why or why not?
* What can your community do to fight AIDS?

1. **EXPERIENCE OF BEING HIV POSITIVE**

* What does it mean to you to be HIV positive?
* How do you feel about it?
* To what extent do you feel that being an immigrant has affected you as an HIV-positive woman?
* Do you think it would have been different (easier or more difficult) to be HIV positive in your own country?
* How do you perceive your own risk for HIV?

- Tell me about how you think you contracted the virus?

- When did you know about that? What are the contributing factors towards your perceived risk?

- Do you think you have enough knowledge about HIV and the transmission of the virus?

- Are there any particular practices/situations/factors, in your opinion, that put you at risk?

- To what extent, do you think, you had/have control over these situations/factors

Thank you very much for your time!