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Women and Sexuality: Representations of Female Sexuality in Selected Zimbabwean Newspaper Stories

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ABSTRACT For many years, women in most cultures have not been able to freely express their sexuality. Zimbabwe, like many other countries in Africa, has traditions and customs that sanction women and deny them space to express how they feel about sex and sexual relationships. In Zimbabwe, particularly in Shona culture, it is a taboo for a woman to speak openly about sex or to be implicated in sex-related matters. In recent years, these traditions have been challenged. This paper is a qualitative analysis of selected sex related stories published in Zimbabwean tabloids. Six stories are identified from Zimbabwean newspapers. The selection is informed by research questions that guide the paper. The objective is to examine expressions of female sexuality in the selected stories, and the extent to which these stories challenge long-held cultural beliefs and traditions. The paper concludes that female sexuality in Zimbabwe has undergone significant transformation in recent years.