iv. RESEARCH REQUEST

Our telephone conversation of today's date has reference.

As you are aware of, I am currently a master's degree student in Social Work at University of Johannesburg (RAU). It is required of me to conduct a research study as partial fulfilment for the degree MA (Social Work). The research topic I have selected centres around my concern for people's knowledge and beliefs about the virus. In particular my interest lies with the beliefs that the Xhosa people have in the Aids pandemic.

The title of my research study is: *The belief systems about HIV/Aids in the Xhosa elderly speaking people.* I would therefore appreciate the opportunity to learn from the elderly Xhosa people such as yourself, with the aim of documenting my findings and in so doing empower professionals and students to become more effective in their assistance in getting more knowledge about the virus. I realize that you are very busy and that your time is thus limited. I would however hold it in high regard if you could spare me approximately 80 min in which I will pose the following questions to you.

1. How can people get HIV/Aids?
2. How can people avoid getting HIV/Aids?
3. Who gets Aids?
4. How can people avoid getting Aids out of their system?
5. How can HIV/Aids be treated or cured?
6. Who brought Aids?
7. Do you know anyone who is HIV/Aids and how do you think was the person infected?

I would furthermore request your permission to record our discussion on audio tape. Audio taping the discussion will help me to remember the important and valuable information that you will be sharing with me and therefore to document it as accurately as possible. Once the research study is completed, I will supply you with a report of my findings.

I trust that you will consider this request favourably. I will contact you within a few days to confirm our appointment.

Thanking you

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