# Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

## Covid and the festive season

Covid-19 has not deterred many individuals from returning to their rural homes for the Christmas and New Year Vacations. Despite the epidemic, travel to rural households increased throughout the December festive season in Zimbabwe.

Many are traveling to their rural homesteads the risk of Covid-19 spreading was inevitable as Zimbabwe is presently dealing with a fourth wave of infections caused by the Omicron variant, even though cases have leveled out from the peaks earlier this month.

Apostolic Women Empowerment Team (AWET) to protect Zimbabweans from Covid-19, we are making sure that people in the districts they are working are sanitized and sensitized about covid-19 as well as covid-19 vaccine acceptance and uptake.

Happy Bobo, AWET District Focal Person for Mazowe District highlighted that despite the pandemic threat, people have opted to spend the Christmas and New Year in their rural homes.

The year has been challenging, but things have gone well. Covid-19 case are on the rise, so we're taking precautions to safeguard our health when we are doing our campaigns in our communities. Covid is real, therefore we must spread the word around and make sure that everyone is aware of the safety guidelines, and they are vaccinated when it's **...to Pg3** 

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Best wishes for the New Year!

*from* Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust

BCFs supporting district COVID-19 accelerated vaccination program through mobilization.



MEN AND BOYS ALSO FACE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE LETS BREAK THE SILENCE TO END ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE

#### Sexual Gender Based Violence Awareness

Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust (AWET) engaging girls and young mothers across the country from the apostolic community, raising awareness about the types of violence that affect them and solutions in dealing with these vices.

It is difficult to persuade young girls who have been coerced into early marriages to leave their new homes and family. However, we have been focusing on accountability issues with our community referral pathways this year. We are arguing that child marriage is rape, so those who witness or are subjected to such crimes should report them to AWET organizations in their communities, where the concerns are escalated through referral pathways to the responsible service providers.

GBV has long been a problem in our societies, and it continues to be a problem that has claimed lives, tormented residents, and brought the entire country to a halt several times.

To avert these atrocities AWET has roped in men and boys in the fight against gender based violence (GBV) using cultural and Christian values.



### #STAYSAFE

Safe practices and behaviours during the lestive holiday Festive season is here-very challenging time when C-19 cases are on the rise again: This festive season celebrate in safety and have peace of mind. Gather outdoors, in small numbers, wear your mask, practice social distancing & wash your hands regularly. Above all, get vaccinated. These practices are crucial in stopping transmissions.

Let Us Promote A Cultural Revolution With A More Fairer & Safer Society For Girls We are Pro Generation Equality: Standing against Child Marriages

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...continued from pg2 We also encouraged people to report any incidences of abuse to our toll-free number, o8o8o443. Our goal is to target knowledge, attitudes, and practices in the apostolic community to achieve behavior change, and we are pleased that most of them are speaking up.

We want to thank all church leaders and colleagues who have joined us during the #16Days from all around the world to fight with us to end all forms of violence against women and girls. When girls reach the age of 18, they have the decision of marrying when and with whom they wish. Some girls do not have this privilege because of religious and cultural conventions and beliefs. Every girl has the right to choose because of their humanity, as we observe

As we celebrate in safety, here is a reminder that violence is a violation of children's fundamental right to protection. The impact of violence and trauma in childhood can last a lifetime. Take steps to protect. Take time to talk and listen to your children on issues of COVID-19. Reach out to health workers, trusted family, and community members for support.

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#### ...continued from pg1 their turn.

As Covid-19 cases rise across the country, many are wondering, "what can they do to ensure a safer happy holiday for their family and friends?" Unfortunately, because both the Delta and Omicron variants are circulating widely in and around the globe, socializing has a high risk of getting and transmitting coronavirus.

Reduce the danger of COVID-19 in the 2022 crossover. Avoid large crowds; instead, worship and shop online, having gifts and groceries delivered. Consider skipping such events entirely, especially if you plan to spend the holidays with anybody who is at higher risk (the elderly, those with medical concerns, or persons with a weakened immune system).

We simply want to encourage everyone to continue limiting the spread of COVID-19 while we celebrate the gift of life this new year. As we start the new year, remember to <u>#GetVaccinated</u>, follow Public Health guidelines, and share the word.

Minimise the risk of COVID-19

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# **#16 DAYS COMMEMORATION IN PICS**



