



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Unite! to Eliminate violence against women and girls

25 November to 10 December



16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence: Districts Commemorations

Is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust participates in the UNITE Campaign, which has a different theme each year, along with the rest of the globe. The theme for this year is "Unite! Activism to eliminate violence against women and girls." We ask everyone to take part in this effort and to support and stand in solidarity with this action.

In order to increase community involvement and support the system-wide UnitedNation’s Campaign, AWET organised marches to Say NO-UNiTE to End Violence against Women in 12 Districts across Zimbabwe.

To launch the marches in the districts, AWET made its presence known in the Mutasa District at Hauna Township, more than 200 people attended the event, which included local partners, the government, and civil society organisations, as to make preventing violence against women and girls a key concern on a national scale, the march stretched from Hauna to Zindi Village

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Gender and Faith network commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust joined the rest of the world in observing the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, a day set aside worldwide to combat violence against women and girls and to spread awareness about its prevention, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence officially start on this day.

The theme of this year's commemorations is "UNiTE to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls," and they are being conducted all across the world.



"All lives matter: End Gender-Based Violence Now," has been coined by Zimbabwe as the national Theme.

This year, the Gender and Faith Network organized a 16-day campaign against gender-based violence campaign launch at the Anglican Cathedral in Harare, where representatives from many religious traditions came together to discuss and come up with solutions to end violence against women and girls. In order to understand how the atrocities of violence might be reduced from the ground up for a violent-free environment, religious leaders, victims, perpetrators, and survivors of SGBV participated in the commemorations.

The commemorations coincide with an increase in gender-based violence statistics worldwide as a result of lockdowns brought on by COVID-19...*continued to page3*

"A good man,
is a good
man,
whether in
this church
or out of it."

BRIGHAM YOUNG



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Speaking with the AWET Programs Manager Debra outlined the goals of the marches that were being conducted across Zimbabwe in order to engage the community in a campaign to eradicate violence against women and girls.

“Actions from the marches showcased the advocacy work done by governments, activists civil society and the local community. These included intergenerational dialogues, to grassroots community awareness raising activities. Involving young people and faith-based organisations, reaching out to schools, getting governments to make specific national commitments, and more,” said Debra Mpofu.

The Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust District Focal Person (DFP) for the Umzingwane District addressed the community on a roadshow during the march in Matebeleland South about the dangers of sexual and gender-based violence as well as child protection. While participating in the Bulilima-Mangwe District celebration march and the official launch of the GBV one stop center at Plumtree ZRP, AWET Mangwe (DFP) also announced specific strategies to address and prevent violence against women and girls. These actions included passing new legislation or changing existing laws, launching public awareness campaigns, providing safe houses for survivors, free toll-free services, free legal aid, and supporting educational programs that address gender stereotypes and violence.

AWET took part in the Madziva Township 16 Days Provincial Activism march in Mashonaland Central, Shamva was painted orange to symbolize the 16 Days Campaign to end child marriage. Shamva united as a network for social mobilisation and advocacy, news and activities on ending the violence against women and girls by people from all walks of life.

The AWET head of programs emphasized the significance of the campaign to their programming as well as the necessity of everyday discussion of gender-based violence concerns and the need for a collective effort to eradicate violence against women and girls.

“The success of our campaign depends on our daily individual and group effort to protect our society from this abuse cycle. A series of intergenerational dialogues and events that promote communism in addressing gender based violence concerns have been conducted more by AWET and the Ministry in 12 Districts as part of community engagements,” said Hope Dunira.



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Although the limits were put in place to prevent the spread of a virus, they actually made women and girls more susceptible to abuse. Some victims of gender-based abuse were confined to their homes with little freedom of movement, confining them with their abusers.

The most prevalent human rights violation worldwide, according to the UN, is gender-based violence (GBV). The most sacred of moral contracts... that everyone has the right to feel safe and secure, to freely be their authentic selves, and to determine their own futures...are broken by gender-based violence, just like other human rights violations. Gender-based violence also hinders economic growth, endangers national security, and violates everyone's right to feel safe and secure.

Even though gender-based violence is prevalent, we at AWET firmly believe that it can be avoided. For this reason, we have a long history of collaboration with community leaders, organizations, survivors, and groups made up of both men and women. We are addressing violence against women and girls in crisis, and humanitarian circumstances. We are educating people in 12 districts about the value of peace in homes and also calling our toll-free line to report abuse and violations of children's rights. By utilising community involvement through Behaviour Change Facilitators (BCFs) to help victims, survivors of abuse who would have been victim to it, develop referral channels so that perpetrators may be held accountable.

Let's resolve to working together to make the world a safer environment for women, girls. Beyond these 16 Days, we must keep looking for methods to change social norms and better prevent, reduce, and address gender-based violence.





INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUES TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

"AN INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE WHERE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT GENERATIONS CAN LEARN FROM, UNDERSTAND, AND INSPIRE ONE ANOTHER IS WHAT MOTIVATES ME TO CONTINUE ADVOCATING. IT HELPS ME TO SEE HOW CAPABLE WE YOUNG WOMEN ARE OF CHANGING SOCIETY. AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT COMMUNICATION," SAYS AWET PROGRAMS MANAGER DEBRA MPOFU

The "16 Days of Activism," an annual global campaign celebrated in November to raise awareness, inspire change, and encourage positive action toward eliminating violence against women and girls, was observed this year by AWET just like it is every year.

AWET held intergenerational dialogues in 12 districts as part of the 2022 campaign to help church leaders, community members, and youth obtain information, develop ideas, and

take action to make the world a better place for women and girls. Even more people participated in the campaign this year, and during the engagements, a lot of partners and supporters expressed their support.

The Ministry of Women Affairs' representative attended the discussions in Mutasa and emphasized the value of intergenerational dialogues in putting an end to GBV. Over the course of the days, road shows were held in the communities to

validate levels of awareness and disseminate information about the best ways to support GBV survivors and address the various types of violence that are often experienced.

During the intergenerational discussions, religious leaders took the lead and shared their ideas, perspectives, and solutions. Madzibaba Blessing and Madzibaba Freddy organized the conversations in their separate communities to share their stories...*continued to page 6*

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Intergenerational Dialogues in Pics





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They emphasized the significance of women of all ages, backgrounds, cultures, and languages sharing their opinions and providing solutions to the problem of gender-based violence while participating in the campaigns to end violence. A lot of men got involved, expressed their concerns, and demonstrated what allies could do to put an end to violence against women and girls.

A representative of the Department of Social Development in the Mangwe District highlighted that it is "our collective responsibility as an intergenerational, community and society at large to ensure that women and girls are able to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and create a better, violence-free world for the generations to come."

We witnessed the true power of statistics and intergenerational conversations in promoting GBV awareness. The campaign came to a close with hundreds of participants in the conversations owning the effort to raise awareness of ending violence against women and children and to spread the AWET Toll-Free number.

CHILD MARRIAGE IS RAPE

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS NOW

**SPEAKOUT TOLLFREE
#08080443**

*Apostolic Women
Empowerment Trust*

EMPOWER A WOMAN PROTECT A CHILD

AWET

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