



PRESS RELEASE

ZIMBABWE LAUNCHES ITS 2023-2030 NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

17 January 2024, Gaborone, Botswana: The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has collaborated with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development in the Republic of Zimbabwe to launch the National Strategy to prevent and address Gender-Based-Violence (GBV) covering the period 2023-2030.

The National Strategy provides a guiding framework for the national response to GBV, sets out priority areas for the country, and outlines specific actions and strategies for the government, and the whole of society in their efforts to prevent and respond to GBV in general, and violence against women and girls in particular. The strategy recognizes that GBV is a complex, pervasive and multi-faceted phenomenon that intersects with a broad range of social and gender variables and therefore requires a multi-sectoral and well-coordinated response.

Launching the Strategy, on 15th December 2023 in Harare Zimbabwe, the Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Senator Monica Mutsvangwa highlighted that the process of developing the strategy was consultative and included physical reviews and validation meetings with support from SADC Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) under the Spotlight Initiative. Senator Mutsvangwa said that the “Government has put in place legal and policy frameworks backed by institutional mechanisms that are working towards GBV prevention and response. Laws such as the Domestic Violence Act continue to work for the protection of all victims of domestic violence”. She added that “the Government has also activated the institutional machinery through the establishment of a robust multi-sectoral gender mechanism, spearheaded by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development. Key institutions such as the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Anti Domestic Violence Council and other institutions and structures promoting gender equality are critical and we shall strive to ensure that these institutions are adequately resourced and operationalized to serve their purpose”.

Ms Kealeboga Moruti, the Senior Officer for Public Security at the SADC Secretariat emphasised the importance of a multi stakeholder approach towards fighting GBV and commended the government of Zimbabwe for coming with a Strategy that is all

encompassing with prioritised actions for GBV in Emergencies, Humanitarian, Disaster and Conflict situations.

The priority areas of Zimbabwe's National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender Based Violence 2023-2030 are:

- i. Prevention;
- ii. GBV response;
- iii. Capacity strengthening of stakeholders;
- iv. GBV in emergencies, humanitarian, disaster and conflict situations;
- v. Evidence-based programming: data information, knowledge management and M&E;
- vi. Strengthening coordination and partnerships at national, sub-national and community levels, and
- vii. Resource mobilization

The launch was attended by the Head of Cooperation at the European Union (EU) Delegation to Zimbabwe, Mr Franck Port; representatives from government ministries and departments from police, gender, judiciary; provincial representative; civil society organisations; UNDP, UNFPA and UNWOMEN.

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SADC in Brief

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August, 1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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