



MIDLANDS REPORT

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2017

FROM PEACE IN THE HOME TO PEACE IN CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

VENUE: FAFI PRIMARY

ATTENDED BY

- ◆ DA (District Attorney)
- ◆ NAC
- ◆ MWAGCD -DISTRICT HEAD
- ◆ MINISTRY OF YOUTH REP
- ◆ POLICE
- ◆ WARD HEALTH WORKER
- ◆ CHIEF NDUKU
- ◆ VILLAGE HEAD SIKWEKWE
- ◆ VILLAGE HEAD MAGIYA
- ◆ VILLAGE HEAD CHIGURA
- ◆ TALI PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR - TATENDA MANATA
- ◆ TALI DISTRICT FACILITATOR- MIRIAM KASIMU
- ◆ 4 TALI PEER EDUCATORS FROM THE WARD
- ◆ 3 TRAINED YOUTHS FROM THE WARD

The meeting commenced at 12.00hrs with a word of prayer from a volunteer, followed by **introduction of stakeholders** by Mrs Gama (TaLI Facilitator)

The DA gave welcome remarks and a speech appreciating TaLI's efforts in commemorating 16 days of activism in Zhombe as a way of raising GBV awareness– which has been long affecting many communities and families. He urged parents to play a role in creating harmony within families and to teach and direct children to both safeguard their rights together with securing rights of their neighbours. Furthermore, he reiterated that youths need to be economically empowered to defocus from illicitness.

Background of the event and Organisation was given by Tatenda Manata who highlighted the yearly – world commemorations of the 16 days of activism from the 25th of November to the 10th of December. She emphasized the need for such gatherings to enable dissemination of information on its effects and opening platforms to discussing GBV issues, thus identifying challenges in attempting to solve GBV and celebrating milestone achievements on GBV issues. A synopsis of TaLI's background, vision, mission, thematic areas and achievements with regards to GBV were also articulated.

The Chief gave a speech highlighting the position of GBV and Child marriages in the area. He acknowledged that child marriages are still a major problem in the area, but urged governments departments and organisations to help locals acquire justice which is sometimes obstructed. He alluded to a case where the father litigated a statutory rape case but an out of court settlement was resorted to by the police. He urged

neighbours and communities to remain alert and for young women and children and to take steps if they suspect any form of abuse to keep the community safe.

GBV and work done by MWAGCD was presented by an officer from Women affairs, who explained GBV and organisational efforts of assisting women and children in detail. Community members were admonished to persist in productivity and refrain from idleness which leads to illicit activities. As a complex issue, GBV was reprimanded to be eschewed and contended by everyone in the community.

TaLI success stories were presented by Mrs Mbewe-TaLI Facilitator. She cited that the training of CPEs by TaLI was a milestone achievement; which gave the peer educators confidence to defend rights of other community members. They are now aware of child and women rights and how to deal with child abuse and child marriages cases. The community was urged to unite safeguarding the rights of children so that the community is guaranteed of a brighter future.



Dialogue on Child marriages, child abuse and GBV

Issues brought forward

- **Discord in the law and law-making institution as the police dismisses cases of girls impregnated below the ages of 16 for out of court settlement if there is 'love' and mutual agreement.**
- **Communities are no longer taking responsibility to educate young children about their sexuality and children are now mischievous and promiscuous because "AnaTete" and "AnaSekuru" no longer exist and also because of the banishment of corporal punishment.**
- **Gender inequality is prominent. Men are respected more even in their licentious state whilst women are marginalised even if they are in the same trajectory. Tradition respects women more than men.**
- **Lack of economic empowerment is making young women vulnerable and resorting to sex as a source of entertainment.**
- **Sugar daddies are now cropping up dating young girls from school for little goodies like sweets, chips and biscuits.**

Response and proposed Solutions

- 📖 Parents were encouraged to discipline children in such a way that will not result in harming the child, which will inevitably be termed as abuse.
- 📖 There is need to advocate for enforcement of laws by law bodies.
- 📖 Older men were counselled to play a fatherly role and to desist from sexual relations with children.
- 📖 Local leaders were urged to act and advocate for gender equality in every home.
- 📖 CPEs are to make use of community groups and small gatherings to replace the “AnaSekuru and AnaTete” teaching the young people about their rights and issues affecting them.
- 📖 Organisations and government departments are to make extra efforts in initializing small economic projects for young people.

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Drama was presented by a group of young girls' portraying an abused character who reported her case to the police, after she had been enlightened about her rights at a TaLI workshop peers had invited her to. Justice prevailed and her perpetrator was arrested and the whole community became aware of their rights.

A poem on albinism was presented by a 15-year-old girl, whose tears impressed the pain of segregation and discrimination people living with Albinism endure.

Ministry of Youth then presented on Youth issues and GBV, urging young people to play a front role in ensuring that the rights of all people are safeguarded in the community.

The Police conversed with the community and raised awareness, against all forms of abuse and measures to take when reporting such cases. They reinvigorated the children to be free in reporting cases of abuse and assured their selfless support.

A Ward health worker talked about safe care and safe motherhood and with regards to health, men were urged to support their wives both emotionally and financially in every aspect of their lives.

After a recap of the event, the Chief gave the closing remarks and vote of thanks before the closing prayer. This was followed by Lunch and departure.