



Strategic Partnership Signing

Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Parliament of Zimbabwe, which seeks to enhance social justice, promote gender equality and poverty eradication.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Speaker of the National Assembly, Advocate Jacob Mudenda, commended the partnership between WLSA and the Parliament of Zimbabwe, saying it will go along way in addressing social injustice and gender inequality. Advocate Mudenda drew inspiration from an old Shona proverb “Chara chimwe hachitswanyi inda” which implorers different partners to work together.

WLSA's National Director, Fadzai Traquino, said “The courts are there to protect the rights of women, but at times the legal and policy framework may be so bad that there is no remedy in the courts arena. Therefore our partnership with parliaments across SADC different levels has really been a smart partnership to try to work together towards advancing the law.”

This exercise comes from the recognition of 30 years of WLSA's work in advancing and promoting women's rights and gender equality using the law as a tool for engagement.



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Gratitude Corner

"Ndini Tofarirepi Tore madam. Ndinokutendai madam Fadzi ne organisation yenyu yeWlsa nerubatsiro rwamakandipa kuMutawatawa Court pacase yeshare property nemurume wangu. Akwanisa kundipa stand hombe nekunditengera build materials nestand hombe inokwana dzimba mbiri. Ndinotekjnda Wlsa nerubatsiro rwenyu Mwari akuitirei zvakanaka. Ndapiwa nedare zvinhu zvandaisambofungira kuti ndingawane sezvo ndaive ndisina muchato. Ndinotenda hangu"

Ms Tore's Testimony

Ms Tore visited the WLSA mobile aid clinic after her former partner had acquired the services of a lawyer. "It was not an easy case," said WLSA's legal practitioner, Fadzai Ruzive in Mutawatawa. The full trial was on 24 September, the judge granted Ms Tore a larger piece of land and her former partner signing an affidavit that stated he will supply all the building material required for her to build a new home.



Fadzai Ruzive and Tofarirepi Tore



Photo: Thando Mutema

Youth group engages with other organisations to discuss gender-based violence of women and girls, requesting that young men help.

Manica Youth Assembly Goes Rural for Women and Girls in Zimbabwe

By James What Kadzandira, Zimbabwe

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) hosted a community dialogue on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in partnership with Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Women's Justice Centre (WJC), and the Ministry of Women Affairs in Ward 14, Mutema Central. The community dialogue was mainly addressed on raising awareness of sexual gender-based violence amongst the youth in Mutema constituency.

The plenary comprised of health workers, gate keepers, young people, and the Headman. This Headman is Mr. Chikumbi, he is in charge of a certain village area.

Young people must be the driving force in environmental and climate justice issues and at the same time must not be the driving force for propelling gender-based violence in the communities.

MAYA's Gender, Research, and Development Officer, Raterendo Njambanira, stated that, "During this period of Covid-19 pandemic and indefinite lockdown, violence towards girls and young women is accepted as a social norm. This must be challenged as a matter of urgency and the blame, shame, and stigma faced by victims must be eliminated."

Moreover, there is need to embrace SDG5 (Sustainable Development Goal 5 is Empower Women and Girls and Ensure Their Equal Rights) so that every young man plays a pivotal role in climate action and makes more noise on the Environment.

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Source: https://www.facebook.com/jermainlink.php?story_fbid=1059475224536321&id=159484165862967

WLSA's Activities featured in Manica Post



WLSA staff members going through critical training on disability in the workplace with @deafwomenszim



Gladys Sibanda holding a bag and pillow she sewed

The Fight for Justice

Gladys Sibanda (45) had no complaints stating that the prison was meeting most of their needs to the best of their ability. While serving her sentence, she is grateful to the prison for providing a sewing machine and material that she uses to make pillows, bedcovers and small handbags that is then sold by the prison. "The only challenge is in accessing sanitary wear as most of the times they are not enough for everyone.

The feedback was received during prison visits at Mlondolozhi Female Prison. The prison presently accommodates 38 inmates with nearly half of inmates declared Detained Mental Patients (DMP). The visits are part of a project that is sponsored by the European Union. Its objective is to increase access to justice for vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, linguistic minorities and prisoners.



Mobile Legal Aid Clinic at Mlondolozhi



Meeting at Chamnanga

Community dialogues under the GIZ project were conducted in rural Beitbridge's ward 3,5 and 15. The areas covered included Chamnanga, Langeni, Capfuce and Lutuma.

243 people were reached during the activities. Education on management on SGBV cases, assessment of referral pathways in place and obtaining community driven solutions were some of the objectives for the activities.

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TRACE HELP DESK in Chiredzi

Women in Chiredzi receiving free legal assistance and advice from WLSA's Legal Team sponsored by TRACE



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