



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence
against women and girls

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations



MASH CENTRAL YOUTHS JOINS THE HEFORSHE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

The Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA) Consortium organized a momentous event- (the **HeForShe** campaign) on the International Youth Day Commemorations. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Youth with funding from UNWOMEN and held in Muzarabani District, Mashonaland Central Province. Among the crowd who pledged their support and commitment for gender equality through The UNWOMEN **HeForShe** campaign were the Muzarabani North Junior Councilors. The campaign mobilized men and boys to be agents and advocates for change and gender equality.



Muzarabani Junior Councilors

Ms. Mitchel Gwatimba (34), an entrepreneur, who is into horticulture and livestock production officially opened the event. Gwatimba says she broke multiple gender stereotypes and worked for gender equality in a variety of fields. It was indeed a pleasure having her as the key speaker during the function.

She initiated the conversation around gender inequality by sharing encounters from her own life that led her to identify gender role stereotypes and how she was discriminated based on her sex. Gwatimba highlighted the importance of gender equality in today's world. ***“There are households where girls and women are subjected to gender-based violence and inequality on a repetitive basis so much that it became a way of life for them. Women in such households do not question longstanding discrimination.”*** She discussed the stereotypes predominant in societies. These lead



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to unequal distribution of power which in turn have various consequences like domestic violence, marital rape, dowry, and women earning less than their male counterparts for the same work.

Muzarabani North Junior Member of Parliament who was the Guest of Honor, Ms Emilda stressed the need to move away from the traditional roles assigned to males and females. Individuals should choose what they wish to be. ***“It applies to schools and educational institutions at large. For instance, girls are typically not expected to choose subjects like mathematics and sciences, which largely remain male-dominated. Let’s advocate for pupil friendly homes, lets shun early child marriages and make sure the children have birth certificates regardless of their gender identity. Families must not confer or ascribe stereotypical identities upon their children. Women and girls are faced by challenges of access to education, high drop-out rate due to teenage pregnancy, early marriages, and limited school spaces among others in their day-to-day life. Hence the need to engage men in the gender equality conversations”***, she added.



Headman Chinyere(right) and Muzarabani High School Teacher (left)

Concluding the event, Headman Chinyere from Muringazuva Ward, Muzarabani District who is a gender champion under LGDA Consortium and community mobilizer for Padare and Campaign For Female Education(CAMFED) encouraged parents to teach their children youth morals. The launch saw participants interact and engage on masculinity and femininity in the context of the community highlighting the challenges, perception and beliefs held by men in their communities. The youths were encouraged to take the campaign forward, by registering for the ***HeForShe*** campaign and commit to it.