



SUMMARY REPORT

HIGH-LEVEL INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (WPP) 15-16 MAY 2023, RAINBOW TOWERS HARARE
THEME: STIMULATING INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE & SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS: SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's Rights
AWDF	African Women's Development Fund
AWLN	African Women Leaders Network
AU	African Union
BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CCC	Citizens Coalition for Change
CRPR	Convention on Civil and Political Rights
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
EMB	Electoral Management Body
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation
FBO	Faith-Based Organisation
IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IYWD	Institute for Young Women Development
MoWACSMED	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
MDC-T	Movement for Democratic Change- Tsvangirai
NPRC	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
PoZ	Parliament of Zimbabwe
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SADC	Southern African Development Community



UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAWIE	Violence Against Women in Elections
WCoZ	Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
WLSA	Women and Law in Southern Africa
ZANU-PF	Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front
ZCC	Zimbabwe Council of Churches
ZEC	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
ZGC	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
ZI	Zimbabwe Institute
ZMC	Zimbabwe Media Commission

Background

The First Intergenerational Dialogue on Women's Political Participation (WPP)

WLSA in collaboration with UN Women, the Ministry of Women Affairs, ALWN and WCOZ hosted the Intergenerational Dialogue on Women's Political Participation and Women's Leadership. This High-Level Dialogue was led by Hon S. G.G. Nyoni in her capacity as the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development with support from UN Women.

This Intergenerational Dialogue on Women's Political Participation will be a learning process between the women leaders of ample experience and up and coming younger generations, to foster learning, experience sharing and mentoring. The Intergenerational Dialogue on WPP will be used as a tool to bridge the generational gap in Zimbabwe on political leadership. The High-level dialogue is therefore an amalgamation of WLSA efforts to amplify women's voices towards their meaningful engagement in defining national problems and contributing to decision-making. It attests to the convening power of the network in bringing political leaders from differing affiliations to engage under the Network's banner to deliberate as well as make recommendations towards women's political participation and engagement. The dialogue also builds on a multi-party conference held in Harare in February 2023 ahead of the 2023 general elections and during which the country's women manifesto was launched. The High-Level dialogue is one of the contributions to the discourse on amplifying women's voices on advocating full, meaningful, and equal participation of women in politics.

Main Objective

This Dialogue will create a platform for solidarity on women's political participation and an opportunity to facilitate intergenerational dialogue among multi-stakeholder groups in Zimbabwe on Women's Political Participation, engaging men as partners for women's political participation, gender responsive media reporting, ending violence against women and girls and strengthening intergenerational dialogue to retain women leaders and empower young women leaders.

Specific Objectives

1. Facilitate engagement and global, regional, and country level experience-sharing among women leaders and offer solidarity to women in Zimbabwe for the upcoming elections.
2. Facilitate dialogue on women's leadership with a focus on intergenerational dialogue, identify the progression of female leaders, and develop and embrace the capacity of young female leaders in politics.
3. Facilitate strategic and constructive male engagement and retention of gender-sensitive male champions to advocate women's equal participation and a peaceful violent free environment.
4. Formulate a set of key strategies and actions on the dialogue thematic areas that will enhance women's political participation in the forthcoming elections.



Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the dialogue will include the following.

1. Shared global, regional, and country level experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt on women's political participation.
2. Endorsed set of actions on women's political participation including clear commitments, to be taken by stakeholders in the upcoming elections
3. Enhanced intergenerational interaction and communication between young women and older women to share key messages on equal participation of women in politics.

Approach and Methodology

The one and a half-day high-level dialogue aims to develop key strategic actions for key stakeholders to enhance women's political participation. The approach of the high-level dialogue will be through moderated panel discussions and interactive sessions.

Delegates will have an opportunity to explore and expansively discuss specific thematic issues. The dialogue will provide a platform to create shared knowledge and collectively craft new strategies and actions to achieve gender equality within the specific themes of the dialogue on women's political participation.

Participation

The High-level dialogue is expected to bring together about 100 people, this includes high level participation from across the region, AWLN members, a wide array of national and international stakeholders. Other Participants will include young people, women's movements, women in rural areas, political leaders, the academia, international organizations, and foundations.

SESSION 1: LANDSCAPE OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN ZIMBABWE

Session Chair: Dr. O Muchena

Welcome

The AWLN Chairperson and Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Hon. Dr. S.G.G. Nyoni opened the programme by delivering welcome remarks. In her remarks, the Minister acknowledged that it was a pleasure for Zimbabwe to be hosting such an event – a high level inter-generational dialogue on women's political participation which was running under the theme- **“Stimulating inter-generational dialogue & solidarity between generations” shared responsibility.** As the current chairperson of AWLN, she expressed her excitement to see a host of experts in the room and noted that the delegates participation was a demonstration of commitment to achieving gender equality.

Introductions and Objectives

1. To facilitate engagement and global, regional, and country level experience-sharing among women leaders and offer solidarity to women in Zimbabwe for the upcoming elections.
 2. To facilitate dialogue on women's leadership with a focus on intergenerational dialogue, identify the progression of female leaders, and develop and embrace the capacity of young female leaders in politics.
 3. To facilitate strategic and constructive male engagement and retention of gender-sensitive male champions to advocate women's equal participation and a peaceful violent free environment.
 4. To formulate a set of key strategies and actions on the dialogue thematic areas that will enhance women's political participation in the forthcoming elections.
- As such, based on the above objectives, it is WLSAs hope that this platform will enable exchanges between women leaders regarding their engagement in politics and public life as well as on-going efforts to nurture the next generation of women leaders. The intergenerational dialogue on Women's Leadership and Political Participation, will enable women leaders to engage around the barriers impacting women's leadership and facilitate the development of recommendations to promote young women's leadership.

The Status of Women's Political Leadership in Zimbabwe (including participation of Women with Disabilities, young women & women in rural areas).

Chairperson Zimbabwe Gender Commission – Commissioner M. Mukahanana-Sangarwe



“For the 2018 elections, ZANU-PF had a total of 2178 candidates, of those, only 325 were women (15%), MDC Alliance had a total of 2154 candidates, and of those 317 were women. MDC-T had a total of 356 candidates and 78 of those were women.” – Commissioner M. Mukahanana Sangarwe

- It remains worrying that statistics of women in politics continue to regress especially after the 2018 elections. The statistics are as follows:
- In the Harmonized Elections held in July 2018 in Zimbabwe, there were only 15 percent of female candidates for the House of Assembly and 17 percent for the Local Authority election. Despite constitutional provisions that aim to promote gender equality, the number of women who contest and eventually win in elections remains low. The By-elections results reflected the limited participation of women in elections as candidates despite being most registered voters. Out of the 16 female candidates who contested in the 26 March 2022 by-elections, only 5 female candidates were elected as Members of the National Assembly (17.9%) compared to the 23 male candidates who were elected as Members of the National Assembly (82.1%). Additionally, women make 48% of the members of the Senate, and 31.5% of the National Assembly (including those of the 60 seats of the Proportional Representation – actual figures actually stand at 11.9%. This means that out of 210 seats in the National Assembly, 185 are occupied by men whilst women occupy 85. In local government, women represent 13.3%.
- However, in the same breath, only 7 out of 16 political parties fielded women to be elected as Members of the National Assembly and this is an undesired result given the 50/50 agenda and commitment. Zimbabwe as a country has long committed to improving gender equality in political decision making as shown by sections 17, 56 and 80 of the Constitution that offer



specific provisions on women's political participation. However, it has become clear that as gatekeepers of elections, political parties play a key role in promoting women in political processes as they nominate candidates to their party lists and provide funding to its candidates, rally voters and create national platforms.

- It is prudent for Zimbabwe to continuously follow the examples of shining stars such as Rwanda and South Africa which have the highest number of women in leadership positions. For example, over 60 percent of the seats in Rwanda's national parliament were held by women as of May 2022. The country had the strongest female participation in politics in Africa. It also ranked first globally, with the highest proportion of women in power in lower houses than in any other nation. Second in the African ranking, South Africa registered 46.5 percent of parliamentary seats occupied by females.
- In 2019, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, with the support of HIVOS commissioned a Gender Audit of Political Parties. In this audit, it noted that women remain underrepresented in politics due to a number of factors which range from legal, structural, and administrative. These also touch on:



- The audit further established that though political parties have commitments that vary from a direct and explicit commitment of 50/50 representation within the party and among candidates to a partial commitment. However, there are no solid implementation and operationalization mechanisms to make gender balance a reality. The implementation mechanisms are not solid enough to reach the 50% representation of women as prescribed by the parties' constitutions and policies and among the candidates they put forward for elections.
- A number of organizations that champion women's political participation launched a Women's Charter in February 2023. Political parties should continue making the Charter a referral point.
- We further appreciate commitments to gender equality made by our government to extend the 60 seats for women in Parliament, and the 30% quota for the Local Government and 10% youth quota which we hope will have gender considerations to include young women and rural women.



- However, there still remains invisible representation of women with disabilities across all political divides. In Zimbabwe, only two people represent persons with disabilities, and this is about 10 % of Zimbabwe's population.
- We further recognize that our electoral system will never deliver equality and as such strongly recommend the adoption of proportional representation and to re-write the gender parity narrative.

SESSION 2: INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL EXPERIENCE SHARING ON PROMOTING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Strategies and Best Practices for Enhancing Women Political Participation

Hon Roseby Gama Gadama- Malawi



"You need to be BOLD enough!"

- In Malawi, I am an Independent Member of Parliament, and this is my first time as a Member of Parliament.
- I was here in Zimbabwe early February this year and I was with Oxfam Malawi when you launched your Women's Charter.
- My journey in politics has not been easy but I have learnt that on this journey, you meet a lot of things.
- I have also learnt that you need to be BOLD enough!
- Additionally, I have learnt that you do not need to leave out your families, families give you support.
- With my journey, it was a battle that turned out violent. Thank God, no one died. Henceforth, you need to grow a thick skin.
- In Malawi, we have been fortunate that the President has appointed many women into various positions. Such key positions include that of: (i) the Speaker of Parliament, (ii) Deputy Speaker of

- Parliament, (iii) Clerk of Parliament, (iv) Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau, (v) Ombudsman, (vi) Secretary to the President and Vice President and (vi) Inspector Directorate.
- It sometimes becomes difficult for women to pursue political careers due to lack of financial resources. These days, most voters want hand outs and not many women are able to deliver.
- In Malawi, just like the rest of Africa, women's political participation remains a topical issue as we have a total of 193 Parliamentary Seats and only 40 are occupied by women.

Hon Regina Esparon – Seychelles (chair of RWPC at SADC-PF)



“Politics is a tough job – but do not shy away”.

- My major achievements have included being elected to office 5 times after running for office/elections for 6 years.
- I was also once the Chairwoman for SADC-PF.
- As an achievement, I have also served in Parliament for over 50 years.
- My advice to young women is for them to understand that politics is a tough job – but do not shy away.
- Do not lie to your constituents- you will discredit yourself and lose their trust.
- Keep your head up high and find solutions to problems together with your constituents – they are the ones that have elected you to office.
- Young women must also understand that they are going to face many hurdles – and this includes being stereotyped as leadership is often linked to masculinity.



- It is important for one to balance work and family. I had to quit nursing my last child due to the demands of the politics career. My youngest son took over my role and my husband ended up picking up on the household chores.
 - You are going to come across violence and the best way to deal with it – is to face it! In my political career, opponents once burnt my car and dog, but I was supported by my constituents who then came to my rescue.
 - Always understand the needs of your constituents
 - Have a strong will and political voice.
 - Be visible and remain visible.
 - I would tip the young women to take their education seriously and to have a clear objective.
 - It is important for young women to not make promises that they cannot achieve to their constituents – always be honest with people. Politics is about trust.
 - Be yourself and keep an open mind.
 - Always be polite.
 - Do not work in silos – establish relationships.
 - Never show favour for a certain group in public.
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Hon. Shally Josepha Raymond – Tanzania



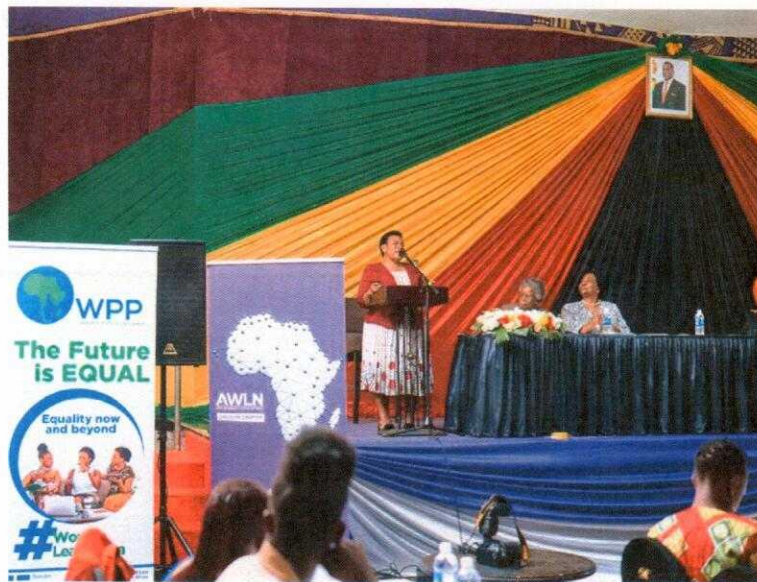
“Portray Africanism – do not be too artificial!”

- In Tanzania, we have had notable appointments of women into decision-making positions and chief amongst this includes the President, Speaker, Clerk, 13 Ministers and junior Ministers who are all female.
- 51% of the population in Tanzania are female (out of a population of 62 million people)- henceforth the issue of gender parity is one of concern as well in Tanzania.



- In my journey as a politician, I have realized that it is important to embrace all women and men.
- It is further important to know how to read and write – do not neglect your education and excel in it!
- Portray Africanism and do not become too artificial.
- Do not relax, everything else can be stolen from you except for what is in your head.

Hon G Kwaramba – Zimbabwe



“The 2013 Constitution in Zimbabwe made it possible for some of us, as women, to enter into politics through proportional representation which reserves 60 seats for women in Parliament.” – Hon G Kwaramba

- Zimbabwe has extended the clause on proportional representation for another ten years thus reserving 60 seats for women in Parliament and 30% quota for women in Local Government.
- This is my second term in Parliament, and this was made possible by the 2013 Constitution as I am an MP representing Mashonaland West (Hurungwe) through Proportional Representation.
- Politics is tough and for us women, the insults can hurt deeply. For instance, word once went around stating that I was keeping a child in my deep freeze, and I almost gave up. Thank God for my mentor who kept me going and reminded me that this was just politics.



SESSION 3: INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL & ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION:

Session Chairs: Dr. Olivia Muchena (Facilitator) & Emelda Vhiriri (AWLN Youth Caucus)

Effective Preparation for Political Office

Hon Tatenda Mavetera (presenting virtually)

- Young women need to understand the environment, research, build esteem and confidence, be part of networks and to surround themselves with people of capacity, and networks to get resources.
- Young women must also invest more in themselves.
- Tap into existing legislation that enhances women's effective political participation and advocate for its proper implementation – for example, the legislation that brings into effect the 30% quota at local level.
- Have a political fund to support your political endeavours. In fact, there is need to invest more resources in young women for them to be involved in politics. A lot of the times we are feeding young women to the wolves by asking them to participate in politics, but not supporting them financially.

Nerima Wako – AWLN Kenya Chapter Youth Caucus



- As young women, we have learnt that it is important to know how to balance life.
- Mentorship cannot be short term.
- Young women can be harshly judged especially in a world whereby growing up with social media – appearance is important.



- On the issue of resources, we have always wondered why women cannot also do 'table banking' for politics. That way, we will ensure that women have resources to finance their political career.
- It is high time that as nations, we invest in politics for the benefit of women. Let us involve women in elections and not just leave them in conducting peace processes.

Ms Ebere Ifendu – President, Women in Politics Forum, Women’s Democracy Network Africa (Nigeria)



“Politics must be an investment by us. Women are peacemakers, let’s involve them in elections because they are also in the frontier of the electoral process.”

- For me, when I entered politics, acceptability was an issue. The party constitution had no room for the position of a woman leader. Therefore, I learnt some key things in this journey:
 - i. Set up a coalition – we set up a coalition titled Women in Politics Forum
 - ii. We also set up an academy for Young Women titled Young Women in Politics Forum – through this platform, a young woman aged 26 was elected for a position into the State Assembly.
 - iii. Legislation- we advocated for 5 Gender Bills which were eventually thrown out. However, women continue to disrupt several spaces advocating for the adoption and enactment of those Bills.



Zimbabwean Ambassador to Sweden, H.E. P. Misihairabwi (virtual)

"We are feeding young women to the wolves by asking them to participate in politics, but not supporting them financially." H.E Misihairabwi

- I have decided to pick on the topic of resource mobilisation. I have no advice to give but more of an H. Elysis.
- Firstly, it is important to know that in Africa, for a woman to ask for money, that is equated to offering sex.
- Other women do not also want to give another woman money and especially to invest in another woman's political career – that is very rare.
- I was lucky enough to find a woman who believed in me and who was willing to invest in me and that was Magaret Dongo who funded my entire campaign.
- Let us not feed young women to wolves by asking them to ask for money to pursue a political career.
- We must have/establish a specific fund which can be allocated to women, especially young women who want to participate in politics.

Hon. J Mamombe (AWLN Youth Caucus)



- I am the youngest Member of Parliament having been elected to office in 2018 at the age of 24. In Parliament, only 6 of us were elected who were under 35.
- I was also part of the team that launched the Parliamentary Youth Caucus, the first ever in Zimbabwe.
- For me, leadership is about leading oneself and making an impact in our communities.
- My journey was inspired by Winnie Mandela
- I want to be remembered as a politician who stood up for the rights of other women.
- My journey started as student in the students' movement.



- I am encouraging young women to invest in digital technologies to engage with the electorate. As young women, let us show that we are innovative. Let us also learn to say no and to be vulnerable. It is ok to say that I am suffocating, and I need space to breathe as a young woman.

Former Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. J.T.R Mujuru



“Women’s participation in politics is what I went to the liberation struggle for at the age of 18.”

- It is impressive how many strides have been achieved by women since 1980 when this country attained its independence.
- I became a Member of Parliament at the age of 25 and I was in Politburo by the age of 22 and as young as I was, I was also expected to contribute at the same level as those who have a host of experience.
- Women have moved past running homes, we also want a share at the table.
- One day, young women and the older women must share on how we crafted all those laws e.g. Inheritance Laws so that we are at par with men.
- Women in politics must also know that there’s life after politics. I am now into Agri-Business.



Former President of the Senate, Edna Madzongwe



“As a young MP, you need to establish that women are intelligent by debating with intelligence. Be aware that you can move motions on addressing what is wrong in the society. It is high time women are respected for their knowledge and nothing else.”

TIPS

- Prepare well for debates.
- Use your knowledge and skills to read and prepare what's on the Order Paper so that you prepare adequately.
- Establish the fact that women are intelligent – profile answers/suggestions on how to make things right.
- Show them that you are more than your beauty and your appearance. You are there to represent young women.
- Move motions to address what is wrong intelligibly.
- Come up with believable and implementable solutions to the problems that our country faces.

Hon Senator Manyau

- As a woman in politics, I have managed to achieve three things in my career. Though it is a sad state of affairs in our country, I am the only woman with disability sitting in Senate.
- I conquered disability by winning the elections as it is difficult for women with disabilities to be in leadership spaces.
- I also advocated for the Harare Town House ramp.
- Therefore, I encourage other women with disabilities to be on the dining table with others.

Hon Blessing Robson – Vice President and Minister of Health and Childcare, Junior Parliament





Female Role models matter!

- As young women, we need female politicians to give us mentoring, advice, guidance, and counselling. Female role models matter.
 - Young women on the other hand also must believe that they can do it!
 - As young women, we also need financial support. We still have girls in rural areas who use tree barks as sanitary wear.
 - We further lack resources and experience. We speak of taking space and advantage of digital platforms, yet we have no access to or ownership of critical digital tools such as laptops and cell phones.
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Hon Lynette Kerenyi-Kore

“If you fall, you must stand up and run!”

- Young women are unfortunately coming to a space where there are legacy issues. They are constantly told by the older generation that they went to war and deserve to be in these spaces by that very fact.
 - However, we must also allow young women to take the space.
 - Young women must also learn the art of balancing and valuing the issue of seniority. Some strategies may not apply now although the principles remain the same. After all, we are all human beings.
 - Senior women must also strive to leave a legacy that can be emulated by the younger generation.
 - Young women must continue to fight and must be able to be mentored.
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Hon Maybe Mbowa

- My journey as a politician has had ups and downs. We would campaign as a team. However, as a woman, I would often be singled out and called names – worse because I was not married. I was insulted simply because I am a woman.
 - So, my advice to young women is that they should know where they want to go, and they should know what to say at the right time. Young women should learn from their elders as well.
 - Young women do not be afraid – you will get there!
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Hon P Mpariwa

“If chairs in the room are not enough – bring your own chair.”

- Politics is a hard and hot area. I started at 36 years and ran for 4 terms at First-Past-The-Post and now I am serving under Proportional Representation since 2018.
 - My advice to young women is that they must specialise in what they want to do.
 - They must further form alliances with the older women and should be open to mentorship.
 - Stay consistent and connected – do not change.
 - Be effective.
 - Build a network of other effective MPs in Parliament.
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Commissioner Majome

- Retired from politics in 2018 but would like to share some tips with the young women. One of the issues that young women must always be aware of is the issue of how dominant patriarchy is. If one is to look at an A4 piece of paper as the number of seats or spaces available for people in politics – women must always be aware that of that A4 piece of paper, they only occupy a tiny corner.
- Therefore, there is no need for women including young women to fight for a tiny corner when there is still 95% of the space to occupy which is currently being occupied by men.

“Women should be holding at least 50% of political space”.

- My advice to young women and women in general is that they should not be sold a dummy. After all, men are occupying spaces that also belong to women. As such, women, do not fight for a corner, fight for the bigger space.
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OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAMME

Welcome Remarks – Mr Muguti - Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution – Harare Metropolitan Province

- This is breaking ground event in Harare as the event made history by bringing together seasoned politicians and aspiring in an open and conducive environment for young people to participate.
- Congratulated the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development together with H.E E.D Mhangagwa for opening multiple platforms of engagement in this second Republic.

Introductory Remarks – Dr N Gumbonzvanda

Recommended the following for the 2023 Elections

- call for peace, free and fair elections free from violence before, during and after elections
- Full support for the effective participation of women in order to achieve gender parity and contribute to total ecosystem
- Zero tolerance for GBV in communities especially sexual abuse and child marriages in order to protect human dignity .
- To stand in solidarity with women in Mozambique and in Sudan for peace

Solidarity Messages

UNWOMEN Regional Director – Dr M Houinato represented by the Director of UNWOMEN Africa Union Liaison Office – Awa Ndiaye Seck

- Equitable participation of women in decision making is the essence of democracy. The challenge is to break barriers impeding women's participation. Solution is collective effort to ensure women's voices are heard.
- Having more women in leadership delivers more results.
- 32 countries in the world have achieved having 40% or more women in Parliament of which 5 are in Africa.
- In those 5 countries, 33% are women in positions as Members of Parliament and 13% are Councillors.
- We have noted that one of the strategies needed to enhance women's political participation is to work with all sectors, this includes CSOs, public and private players who can also bring in more women to the table.





- This is an event that is necessary to formulate a framework to enhance women's political participation and this will go a long way in ensuring that women take up leadership positions. I am confident that change remains possible.
- We need ways to ensure that women's voices are heard
- The 33rd Chapter of AWLN is being launched in the Gambia.

Special message from the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security Madam Bineta Diop- Special video- Peace and Security-Zimbabwe has made a mark as a unifying organisation and underscored the importance of unity of women bringing all women together and silencing the gun through dialogue. The Special does not violence but women to be leaders as actors of change.

"If you see a strong women, vote for her."



Secretary General, Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum Her Excellency B. Sekgoma.

- Social change starts with women's political participation. Women need to be equipped.
- Young girls need the required grooming and education so they can enter politics when they grow up.
- Political participation forms part of human life.
- Married women need the leeway in their personal spaces in order to compartmentalise their personal lives so they can make way for politics.
- Change in the right direction is possible if we work together.
- Women are to be given an equal role in participation and in resources. Women should be equally represented in electoral processes.

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUEST OF HONOUR - DR S.GG Nyoni

The International dialogue the first of its kind in Zimbabwe, women need to find each other and commit to do politics differently. She applauded AWLN for the High level event and recognized the inclusivity of the discussion women and solicit for support. This morning has a successful one in which retired politicians and aspiring young politicians

"Young people as they enter they should know there is life after politics"

Milestone achievement - 6 pillars

1. **Women's political participation**
2. **Women's participation in peace and security**
3. **Young women leadership is key**
4. **Women's economic empowerment and inclusion**
5. **Leadership of Rural women and women living with disability**
6. **Social mobilisation and ending violence against women**



Guest of Honor – Hon Vice President RTD General and Minister of Health and Child Care
Dr DGN Chiwengwa



“My Government is committed to the inclusion of women in electoral processes. A culture of positive masculinity should be encouraged.”

- The Government is aware of the youth voice which is required to be heard and affect their issues. However, there is need for caution as in he gave an idiom. The old in the valley and the young on the mountain but the youth will not see what the older can see therefore there is need respect the older generation.
- In pursuance of promoting values of gender equality and equity, Zimbabwe is a signatory to a number of regional and international instruments and the various measures that have been put in place include extension of the 60 seats and the 30 % quota system at local governance level. This is part of ensuring that **no one is left behind**.
- Together We SHARE IDEAS, when you are alone you can run fast but when we are together we run a distance.
- It must always be recognised that the Government of Zimbabwe is committed to promoting women's issues.

Vote of thanks – Deputy Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

Thanked the guests for having time to attend and gracing the occasion and expressed appreciation to the organisers and highlighted that this platform was an exchange for experience and to promote networking between generations. This was an opportune time to benefit and to share practices as it integral part of building capacity of women.

END OF DAY 1



DAY 2

HIGH-LEVEL INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (WPP) 15-16 MAY 2023, RAINBOW TOWERS HARARE THEME: STIMULATING INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE & SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS: SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

International & Regional Experience Sharing on Promoting Women's Political Participation

Ireland: Irish Ambassador Her Excellency Gilsenan Fionnuala

- Ireland celebrated its 100th year of Independence and the first 60 years, women's political participation was poor. You would find 1 to 3 women Parliamentarians. Therefore, when compared to Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe is actually in the right direction.
- Patriarchy, culture, and religion still remain the top factors that have hindered women's full participation in politics.
- Currently, the Irish Parliament has 22% of women and this is quite low especially if you compare with other African governments such as Rwanda. Ireland is actually not up there in terms of international figures.
- However, we have come up with strategies to enhance women's political participation. One of them is that political parties have been mandated to field at least 30% of women in elections. This has shown us women need to be facilitated in order to break barriers and to overcome them. We need to be intentional about creating an equal playing field for women.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Ms. Sifisosami Dube, Regional Co-ordinator

- We work with six (6) consortium partners. These include FAWE, GenderLinks, WLSA, FEMNET and Padare. We also work in West, East and Southern Africa.
- Therefore, we have been implementing a lot of programmes that focus on cross-generational dialogues even at community, ward, and district level.
- In our work, we have noted that being deliberate about inclusiveness works in promoting women's equal playing field. A lot of the times, people tend to exclude women from rural areas and women with disabilities.
- Our projects in Kenya and Tanzania have been deliberate about including indigenous groups.
- We have also been intentional about working with young people, particularly young women through our partnership with FAWEZ.
- We have also started working with Women's Parliamentary Caucuses so as to empower our female politicians and to build their capacities.
- It is important to take local actions to regional level so that we have a peer-to-peer learning.
- We have also started working with male actors, through Padare as most men are gatekeepers and we have established a group of male champions whom we have groomed.



- In the future, we recognise that documenting stories is important. It is also important to establish solidarity platforms such as this one.

Kenya: AWLN Kenya National Chapter Team Leader **Ms. Sarah Muhoya**

- There is a general feeling that the electorate do not want to elect women.
- Another look at this is that we do not have enough women presenting themselves as candidates.
- For example, in the Kenyan elections of August 2022, the statistics were as follows for the national Parliament:

Total Number of Candidates	Females	Males
16 100	1962	14 138
Successful Candidates	Females	Males
1835	149 (47 are on affirmative action)	1686

- As Kenya, we then decided to go out as a nation and look for the women. Women are not looking for information on politics. We need to increase the pool for those who are running.
- We created a **Democracy Trust Fund** whereby we have 100 women who are preparing to run for elections in 2027.
- Everyone believes that women are enemies of themselves and yet women do not hate each other.
- We have created pocket booklets; we go to radio and profile all women candidates so that the electorate can get to know the women and to value what women bring to the table.
- Sometimes as women, not having a proper agenda in the House always backfires. Therefore, collaboration and networking is critical.

Panel Topic	Issues and Recommendations
<p>Addressing Violence Against Women in Politics</p> <p>Panel Moderator: Virginia Muwanigwa Zimbabwe Gender Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zimbabwe is doing well in terms of adopting a constitution, laws, and a Code of Conduct for political parties. The challenge is in implementation. - There are different forms of violence. - Digital technology is perpetuating violence – people hide behind ghost accounts and violate other people online. - Violence must be dealt with 365 days of the year. - Legislative Framework e.g., UNSCR 1325 – there is need to follow up on the National Action Plan. - Structures – there is no confidence in the structures.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to look at politics as a job. Often, we do not recognize that we are supposed to protect those in politics. - Saying no to VAWIE must not be ambiguous.
<p>Gender Responsive Media Coverage on WPP</p> <p>Panel Moderator: Tambudzai Madzimure HIVOS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsrooms are male dominated – they decide the content. - Reports are still sexist. For example, the description of Sandra Ndebele when she won the primary elections focused on her erotic dancing. - Coverage quality and quantity is still biased towards men. - Therefore, it is important to establish relations with media journalists so that they cover everyone. - To have networks and engage with journalists on a regular basis. - Capacity strengthening of the media needs to be continuous. - Women Aspiring Candidates – do your media research and know which media station is relevant for you. - Radios are not allowed to broadcast any political content. - Community radios also make it possible for women to share their stories. - More use of technology especially video content to avoid being misquoted.
<p>Engagement of Men as Partners of WPP</p> <p>Panel Moderator: Sally Ncube, National Coordinator, Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCOZ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to understand the role that men play in women's lives and to understand how they engage with men on a day-to-day basis as a background to engaging men as partners of WPP. - Narratives – how are we socialised? What are we seeing in our spaces and how do men and women co-exist? - Do men and boys know what role they are supposed to play?
<p>Women's Economic power for political influence and leadership</p> <p>Panel Moderator: Fadzai Traquino Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)</p>	<p>Economic power is not just money; but includes – VOICE, AGENCY To INFLUENCE, SKILL, respect afforded to a person and knowledge and education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is need to address issues at Political Party Level – consider the quotas and the FPTP which impedes women's effective political participation. There are sections on finances. We must analyse whether women are effectively covered by party finances. Parties must have clear policies that speak to resources for women. - Women in politics also require strong investment within the full electoral cycle. - There is need for AWLN to engage women in the grassroots level and create partnership with women in business to assist and support women in politics. There is need for clear strategies for candidates. There is need to invest in Financial Literacy.

	<p>Capacity building on fundraising and management of resources targeting women politicians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create more platforms for discussion including women in key sectors so that women can network and gather around a broader agenda aimed at financing women in politics. - We must deal with toxic masculinities.
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ANNEX 1: PROGRAMME

OFFICIAL OPENING

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
DAY 1: 15 MAY 2023		
SESSION 1: LANDSCAPE OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN ZIMBABWE		
Session Chair: Dr. O Muchena		
07:30 – 08:30	Arrival of guests, registration & seating	AWLN/HIVOS/UNW
08:30 -08:35	Welcome	AWLN Chairperson and Ministry of Women Affairs Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Honourable Dr.S.G.G. Nyoni
08:35 -08:45	Introductions & objectives	AWLN Youth Caucus
08:45-09:00	The status of Women's Political Leadership in Zimbabwe (including participation of Women with Disabilities, young women & women in rural areas)	Chairperson Zimbabwe Gender Commission: Commissioner M. Mukahanana-Sangarwe
SESSION 2: INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL EXPERIENCE SHARING ON PROMOTING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION		
09:00 – 10:00	Strategies & best practices for Enhancing Women political participation Session Chair: Dr. O. Muchena, Facilitator	SADC Parliamentary Forum: Chairpersons of National Women's Parliamentary Caucuses Angola: Hon. Teresa Jose Adelina Neto Botswana: Hon. Minister Nnaniki Makwinja Madagascar: Hon. R. E. Rakotobe Malawi: Hon. Roseby Gama Gadama Namibia: Hon. Emilia Nujoma Seychelles: Hon. R. Esparon Tanzania: Hon. Shally Josepha Raymond Zimbabwe : Hon. G. Kwaramba
10:00 – 10:30	TEA BREAK	ALL



10:30-11:30	SESSION 3: INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL & ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION: Session Chairs: Dr. Olivia Muchena (Facilitator) & Emelda Vhiriri (AWLN Youth Caucus)	
	Panel One: EFFECTIVE PREPARATION FOR POLITICAL OFFICE	Dr. Muchena: Session Objectives (5 min) Young women: (5 minutes per panellist) AWLN Youth Caucus, Hon: J. Mamombe AWLN Youth Caucus, Hon. T. Mavetera (virtual) Aspiring candidate, Chipo Mukucha, Senior Women: (5 minutes per panellist) Former Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. J .T. R. Mujuru, Zimbabwean Ambassador to Sweden, H.E P. Misihairabwi (virtual) Hon. Dorothy Ndlovu Former Independent MP, Hon. M. Dongo
	Panel Two : INTER-GENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY AMONG WOMEN POLITICIANS	Young Women: (5 minutes per panellist) Vice President and Minister of Health and Childcare Junior Parliament, Hon. Blessing Robson AWLN Kenya Chapter Youth Caucus Team Leader, Nerima Wako, Aspiring candidate, Memory Makasi, Aspiring candidate, Linda Chinamano Senior Women: (5 minutes per panellist) Hon. Lynette Karenyi-Kore Hon. Senator Manyau (TBC) Hon. Maybe Mbowa Hon. P. Mpariwa Commissioner F. J. Majome
BREAKAWAY PARALLEL THEMATIC WORKING GROUP SESSIONS		
11:30-12:30	Addressing Violence Against Women in Politics Panel Moderator: Virginia Muwanigwa Zimbabwe Gender Commission	Ministry of Women Affairs, Chief Director Ms. Lillian Matsika Zimbabwe Republic Police, TBC National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Commissioner N. Gwere Gender Champion, Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Rev Agony Siwela WCOZ Musasa Project



	<p>Gender Responsive Media Coverage on WPP</p> <p>Panel Moderator: Tambudzai Madzimure HIVOS</p>	<p>Hon. M. Mutsvangwa, Minister for Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services (To be Confirmed) Zimbabwe Union for Journalists, Chairperson of the Gender Mainstreaming Committee, Fungai Lupande Production & Programmes Executive, NRTV, Tendai Garwe Kholwani</p>
	<p>Engagement of Men as Partners of WPP</p> <p>Panel Moderator: Sally Ncube, National Coordinator, Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCOZ)</p>	<p>President Junior Parliament, His Excellency, Hon. Unathi Nyoni Traditional Leader Representative, Commissioner P. Mawonera Chief Chikwizo Padare National Director. Walter Vengesai Fathers Against Abuse: Nixon Nembaware</p>
	<p>Women's Economic power for political influence and leadership</p> <p>Panel Moderator: Fadzai Traquino Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)</p>	<p>International Consultant, Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Managing Partner Shikamo Political Campaigns and Advisory Services, Glen Mpani (virtual)</p>
12:30-13:30	LUNCH	ALL

OPENING CEREMONY		
Director of Ceremonies: Permanent Secretary Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development: Mr Moses Mhike		
13:30-14:15	Arrival of Guests and Seating	All invited delegates
14:15-14:30	Arrival of Guest of Honour	
14:30: 14:35	Briefing of Guest of Honour	Dignitaries
14:35- 14:40	National Anthem	Musical Interlude
14:40- 14:50	Opening Prayer	Pastor Mary Muzori
14:50- 15:00	Welcome Remarks	Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Harare Metropolitan Province Mr. T. Muguti
15:00- 15:20	Introductory Remarks, Objectives &	AWLN Pioneer, AWLN Zimbabwe Chapter Senior Steering Committee Member & AWLN Member



	Overview of AWLN Zimbabwe Chapter	Dr. N. Gumbonzvanda AWLN Youth Caucus Chairperson Ms. M. Murinda (AWLN promotional video)
15:20-15:40	Solidarity Remarks	UN Women Regional Director Dr. M. Houinato represented by Ms Awa Ndiaye Seck, Director of UN Women AU Liaison Office AU Representative Madam Bineta Diop (VIDEO) Secretary General, Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum Her Excellency B. Sekgoma.
15:40- 16:00	Remarks and introduction of Honourable Vice President RTD General & Minister of Health and Child Care Dr D.G.N Chiwenga	AWLN Chairperson: Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development: Honourable Dr. S. G. G. Nyoni
16:00- 16:20	Remarks and Introduction of the Guest of Honour	Honourable Vice President RTD General & Minister of Health and Child Care Dr D.G.N Chiwenga
16:20- 16:50	Keynote Address & Official Opening by Guest of Honour	The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe: His Excellency, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa Represented by his excellency Honourable Vice President RTD General & Minister of Health and Child Care Dr D.G.N Chiwenga
16:50- 17 :00	Presentation of Gifts	AWLN Chairperson and Ministry of Women Affairs Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Honourable Dr.S.G.G. Nyoni (To lead the process)
17:00-17:30	Vote of Thanks	Minister of Defence and War veterans Affairs Honourable O. C.Z. Muchinguri Kashiri
17:30	Group Photo	ALL

DAY 2: 16 MAY 2023

09:00-09:05	Recap of Day one	Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
09:05 – 09:30	International & Regional Experience Sharing on Promoting Women's Political Participation Session Chair	Ireland: Irish Ambassador Her Excellency Gilsenan Fionnuala International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Ms. Sifisosami Dube, Regional Co-ordinator Kenya: AWLN Kenya National Chapter Team Leader Ms. Sarah Muhoya Nigeria: President, Women in Politics Forum, Women's Democracy Network Africa, Ms. Ebere Ifendu



	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
	RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FIVE-YEAR FUTURISTIC FRAMEWORK ON PROMOTING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (2023 – 2028)	
09:30-10:30	Report Back Recommendations for the 5-year WPP FRAMEWORK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Addressing Violence Against Women in Politics ✦ Gender Responsive Media Coverage on WPP ✦ Engagement of Men as Partners of WPP ✦ Women's Economic power for political influence and leadership 	Working Group Session Chairs: WCOZ: Sally Ncube HIVOS: Tambudzai Madzimure ZGC: Virginia Muwanigwa WILSA: Fadzai Traquino
10:30-11:00	TEA BREAK	ALL
11:00-11:20	Way forward & Next Steps	Dr. Muchena – Expert Facilitator
11:20-12:00	Press Conference	Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development: Honourable Dr. S. G. G. Nyoni , Senior and AWLN Youth Caucus Members
12:00:12:15	Entertainment	
12:15: 12:30	Closing and Vote of Thanks	AWLN Youth Caucus Member. S. Kademaunga
12:30	LUNCH	ALL



V VIP's pose for souvenir photo with Vice president Honourable Vice President RTD General & Minister of Health and Child Care **Dr D.G.N Chiwenga**

HIGH-LEVEL INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (WPP) IN PICTURES





Attended and reported by: Hon Regina Esparon, the Chairperson of the Woman's Parliamentary Caucus.

Esparon

Hon. Regina Esparon

12-07-2025

Date