



SUMMARY REPORT ON COMMEMORATION OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

FROM: UVGI Ambassadors, Malawi

TO: Dr. Hala Ghoson, Executive Director of UVGI, USA

DATE OF REPORT: 20th December 2024

INTRODUCTION

On 18th December 2024, the Ambassadors of United Voices for Global Impact (UVGI) Malawi joined the world and the Malawi nation in commemorating 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) against Women and Girls. The activity, which marked the end of the sixteen days-journey of intensive awareness to all people to end gender-based violence against women and girls, took place at the Village Headwoman Mtima's ground in Traditional Authority Nkagula in Zomba District. The activity was organized by UVGI Ambassadors with support from UVGI.

Activity Objective

To amplify the voice of all women survivors of gender-based violence in ending all kinds of gender-based violence in Malawi and specifically in Sakata community.

Theme of the Event

This year's theme of this commemoration event was: **"Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed. #No Excuse. Unite to End Violence Against Women"**.

The theme is always decided by the UN Women Organization and is internationally celebrated.



Some of the women survivors of gender-based violence posing in a photo with one of the District Council officials during the Commemoration of 16-Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Participants of the Activity

The UVGI Ambassadors conducted this commemoration event in conjunction with a group of women survivors of gender-based violence in Mtima village. The function was also graced by several dignitaries such as an official from the District Gender Office, the Youth and Sports Development Assistant, representatives of Zomba Civil Society Organizations Network, Chairperson of Nkagula Youth Network, Village Development Committee members and some village headmen and women from within Sakata community.

There was a variety of activities that were conducted to mark the day. Among them were speeches, poems, drama and traditional dances—all relaying messages of ending and preventing gender-based violence against women and girls in their community.

The women survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) from Mtima village narrated stories of gender-based violence each one of them got involved in before they were rescued by their family members, traditional leaders, community police and several other victim support groups/authorities.

The women survivors went on to express their joy and happiness for coming together and form a grouping in which they are benefiting a lot both individually as well as families. The women stressed that individually they were able to share their experiences of the different kinds of gender-based violence they had gone through and how they were rescued. As families, the women survivors hinted that they were able to do small scale businesses with some soft loans each got from their group savings and loans services. The women pointed out that they were all able to feed their families, clothe their children and themselves, pay school fees for their children and even undertake some agricultural husbandry practices with the little profits they each got from their businesses.

Successes of the event

- ✓ It was the platform for the women survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Mtima village to amplify their voice of ending gender-based violence against women and girls within their community.
- ✓ The event made the women survivors of gender-based violence to become champions and models of “STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS CAMPAIGN” to their fellow women who were still being victimized by their husbands/family members.
- ✓ The event has proved to all women and the community at large that by working together in a group, it is possible for the women and girls to end gender-based violence.
- ✓ The event also created a learning environment for other women who were not doing any productive activity in life to begin to think businesswise with the little they manage to get.
- ✓ The event drew people of different professions together for the benefit of the people of Sakata community and Mtima village in particular. The dignitaries gave their motivational speeches in line with the legal instruments on ending and preventing violence against women and girls at every place.
- ✓ Through the event, the community has learned of several benefits that the women survivors of gender-based violence are able to attain through their weekly gatherings. Among others, they share business knowledge and skills and how they can develop their families.

A concern from the women survivors of gender-based violence

- The women survivors expressed their concern that they are running their businesses with very little capital because they have used much of their money for various home uses including buying food due to the hunger crisis in their homes.

Special request to Dr. Hala Ghoson

The women survivors of gender-based violence in Mtima village have heard that you are coming to Malawi next year. They have received the news with great excitement as they anticipate to have

time to interact with you when you come, and any support to uplift their businesses will be highly appreciated.

The women are also asking Dr.Hala to prepare a keynote address on *How to deal with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and How they, as victims of gender-based violence, can easily heal from the trauma, depression and anxiety* that they have gone through.

CONCLUSION

As UVGI Ambassadors, we feel the Commemoration of 16 Days Activism against Gender-Based Violence held in Mtima village was very successful and achieved its intended objective.

The commemoration event has really amplified the voice of all stakeholders including that of the women themselves in telling their community that there is no excuse and no room for violence against women and girls. We remain united to end any form of violence against women and girls!

End of the Summary Report