

PRESS STATEMENT: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

12 August 2024

The Zimbabwe Gender Commission Commemorates International Youth Day

The Zimbabwe Gender Commission joins the global community in commemorating the International Youth Day, acknowledging the significant potential of youth in Zimbabwe and across Africa.

Under the theme, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development" this year's commemorations highlight the vital role of young people in driving inclusive and sustainable development through digital initiatives. Young people, as digital natives, are leveraging technology not only to connect with millions but also to foster social change and support marginalized communities. Their efforts in digital inclusion, bridging the digital divide, creating safe online spaces, and combating misinformation are pivotal in shaping a more equitable world. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission recognises the power of digital technology and that, when used responsibly, it is a tool that can be harnessed to drive the gender equality agenda.

We recognize that empowering young people, particularly through gender equality, is essential for national development and creating a more just society. Investing in youth-driven initiatives, especially in the digital realm, is crucial for maximizing their contributions to societal progress.

The Commission also expresses concern about the rising trends of drug and substance abuse among young people. We therefore call upon the youth to say no to drugs and any negative influences.

In view of the growing scourge of cyber bullying, ZGC reiterates that this is a criminal offence that Zimbabweans should desist from.

Recognising that early so called child marriages are robbing too many of the country's youth of their future, we remind citizens of Constitutional obligations to uphold the best interests of the children.

We call upon the government and other stakeholders to prioritize comprehensive youth programs and community initiatives, including investments in sports and recreational facilities.

For government and other stakeholders to create safe work spaces for young people with due consideration of the specific needs of young women and girls.

ZGC also calls for increased opportunities for young people in skills development leveraging on Education 5.0 model to ensure technological skills development in line with global trends.

The Zimbabwe Gender Commission remains committed to collaborating with partners to ensure a brighter, more equitable future for all young people. Let us collectively harness the power of our youth to build a prosperous Zimbabwe.

For Gender Equality

For media inquiries and further information, please contact For more information, contact ZGC Chairperson, Commissioner Margaret Mukahanana Sangarwe 0712214203/ 0772869214, or Chief Executive Officer Virginia Muwanigwa 0712899543/ 0772327955