



PRESS STATEMENT

Zimbabwe Gender Commission Commemorates International Men's Day – 19 November 2024

As Zimbabwe marks **Men's Month**, the **Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC)** joins the global community in commemorating **International Men's Day (IMD)** on **Tuesday, 19 November 2024**. This significant day serves to recognize the positive contributions that men make to their families, communities, and the world at large. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness about the social challenges affecting men and boys and to highlight the need for support.

The theme for this year's **International Men's Day** is "**Men's Health Champions**." This theme aligns with one of the key objectives of IMD: to focus on improving the health and well-being of men and boys. In Zimbabwe, alarming trends in men's health, including lower life expectancy rates, are evident. While women in Zimbabwe have a life expectancy of approximately **68 years**, men are expected to live, on average, just **61.2 years**. Men also account for more deaths in the country compared to women, with health-seeking behaviors among men being relatively low.

The **Zimbabwe Gender Commission** seeks to draw attention to these pressing health disparities. It is crucial to recognize the specific health challenges faced by men, including mental health issues, substance abuse, higher rates of violence, and a lack of targeted health services. These challenges require urgent action and improved services.

In recognition of these challenges, the **Zimbabwe Gender Commission** calls on **government, public services, NGOs, businesses, and the media** to work together and prioritize the creation of support systems that ensure better health and well-being for men and boys. Improved healthcare services, mental health support, and awareness campaigns about healthy lifestyles are essential. This collective action can contribute to a healthier society for all.

As part of The Zimbabwe Gender Commission's commitment to addressing gender equality and promoting the well-being of both men and women, the Commission is pleased to announce the **International Blended Conference on the Male Figure in Africa**. The conference, held in partnership with the **University of Zimbabwe**, will take place on **27 and 28 November 2024** at the University of Zimbabwe Diamond Conference Centre. The theme of the conference is "**From Boys to Men: Gender Empowerment and Equality in Africa**." It aims to foster discussions on the gender empowerment of men and boys and explore ways to achieve gender equality while addressing the specific challenges men face in Africa.

International Men's Day is an important opportunity to reflect on the needs and well-being of men and boys. The **Zimbabwe Gender Commission** urges all stakeholders to take action towards improving men's health and well-being, and to continue advocating for policies that create a healthier and more equitable society for all.

We look forward to engaging with various organizations and institutions at the upcoming conference and encourage all to join the efforts to make Zimbabwe a healthier and more inclusive society for everyone.

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