Zimbabwe Gender Commission

INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY 2026: ZGC CALLS FOR GREATER ENGAGEMENT OF MEN AND BOYS IN ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) joins the nation and the international community in commemorating International Men's Day on 19 November 2026. The day provides an opportunity to recognise the contributions of men and boys to families, communities and national development, while reflecting on the challenges affecting their welfare, safety and participation in society.

As the national institution mandated to promote and protect gender equality, the Commission acknowledges that men and boys are also victims and survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse. Their experiences must be recognised, taken seriously and addressed without discrimination or stigma.

The Commission notes that harmful social expectations and stereotypes surrounding masculinity often discourage male survivors from speaking out, seeking assistance and reporting abuse. The perception that men must always be strong and remain silent creates barriers to accessing justice and support services.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe provides a framework for protecting the rights and dignity of every person which includes men and boys. Section 51 guarantees the right to human dignity, while Section 52 protects every person's bodily and psychological integrity and freedom from all forms of violence, including violence from private sources. Furthermore, Section 56 guarantees equality before the law and non-discrimination, while Section 25 calls for the protection of the family and the prevention of domestic violence.

The Commission has continued to implement male engagement programmes aimed at promoting positive masculinity, challenging harmful gender norms and encouraging men's participation in preventing GBV. Notably, this year's National Gender Forum in December places particular emphasis on engaging men and boys, providing a platform for dialogue and collective action towards advancing gender equality and building peaceful communities.

On this International Men's Day, the Commission calls upon men and boys to speak out against violence, report cases of abuse and seek support without fear of stigma. Families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, workplaces and service providers are urged to create safe environments where male survivors can access assistance and justice. Men and boys are also encouraged to challenge harmful practices, promote respectful relationships and become active champions in ending GBV.

The Commission reiterates that gender equality is everyone's responsibility**.** Recognising the challenges faced by men and boys, supporting survivors and engaging men as partners in social transformation are essential to building inclusive, safe and peaceful communities.

Happy International Men's Day 2026!

For Gender Equality

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