

MARCH 2026

NEWSLETTER

YOUTH ALIVE ZIMBABWE



In this edition of the newsletter, YAZIM highlights the diverse activities the organization hosted and participated in as part of the 2026 International Women's Day Commemorations which ran under the powerful theme "Rights, Justice, Action" calling upon communities, institutions and leaders to champion a world where women's safety, dignity and inclusion are a priority and non-negotiable.



YAZIM joined the MWACSMED, government departments and other developmental partners in the 2026 district IWD commemorations held in ward 20 Mutasa District. The event served as a platform to advocate for gender equality and the protection of women and girls from various forms of violence. Calls were made for the community to unite in upholding women's rights and ensuring that perpetrators of violence are held accountable. Women were encouraged not to shy away from reporting cases of violence and were urged to utilise the referral pathway through structures present in their communities. Additionally, survivors were encouraged to desist from withdrawing reported cases, as doing so may place them at greater risk of harm.



● **Echoes of courage**

YAZIM in collaboration with ZWLA and MUSASA hosted a Mubatanidzwa bringing together women from different faith spaces spread across ward 6 of Mutasa District to mark the close of women's month for the year 2026. The Mubatanidzwa served as a space for fostering women's solidarity and collective action towards the promotion and protection of women's rights, particularly within faith contexts where women are sometimes discouraged from speaking out on issues of violence.

Through the engagement, there was awareness raising on the critical role women play in preventing GBV and the importance of accessing available GBV response services. A powerful message echoed throughout the gathering was a call for women to **reject all forms of violence** and to affirm without hesitation that **violence is never acceptable**. Particular spotlight fell on elderly women whose voices carry authority and are often guardians of culture within communities.



The matriarchs were encouraged to use their influence boldly to challenge harmful norms that have persisted for generations and guide communities toward the Christian values of justice, peace and dignity championed by the SASA! Faith. Women were equipped with knowledge on the legal frameworks that protect their rights including key provisions in national law and the Marriage Act. A keystone message was the call to advocate for joint ownership of assets between spouses as a powerful tool for strengthening women's protection, security and long term stability.

"I am not only walking away fully equipped with information but also motivated to use the law and my influence as a voice to champion gender equality", said Shylet Machiwana of Zviratidzo Church ward 6

YAZIM participated in the IWD Commemorations hosted by the Gender Faith Network in Harare where scores of faith members came together to jointly celebrate the momentous event. The commemoration served as a powerful reminder of the role faith communities play in advancing gender justice. By grounding advocacy in theology, lived experiences and collective action, the event reinforced the need for sustained efforts toward equality. The call was to uphold dignity and ensure that no woman or girl is left behind. Bishop Mutami led a theological reflection focusing on the church's role in championing rights and justice. Drawing from the Gospel of John 4, the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman was used to illustrate dignity, inclusion and empowerment. YAZIM remains steadfast in advancing women's safety and inclusion through its SASA! Faith work, mobilising faith community members to create safe and supportive spaces where women can thrive



Faith in Action!

Testimonial by Beauty Timburwa, CA

Two of YAZIM's dedicated Community Activists leading the rollout of the SASA! Faith methodology in Mutasa had the opportunity to participate in the 5th edition of the Ladies High Tea held in Mutare as part of the IWD Commemorations. YAZIM spotlights the experience of one of the attendees who shared her reflections from the gathering offering a glimpse into what the experience meant for her and how it enriched her journey.

"I had the opportunity to attend the IWD High tea which was held on the 28th of March. I learnt a lot from this experience and felt particularly challenged by a story shared by one of the event planners whose journey also began as CA just like me. I kept telling myself that if she could do it, there is nothing that can stop me, it only requires my commitment and passion."



"Dr Chido Sango who was one of the guest speakers inspired me a lot through her speech on the importance of financial independence as a woman. She gave reference to bible scriptures which made her presentation relatable.

Another powerful insight she shared was the importance of investing in support for business by paying people to assist with day to day tasks to avoid burnout. Overall, my key takeaway was working hard but working smart just like the Proverbs 31 woman! I wish to attend the sixth edition testifying about my own business".