

NEWS UPDATE

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EMPOWERING FEMALE STUDENTS

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12 August 2022

PRESS STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

For Immediate Release

The Female Students Network Trust (FSNT) is a movement of more than 40 000 female students that advocates for the rights of young women in Zimbabwe’s institutions of higher learning through gender justice advocacy work, leadership development and mentorship programs. These are done through various empowerment thematic areas such as: Women’s Participation in Institutional Governance bodies, Women’s Rights Advocacy, Policy Advocacy, facilitating access to Psycho-Social Support services to survivors of sexual gender-based violence through rapid response and solidarity, and Economic Empowerment initiatives. FSNT works with 43 institutions across ten provinces of Zimbabwe which are inclusive of State and Private universities, Polytechnic, Teacher Training institutions and Vocational Training centres.

The Network joins the rest of the world in commemorating the International Youth Day under the global theme, **“Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages.”**. This year’s theme awakens the world on the need to build the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future general by fostering equality and inclusivity at all levels. The United Nations Secretary General Youth Day message that, the world needs to leverage the full potential of all generations. Solidarity across generations is key for sustainable development and that we must collaborate to foster successful and equitable intergenerational relations and partnerships to ensure “no one is left behind,” is key in making sure that young people are involved in all matters that bears their future towards achieving the sustainable goals.

As an organization that advocate for the rights of female students across all institutions of learning, we are cognizance of the fact that climate change has brought about significant effects in the strides made on gender equality and alleviating Gender Based Violence (GBV) especially among developing countries in which perennial droughts and water shortages coupled with massive natural disasters are striking hard on the dignity, empowerment and upliftment of young women and children.

Hence, we call upon the governments in Africa and the world to;

- ❖ **To involve women and children in the invention of a road map towards dealing with climate change.**
- ❖ **To prioritize the inclusion of young women in decision making processes towards the attainment of SDG 5.**
- ❖ **To initiate robust GBV eradication strategies that are centered on the economic empowerment of young women in Africa and beyond.**

YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS ARE WELCOME

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