

FSN

CAMPUS *life*



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JUNE 2023

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MAGAZINE

June 2023

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1 Promoting Gender Equality in Leadership: The Role of Male Counterparts in Supporting Female Student Leaders

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(NUST STUDENT)**



In today's world, gender inequality remains a significant issue, particularly in leadership positions. While women have made progress in various fields, they still face challenges in breaking through the glass ceiling and achieving equal representation in leadership roles. As such, it is important to recognize the role of male counterparts in supporting and promoting gender equality in leadership.

According to a report by the World Economic Forum, countries with higher levels of gender equality tend to have better economic and social outcomes. For example, Rwanda has the highest percentage of female parliamentarians in the world, with women holding 61.3% of seats in the lower house. This has contributed to Rwanda's progress in areas such as gender equality, healthcare, and education.

Despite this progress, many male comrades often speculate on the reasons why female students are not interested in leadership activities. However, it is crucial for male counterparts to sit down and listen to females and work together to find solutions. Few, if any, have actually taken the time to listen to female students and hear their reasons for not being involved. By listening to their perspectives, we can gain a better understanding of the challenges they face and work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for female student leaders.

Becoming a leader involves more than just natural talent. While many people, both male and female, believe that they are born leaders, there is always more that one can offer beyond inherent abilities. Many men have understood this and have put in the work to become successful leaders. However, some female student leaders may not have the same opportunities or support. It is important to note that a leader's selling point should be their history, vision, and capacity, not their gender. Unfortunately, some potential female leaders may come into leadership roles just to showcase their gender, which ultimately leads to their failure.

It is crucial to promote gender equality in leadership and create opportunities for women to participate in leadership roles. Women should be given equal opportunities

and support to develop their leadership skills and reach their full potential. Leadership is a process, and definitely emotions will be involved, but female student leaders should be able to embrace losing and failing in the race, but with such circumstances hold these not as obstacles but as learning curves. This is also one point in which male counterparts can help by persevering up till they learn and get better. Try, try again if at first, you do not succeed, might sound like a toddler's bedtime song, but it talks miles in being a better leader

In conclusion, it is important for male and female counterparts to work together to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for female student leaders to reach their full potential. For instance, Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate, is a great example of a female student leader who has inspired millions of people around the world with her courage and determination to fight for gender equality in education. By working together and promoting gender equality in leadership, we can create a better future for all.

I have been to the mountain top and I have seen the future.

2

EXAMINING THE NEXUS BETWEEN GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD MARRIAGES

Talent Muzhangiri



Gender-based violence has become a cause of concern among societies around the world but it is more recorded in patriarch societies that still lack gender equality and gender equity. According to the Istanbul Convention (2014) gender-based violence refers to any form of harm that is perpetrated against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Gender-based violence mostly affect women as they were traditionally seen as inferior to men. The African Development Bank (2019) observed that 30% of woman around the world have experienced physical and sexual violence. In Zimbabwe 1 in 3 women aged 15 to 49 years of age have experienced physical while 1 in 4 women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. Gender-based violence also affects youths in particular those who are in child marriages. Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child (UNICEF).

Child marriage is globally documented in law as a form of gender-based violence and both violate human rights which then means that most young girls are subjected to gender-based violence through marriage. Gender based violence among youths has contributed significantly to low self-esteem meaning the person becomes critical of themselves and end up ignoring their positive qualities judging themselves to be inferior to their peers. It also promotes societal discrimination and segregation and leads to physical harm. UNFPA (2020) noted that of the girls aged between 20- 24 years, 31% were married before the aged of 18.

This shows that most young girls are already subjected to gender-based violence by marriage. Child marriages are also related to gender-based violence as most young girls who are victims of gender-based violence are often married to older men who usually portray superior role within the union. This means

that the minor involved is hence naturally affected by the age gap/difference. In other words, the greater the age difference between the partners, the more abuse or violence the girl child experiences from their partner. It is also important to note that young women subjected to child marriages and gender-based violence are also subjected to poor sexual health practices that may pose a great risk to diseases such as HIV and Aids.

Other impacts of both gender-based violence through early marriages has economic consequences as it deprives young girls of the opportunity to grow and pursue economic targets but rather promotes uncalculated responsibility which is related to poverty. It is therefore key to implement checks that reduce GBV and child marriages through law, awareness and ensuring compliance such that young girls don't become victims.





3 | As good as dead

Poem By: Susan
Thobekile Ncube

Purpose from the
womb

I refuse to be
ignored

Take up your arms

Let your definition

To save me from the
tomb.

I refuse to be
stigmatised

Be strength and
honour

I refuse to be silenced

I refuse to lie fallen

Not that of your
womb

I refuse to be shamed

Woman rise up

Red red life flowing

Life in death

Ideology of my genealogy

Out of me

Out of the ashes I rise

What is my name

When all around me ask:

To cover my shame?

Who are you?

To live is to die

Notes

I discovered I had fibroids in 2018, in 2022 the Dr advised I remove the fibroids, unfortunately the fibroids were too big & the Dr had to remove my uterus (womb). I can not have children anymore & I don't have any & no longer go on my periods.

After hearing the news about my uterus being removed I felt as good as dead.

I had to die to my African mindset of attaching my identity, value & worth to marriage & children so I could live emotionally, mentally & spiritually. Death is good for getting rid of old things to get hold of the new.

Sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) is a significant problem in many countries, including Zimbabwe. SGBV is a form of violence that is directed against individuals based on their gender. It can take many forms, including rape, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. In this article, we will discuss the problem of SGBV in Zimbabwe and the efforts being made to address it.

SGBV is a widespread problem in Zimbabwe, affecting both women and men. According to the Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) conducted in 2015, 35% of women in Zimbabwe have experienced physical violence, and 21% have experienced sexual violence. The survey also found that 8% of men in Zimbabwe have experienced physical violence, and 2% have experienced sexual violence.

The problem of SGBV in Zimbabwe is exacerbated by several factors, including poverty, cultural norms, and weak legal frameworks. Poverty can lead to economic insecurity, which can increase the risk of SGBV. Cultural norms that condone violence against women and girls can also contribute to the problem. In addition, the weak legal framework in Zimbabwe can make it difficult to prosecute perpetrators of SGBV.

Efforts are being made to address the problem of SGBV in Zimbabwe. The government has implemented several policies and programs aimed at preventing and responding to SGBV. For example, the government has developed the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence, which provides a framework for addressing SGBV in the country. The government has also established the Gender-Based Violence Fund, which provides financial support to survivors of SGBV.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also playing a significant role in addressing SGBV in Zimbabwe. NGOs provide support to survivors of SGBV, including counseling, legal aid, and medical care. NGOs also conduct awareness-raising campaigns to educate communities about the problem of SGBV and promote gender equality.

4 | The Paradox of SGBV in Zimbabwe

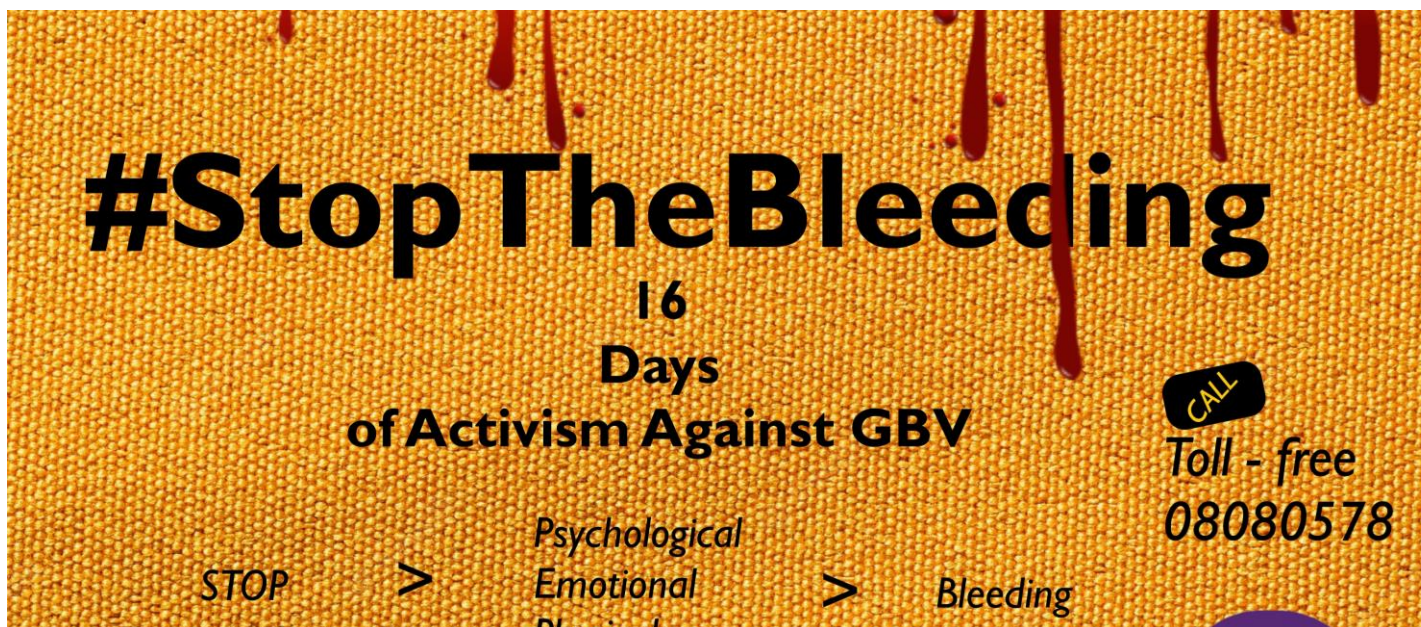
Loreen Dube



Despite these efforts, more needs to be done to address the problem of SGBV in Zimbabwe. There is a need for stronger legal frameworks that protect survivors of SGBV and hold perpetrators accountable. There is also a need for increased funding for programs aimed at preventing and responding to SGBV. Finally, there is a need for continued education and awareness-raising campaigns to change cultural norms that condone violence against women and girls.

problem in Zimbabwe, affecting both women and men. The problem is exacerbated by several factors, including poverty, cultural norms, and weak legal frameworks. Efforts are being made to address the problem, including policies and programs implemented by the government and NGOs. However, more needs to be done to address the problem, including stronger legal frameworks, increased funding, and continued education and awareness-raising campaigns.

In conclusion, SGBV is a significant



5 | The End

Poem By: Abigail Phiri

Sexual harassment	mounds	The education system is tattered	insides
This is no longer a safe space	Whilst acting as if gesturing	What will be left of the future children	Celebratory dance for sexual harassment
Grades for sex	Come to bed with	Let me enjoy	Bribery
Sex for grades	For you to progress	No legacy	Police
Whatever way you look at it	Is this the varsities new ethos	Unplanned pregnancies	turning a blind eye
Old men, pedophiles	The spread of HIV and AIDS is rife	Abuse of alcohol	Corruption
Leering over their female students	God!	Gang rape	Sick
Patting one's bottom playfully	This is the impending doom for Africa	Soiled sheets	Livid
Brushing their perky twin		Hurting	It's the coming end

“
She wept in the
morning,
he was back to his
hunting escapades by
dawn.
”

6 | INNOCENCE AND PREJUDICE

Poem BY: Ropafadzo
B Katsande

She was innocent. He was corrupt.

She was a lamb, bleating around- He
was a lion, roaring about.

She had eyes like the sparkling ocean-

he had eyes like a vulture`s; hefty and
fiery.

Her voice was a rhythm. His voice was
a gong.

She looked at and admired him.

He looked at and desired her.

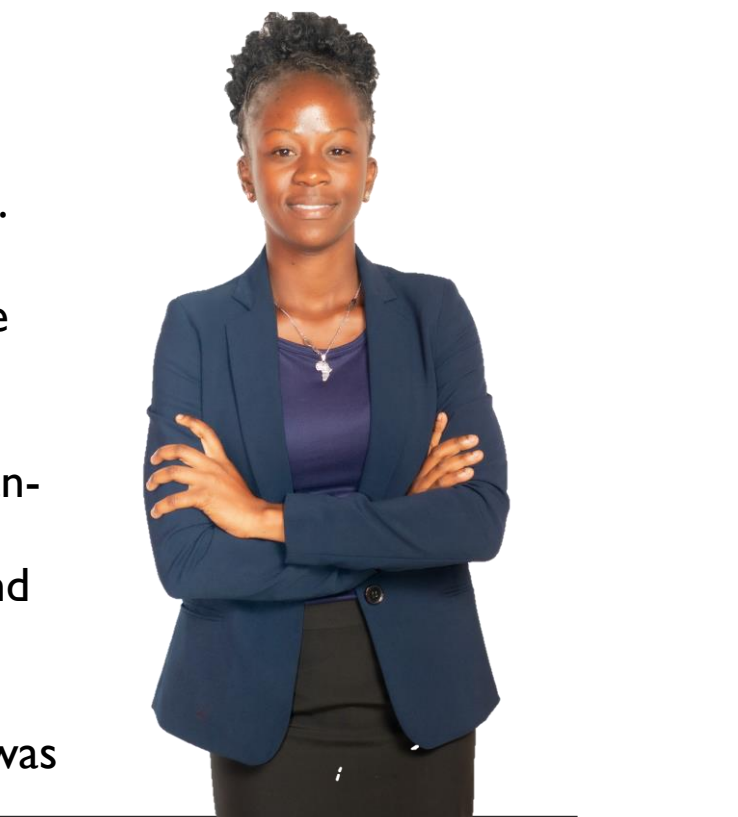
She saw tomorrow and forever.

He saw another memorable
night of orgasmic bliss.

She wanted flowers and eternity.

He wanted ecstasy.

She worshipped him that night,
poured out herself.



He devoured her that night,
greedily drank from her fountain.

She wept in the morning,

he was back to his hunting
escapades by dawn.

She lost her innocence,

he added another name to the
list.

7 | THIGHS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

Abigail Phiri

This is a sexual gender based violence issue that people tend to turn a blind eye to yet it is happening. In varsity there are other taxing modules that will have ladies opting to have sex with their male counterparts especially their classmates who will be good at the subject. At most times seeing the seriousness of the matter at hand, these males will continue to force themselves on these ladies repeatedly. All things being equal, the females will think this deal struck will only last for a short time. When veiled threats now enter the equation from the males these females will not have an option. Thus, they will go through this ordeal of SGBV so as to save face and proceed to the next level. One will be aware how at home things will not be in order as a result there is no room to disappoint the family at all cost. In addition, there is no possibility of getting money to ensure you repeat the failed modules. Truth be told, life will be rough that these lost students will end up doing anything to pass that is sex for grades either with their other fellow students or even with the lecturers.

Having said that, this is why leaked revenge porn are emanating at the drop of a hat in higher institutions of learning. Some of these university female students are ending up getting into forced relationships because they want all the help they can get. In these relationships they will face abuse of various kinds that when they bolster the courage to say no, revenge porn will be made public for all and sundry to see. Henceforth, these things are now common occurrence at higher tertiary institutions of learning. The students especially the victims should be educated to stand up for themselves and not fall prey to such things. Even if a module is so hard to comprehend look for better and safe ways to get extra help that doesn't lead to unwanted abusive relationships were one will be coerced to do things that they do not want.

Likewise, another issue is that university students shouldn't fall victim to are matters that there is a leaked exam paper so one should give his or her body for sexual pleasure just for a night to attain it. Most of this will be all lies in a pretense to have you fall in these perpetrators beds. Thus, students need to be wary of getting used at tertiary learning institutions culminating in serious cases of SGBV.

“

SGBV the cancer fueling gender equality retrogression.

”

This is because the second you unwillingly have sex with another person in a bid to get something yet its against your better judgment then already it becomes sexual gender based violence. The conundrum to the matter is that it can happen to both sexes, female students or even males. As a student, learn the culture of working hard and knowing why you went to these institutions in the first place. That way your mindset will not be muddled by second thoughts of sex for grades. These sex encounters, some of them will be unprotected leading to the spread of venereal diseases such as HIV and AIDS amongst others.

As complex as campus life is do not fall in the habit of going with the flow. Have well ingrained values and standards that you will follow even if others think

you are stupid and weird. Interestingly, what you do at varsity will translate how your whole life ahead of you will be like in future. Henceforth if you play with fire you will be burned. Undoubtedly, if you allow integrity to rule your campus life then you won't fall in these traps of courting trouble on your doorstep. SGBV is real and we have lost a lot of promising students due to this social vice who due to the trauma faced will end up taking their own lives. In addition, they wouldn't be able to cope and live with the shame of what they would have gone through at the hands of their perpetrators. Consequently, to be on the safe side to be forewarned is to be forearmed at these tertiary institutions.

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TO

info@femalestudentsnetwork.org cc nobbykuva@gmail.com

THIS ISSUE IN BRIEF

This is a compendium of students narratives, experiences and lived realities by students for students. It captures different campus dynamics and hurdles that students go through during their journey in attaining a higher qualification.