



# Newsletter



## UDACIZA Commemorates IWD

UDACIZA commemorated International Women's Day (IWD) 2026 by hosting three events. The commemorations were guided by the themes "Give to Gain" and the United Nations call "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls," which highlight the importance of generosity, collaboration and shared support in advancing gender equality while calling for urgent and inclusive action to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all women and girls, leaving no one behind

On the 21st of March in Masvingo at Zion National Ruwadzano Conference event, UDACIZA together with Musasa, Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) delivered impactful rights-based learning sessions. Participants were equipped with critical knowledge on Zimbabwe's marriage laws, including the protections offered under civil and registered customary unions and the vulnerabilities associated with unregistered relationships. The dialogue strongly condemned child marriage and harmful cultural practices reinforcing their illegality and human rights implications. In addition the discussions on gender-based violence deepened understanding of its root causes, different forms and far-reaching effects while promoting access to survivor-centered support services. Through the SASA! Faith approach, women were empowered to reflect on power dynamics, influence, challenge harmful social norms and harness their inner strength to drive change collectively advancing safer, more equitable and inclusive communities.



On the 27th of March 2026 UDACIZA, Musasa, ZWLA and MWACSMED convened in ward 32 of Bikita District to advance gender justice and community awareness. The engagement highlighted the historical significance of IWD and the urgent need to address persistent legal and social inequalities affecting women and girls. Key sessions strengthened understanding of inheritance rights, gender-based violence prevention laws and access to legal aid while government ministries emphasized the importance of education, youth empowerment and economic independence in reducing vulnerability to abuse.



Stakeholders also reinforced the availability of survivor support services, including safe shelters and legal assistance and called for stronger community vigilance to protect women and girls. The dialogue concluded with a renewed collective commitment to dismantling harmful norms, promote women's leadership and ensure inclusive rights-based development across the district.

As part of IWD commemorations 2026, UDACIZA staff under the ICSP project in Bikita participated in the 5th Edition Ladies High Tea in Mutare, a staff care and debriefing initiative designed to promote wellbeing, prevent burnout and strengthen solidarity among women. The event created a safe and supportive space for reflection, shared experiences and meaningful dialogue on personal and professional growth.



Guest speaker Dr. Chidochomoyo Matyatya Sango delivered an inspiring and practical presentation emphasizing the critical role of self-care in preventing burnout and compassion fatigue while advocating for women's economic empowerment and independence. She encouraged women to adopt a holistic approach to success prioritizing mental, emotional and physical wellbeing alongside entrepreneurial ambition and challenged limiting societal norms by promoting resilience, bold decision-making and leadership.



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