

YOUTH STAND UP TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

YOUTH CASE STUDY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ZIMBABWE



SUMMARY

The Educating Women for Empowerment and Justice Project run by Amnesty International Zimbabwe is a five year project against gender based violence. It is being implemented in four provinces across Zimbabwe. The project targets men and women both young and old but has a strong focus on young women and youth rights.

DESCRIPTION

Gender based violence is widespread amongst young people in Zimbabwe, especially young couples. This project works with both victims and perpetrators to stop this violence. Theatre has become the rallying point in mobilising young people to participate in the project. The exciting “edutainment” approach has attracted many young people to participate. The initial project objectives did not focus on young people as key drivers of the project. However, as the community engagement began young people dominated and it became clear how young people are disproportionately affected by gender based violence. They have since become the drivers of the project and have taken it upon themselves to monitor gender based violence in their communities. Now, 45% of project participants are young people and 53% of young project participants are young women. The project is now mainly driven by young people and they have been involved at all levels from project planning, design, implementation, to monitoring and evaluation. In the future, young people should be engaged at the initial planning stage, allowing them to define how they want the project to be run if it is to achieve high impact. The inclusion of young people is very critical at any stage of the project.



“Through this project, we have realized that gender based violence hurts community development.” - Mary

OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to the establishment of active community networks on gender based violence.
- Empower women to be able to claim their rights and educate their communities.
- Ensure equal rights for both men and women.
- Protect and safeguard the rights of young women.
- Foster community spaces where perpetrators of gender based violence are held accountable.
- Improve relationships between communities, legal systems and police.

IMPACT

- The gender networks which are being created are permanent structures that will continue to work together with police even after the project ends.
- Trainings have been developed and provided for Gender Focal Persons, creating a network of Amnesty International volunteers who coordinate community gender networks that help foster violence free communities.
- The unexpected high level of youth participation has allowed for intergenerational alliances to form, illuminating youth rights as human rights.



“I have learnt that a project driven by young people achieves high results. Creating safe spaces for young people will enable them to freely articulate issues.” - Admire

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A young man (23) from the Hopley community in Harare, was an abusive drunkard husband. After participating in the programme he has become the greatest advocate for peace in the home. He now attends the meetings against gender based violence together with his wife and their life story has since become a testimony drawing many others to come and testify, vowing to refrain from abusive habits and behaviours. The young man is now one of the community gender focal persons.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- *Explore and invest in non-traditional forms of HRE!* The participation of theatre troupes provided a form of ‘edutainment’, an engaging non-traditional format for human rights education.
- *Involve youth in the planning process!* The organizers brought youth into the planning process once they realized the high impact being achieved through youth involvement.
- *Create safe spaces to foster youth ownership of a project!* The youth communities’ sense of ownership over the project allows them to define how they want the project to be run and achieve high impact.
- *Build local networks!* The role of the Gender Focal Persons allows for locally grounded networks and collaborations to occur.
- *Promote intergenerational collaboration!* This youth focused project engages with community elders and leaders to end gender based violence.

“Beat the drum and not the woman!”
- Eastern Arts Ensemble theatre group

STAKEHOLDERS

- Amnesty International Zimbabwe is the primary organizer of the project.
- The project is part of the Education, Empowerment and Justice (EEJ) Programme funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).
- Amnesty International Norway and the Global HRE Programme coordinate the EEJ Programme.
- Amnesty International Zimbabwe collaborates with and trains four independent theatre troupes on human rights issues and on the campaign. Those theatre troupes then provide human rights education through performances and report back to Amnesty International Zimbabwe after each performance.
- Young rights holders in Zimbabwe are increasingly claiming ownership of the project.
- Community leaders are involved as collaborators and allies in ending gender based violence.

LEARN MORE!

- Learn more about the theatre actors and women’s rights advocates [here!](#)
- Contact Amnesty Zimbabwe for more information: amnestyinternational.zimbabwe@gmail.com.

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