

16 Days Of Activism

2017 AAM Country Highlights



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OVERVIEW

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (16 DOA) is an international campaign that takes place between November 25th (International Day for Violence against Women) to 10th December which also marks the International Human Rights Day each year to symbolically link violence against women with human rights face. ActionAid Malawi (AAM) joined the Malawi Government during the campaign under the theme: *Ending Gender-based Violence is Everyone's Responsibility*.

The campaign offered Malawi a landmark opportunity to reflect on the emerging cases of gender-based violence and take meaningful action to eradicate the same. In Malawi, the official launch of the campaign took place in Mzimba District on 25th November. Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Honorable Jean Kalirani graced the occasion .



AAM joins Malawi Government in officially launching DOA



Stakeholders that included chiefs, parliamentarians, AAM officials marching during the official launch in Mzimba District

On 25 November, 2017, ActionAid joined the Government of Malawi in this year's launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) at a function that took place at Mzimba Police Ground in Mzimba district. Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare Jean Kalirani graced the event.

During the event, ActionAid Malawi was one of the five organizations that mounted pavilions. Through partners from Khosolo, ActionAid Malawi demonstrated how it is working with different Women Forums, Youth Clubs and Community leaders to sensitize community members on the negative effects of GBV and where to report when they have faced such a challenge.



(Left) Minister of Gender at the AAM Pavillion and (Right) going through the messages on the placards carried by the girls

“Let’s Eliminate Violence in Work-places to achieve decent work”



Panelists :From (Left) Wafwilwe Msukwa (Ministry of Labour) Grace Malera (AAM) Robert Mkwezalamba (Human Rights Consultative Committee) Fred Simwaka (Ministry of Gender)and Emma Kaliya (NGO-GCN)

On Thursday, 30th November, AAM in partnership with NGO-GCN organized the live radio panel discussion which sought to highlight violence women face in the work places and called upon the government to conduct legal reforms on some of employment acts and administrative practices that perpetuate violence against women.

Grace Malera, AAM Executive Director, said much as the country has a comprehensive legal framework to deal with discrimination and violence at work-places, some administrative practices still sustain discrimination and violence against women in the employment sectors. She cited a practice under Malawi Police Service (MPS) where a married police woman is denied a house on the police campus, which is unlike the married police men.

Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calls for promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work.

IrishAid partners takes GVB campaign to a community

.....As more men than women attend the event



Kainja (Left) and Chimwemwe Gondwe AAM Lilongwe Peri-Urban Programme Coordinator dancing during to shake off violence at the event

IrishAid partners namely; AAM, Goal, Concern World-Wide, Trocaire, Self-Help Africa, and Theatre for Change on Wednesday, 6th November took the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign to Kauma, a rural area in the Lilongwe District to raise community awareness on the campaign and call upon the community members to break silence on GBV and start reporting the violence. Guest of Honor at the event was the Principal Secretary in Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Esmie Kainja, who called upon men to start championing the fight against GBV in the country.

“The State President of Malawi Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika is the champion for HeforShe Campaign which aims at ending violence against women and girls in Africa. I, thus, ask all men in the country to emulate the President by standing with women and girls against GBV in the country, she said.

Other activities such as drama, traditional dances and songs by women by AAM-supported Lilongwe Women Forum (LUWF) members spiced up the event.

AAM orients youth on decent work



Participants pose with the training materials after the session

As part of the commemorating the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), ActionAid Malawi (AAM) last week organized a three-day training workshop for young women and men under Lilongwe Urban Women Forum (LUWF) on decent and unpaid care work. The training drew 50 participants from the five zones under LUWF, namely, Kauma-Chatata, Area 25-Mgona, Area 49, Kawale and Chinsapo.

AAM Lilongwe Peri-Urban Programme Coordinator, Chimwemwe Gondwe, said AAM conducted the training for the youth considering their vulnerability at work-places.

“We want the participants to spearhead campaign on unpaid care work and decent work. Most young women and men are the ones providing cheap labour as well working in an environment that increases their vulnerability to HIVs and Aids,” said Gondwe.

Chimwemwe said the training also equipped the participants with knowledge on human rights and sexual and reproductive health rights as one way of empowering them to take action against gender-based violence.

One of the participants at the training, Patuma Phiri, said the training would help her champion decent and unpaid care work by reaching out to fellow youth with awareness messages