



## DAY-2 OF 16-DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Adv Kuda:

STAND DOWN FOR OUR PROGRAM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

As usual we have a closed session which accommodates the moderator and his/her guest and then open the floor for questions from the group

Good evening fellow Cdes. Yesterday was the **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.**



The day marked the beginning of **16-Days of Activism** which end on the 10th December which will be \*Human Rights Day\*

Zanu Pf Patriots joins the nation and indeed the whole world in condemning violence against women.

Yesterday we had Adv Roeze take us through on the founding of this day as well as the fundamentals of the violence against women.

Today Cde Kudzi Mukandi will go further and seek to clarify for us the causes of violence against women.

Help me welcome her to the show

**CDE KUDZI MUKANDI welcome**

**Kudzi Mukandi:**

**Good afternoon Cdes, my name is Cde Kudzi Mukandi Secretary for Administration Women's League UK & Europe.**

**I have been a member of this group for almost a year and keenly follow all discussions, albeit from the terraces. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to take part in this important discussion.**

Adv Kuda:

Wonderful. You clearly are a good pick for the issues we want to zero in on today

**Kudzi Mukandi:**

**Thank you**

Adv Kuda:

Cde Kudzi

We got to learn of the types of violence against women yester night.

What would want to know today are the exact causes of Violence against women?

**Kudzi Mukandi:**

**If it's alright with you I will use the term Gender Based Violence (GBV) for ease of typing today**



Adv Kuda: Sure thing. It is after-all the acceptable term.

**Kudzi Mukandi:** At the centre of all discussions on the characteristics of gender-based violence is that it occurs against women

Precisely because of their gender. GBV involves power imbalances where, most often, men are the perpetrators and women the victims.

It is important to understand that GBV be it in the form of isolated acts or a systematic pattern of violence is not caused by any single factor. On the contrary, it is a combination of several factors that increase the risk of a person committing violence.

For the purpose of our discussion I have identified 4 levels in which we will seek to understand the interplay between different causes of GBV

Adv Kuda: Cde Kudzi

Let us have the four levels

**Kudzi Mukandi:** I will hastily that variations exist depending on individual circumstances. However these are the 4 global levels

1. Individual
2. Relationship
3. Community
4. Societal

1. Individual level.

This includes biological and personal history that affects an individual's behavior in his/her relationships. The individual level these factors may also



include the perpetrator being abused as a child or witnessing marital violence in the home, having an absent or rejecting father, and frequent use of alcohol.

**2. Relationship level** pertains to the context in which gender-based violence takes place;

Frequently the family or other intimate or acquaintance relationship. At the level of the family and relationship, it's important to understand male control of wealth and decision-making within the family and marital conflict as strong predictors of abuse.

**3. Community level** represents the institutions and social structures, both formal and informal, in which relationships are embedded e.g. neighborhood, workplace, social networks, and peer groups and religion

**4. Societal level** refers to the economic and social environment, including cultural norms

Adv Kuda: Cde Kudzi

Before i zero in on each of the above levels would you offhand say GBV only exists on those 4 levels u have listed

Kudzi Mukandi: **No of course**

**These are the ones I have settled on for the purpose of this discussion as the overarching level...many sub levels exist**

Adv Kuda: Cde Kudzi

Correct me if I'm wrong. The Individual level seems to focus more on the GBV perpetrator. Is that correct?

Kudzi Mukandi: **Historically it does....however the emergence of the understanding of the victim's role is an interesting aspect of the cycle of GBV**



**Especially when analysed within the cycle of abuse or trigger factors**

Adv Kuda:

Cde Kudzi

The perpetrator is someone who in many a relationship starts out selling an image of a good person. Now given that one's individual history has a tendency of affecting ones propensity for violence i have the following question.

How does a woman access knowledge of a man's history to assess his compliance with level 1 above? Are our women defenceless or there is a way. And what does one do when their partner has a background which involves violence?

Kudzi Mukandi:

**I guess there are some telltale signs but unfortunately some of it is really an iceberg**

**For example a possessive partner at the start of a relation may in fact be misconstrued as a man in love-kuchengera rudo!**

**So I guess my answer to your question is every case is different and has to be assessed on its own merit**

**It's also important that whilst the ecological framework talks of that individual susceptibility....not everyone will go on to perpetuate violence**

**In the same way not everyone with the cancer gene will go on to develop cancer**

Adv Kuda:

Cde Kudzi

What is one to do when they discover that their partner was for example abused as a child or witnessed violence?

Does one flee and leave the relationship or do they stay and if they stay what can they do?



**Kudzi Mukandi:** We all have a past....

**Adv Kuda:** Cde Kudzi

We all have a past as you say. But do we have anything that can be done to ensure this past does not affect present relationships?

**Kudzi Mukandi:** **Understanding each other's pasts is an important and on-going part of a relationship**

**It's the impact the past has on a relationship that's key**

**Adv Kuda:** Cde Kudzi

Level 2 speaks of a number of interesting things. I will restrict my attention to the aspect of male control of wealth.

What is this concept of male control of wealth and how does it cause GBV?

**Kudzi Mukandi:** **Communication and acceptance are the first key points in the solution.**

**Acknowledging that line has a problem, listening to the other party in terms of how they are affected allows for solutions to be identified.**

**Traditionally men have been the breadwinners this automatically puts women in a defence status which may also foster subservience**

**On the other hand the reversal of roles where women are seeking more economic opportunities if not properly negotiated can also play a part in GBV especially where the man is made to feel inadequate**

**Adv Kuda:** Cde Kudzi



Can we then say women are at risk of GBV regardless of whether they are dependent on a man or if they are independent? Is there a neutral point in all this?

**Kudzi Mukandi:** Yes Cde if I may draw an analogy between this issue and the nature of pregnancy.....hormonal changes, morning sickness etc. will occur with the woman having very little say on the matter

Yes as in the above analogy there are risk minimising efforts that may be put in place

**Adv Kuda:** This should be interesting.

**Kudzi Mukandi:** As an Independent woman I am just at risk S the dependent woman....remember GBV 'happens' to people

**They don't choose it**

**Adv Kuda:** Cde Kudzi

What can the dependent woman do to protect herself and what can the Independent woman do as well

**Kudzi Mukandi:** If we go back to the 4 levels I spoke to at the beginning...they cut across all sections of society and that being the case you never know who you are going to bed with (pun intended)

The solutions are largely universal Cde Kuda

Women alone cannot stop the violence against them. No matter how many women leave violent relationships, support each other, or try to change the law, GBV will only stop when men oppose it and help each other to change. Men more than women teach boys how to "be a man." Fathers show sons how to treat women and girls. Those with power and influence — judges, politicians, police officers, doctors — are usually men. When they become



allies, it becomes possible to change the ways men are expected to act and to make laws and policies that protect and support women.

Reform across those 4 levels is required

In fact, most men do not agree with the attitudes and beliefs that support gender-based violence, yet many do little to challenge or stop it. Some men do not use violence in their relationships, and others are working to prevent violence but lack support. Many more would probably get involved but don't know how. Often, men are also survivors of violence, but like women, few get the support they need to heal from their experience.

Adv Kuda:

Cde Kudzi

I hear u all well but what does u say to the notion that a woman's worst enemy is another woman. Is it not women who teach their kids to man up and not cry like women? Is it not ana Tete nana Amwene who advise violence as means of controlling women? In fact i am yet to hear of a father telling his son to be violent towards his wife.

Kudzi Mukandi:

Maybe....

But if we understand those ana tete and amwenes as products of societal and cultural structures that expect them to behave like that...we begin to fully understand them not as the creators of the problems but as victims

Adv Kuda:

Cde Kudzi

Your response leads us to levels 3 & 4. Take us through those community and societal levels

Kudzi Mukandi:

If we extend your line of thinking girl children are raised to look upon marriage, especially to financially upstanding men as the ultimate achievement. This creates that imbalance which may in turn provide breeding ground for GBV. Now I am not saying all women are raised this way. Some like me were raised to aspire for independence and the choice of a partner being somewhat





optional. This together with the emergence of 'feminist acceptance/misunderstanding of it within our own Zimbabwean context has some interesting links to GBV amongst the Independent women....but I digress that's a topic for another day

At the community level women's isolation and lack of social support, together with male peer

Groups that condone and legitimise men's violence, predict higher rates of violence.

At the societal level studies around the world have found that violence against women is

Most common where gender roles are rigidly defined and enforced and where the concept of masculinity is linked to toughness as you have pointed out above, male honor, or dominance. Other cultural norms

Associated with abuse include tolerance of physical punishment of women and children,

Acceptance of violence as a means to settle interpersonal disputes, and the perception that men have "ownership" of women

Adv Kuda:

Cde Kudzi

As I open the floor can u summarise what you believe to be a good antidote to dealing with GBV in the context of our 4 levels

The floor is open Cdes

Kudzi Mukandi:

**Awareness of what GBV is perhaps the biggest solution**

**Acknowledging its existence, demystifying the context it occurs**

**Perpetrator groups alongside victim groups (restorative justice)...to allow people to explore issues**



Adv Kuda: Cde Kudzi

How do we raise awareness in a Patriarchal society that believes some of these beliefs u advocate for being western and destructive?

**Kudzi Mukandi:** **Engagement with Faith groups seeking to enhance their understanding of how they may or may not maintain GBV practices and how faith can be used to heal**

**I remember when the HIV awareness Campaigns started....this was seen as mostly a western approach with many choosing to ignore discussions. The rates of infection continued to rise and people died needlessly. Fast forward a few years...it's a different story.**

**I guess what we are not used to scares us...**

**FGM is a contentious issue. In the UK for example it's enshrined in Law in terms of all types including type 4-altering the shape and size, elongation, stretching etc. The WHO doesn't necessarily include it....and that's where the tension is.**

**I work in Safeguarding-prevention of abuse including FGM. I will have to speak to Cde Kuda and the admins to see if they would allow me to come back and address this.**

**I have my personal views on the matter. I suppose the purpose of today was to look at the global reasons for GBV as opposed to specific types**

Adv Kuda: We will look into accommodating you into speaking about FGM

**Kudzi Mukandi:** **Thank you**

Adv Kuda: Cde Kudzi

You are a Zanu PF cadre as we all know. What must the party do to help fight GBV?



Has the party done anything, is it doing anything?

**Kudzi Mukandi:** I believe the party has and continues to address issues that affect women including GBV

Adv Kuda: How has the Ruling party done this Cde?

**Kudzi Mukandi:** Programmes have been consolidated to economically empower women for example

Adv Kuda: Yes thank you.

Are you suggesting that empowerment is a panacea to GBV?

Kindly note that we will have a session to deal with FGM

**Kudzi Mukandi:** It is one of the important solutions....

**An empowered woman is an informed woman Cde Kuda**

**Zanu PF gender policies you will recall were appraised favorably in the 2013 Gender Audit report when compared with other parties....**

Adv Kuda: Cde Kudzi

Many thanks for your empowering views which no doubt have empowered all cadres here across the gender divide.

I am confident that as the 16days move along we all be much wiser and equipped to fight and eradicate GBV

As you rightly noted Cde Kudzi GBV is something we must all fight- IWE NENI TINE BASA

**GOOD NIGHT AND ASANTE SANA**

**#leavenononebehind**



**#thegenderagenda**

Kudzi Mukandi: It was my pleasure...thank you Cdes