

PRESS STATEMENT:

STATEMENT ON THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE BY HER HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Republican Vice President, Mrs. Inonge Mutukwa Wina has said the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a global struggle to rid society of inhuman treatment inflicted on another human being.

The Vice President said Government has put in place the necessary legal and policy framework to address the vice and has established so far 6 fast track courts for quick dispensation of justice.

Mrs. Wina says honest and open practical steps must be taken by every member of society to end abusive behaviour towards one another, because such attitude is dehumanizing.

She highlighted the fact that Gender Based Violence can come in the form of physical, emotional, verbal, sexual and sometimes in the most subtle ways that leaves the victim a lesser being.

The Vice President was speaking to the Media in Bangkok, Thailand. She said the 16 days of Gender Based Violence which Zambia also observes are part of an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls.

The vice president has cautioned against the perception that only women are GBV victims, adding that a growing number of men have also fallen prey to the vice. Men, she said also endure verbal and physical abuse. I would like to encourage men that it's not a sign of weakness to report acts of abuse.

She has challenged the church and other faith based organisations to allocate time to address violence in homes during services.

She has commended traditional rulers who have responded positively to the calls to discourage the abuse of young girls.

Mrs. Wina says she has been involved in the fight against gender-based violence long enough to understand the pain of GBV victims, some of whom have lost lives.

She has called on the community to become whistle blowers by reporting any suspicious activity of GBV in neighborhoods to the police.

Mrs. Wina stated the need to ensure that all likeminded stakeholders compliment government in addressing GBV in the country.

The global GBV campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 10 December, which is Human Rights Day.

It was initiated in 1991 by the first Women's Global Leadership Institute, held by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University.

Currently, more than 3,700 organizations from approximately 164 countries participate in the campaign annually.

Press Statement issued by the:

Permanent Secretary (Administration)

Mr. Stephen Mwansa

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