

NEWSLETTER



Reimagining Feminist Economies: Women's Work, Land and Economic Power

What would an economy look like if women's work, land rights, care work and lived realities were placed at the centre?

This question brought together rural and urban women from Bulawayo and Insiza District at a Feminist Economies Brown Bag Dialogue hosted by Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF). The dialogue created space for women, activists, entrepreneurs and community leaders to share experiences and challenge economic systems and cultural norms that continue to limit women's full potential.

Participants highlighted the often-invisible contribution of women through unpaid care work, household labour, farming, informal businesses and community work. Recognising this work is therefore critical to reimagining an economy that values women's contribution to national development and GDP.

A key concern was women's access to and control over land and other productive assets. Legal expert Ms Swally Munherendi emphasised that "access is not ownership", noting that women may use land or other assets without having legal ownership or control over them.

EWF is supporting women to strengthen their livelihoods through nutrition gardens, livestock, fishing and other productive activities, ensuring women have ownership, control, decision-making power and the knowledge to claim their rights.

Reimagining feminist economies means challenging discriminatory laws, cultural norms and systems that restrict women's economic agency, while advancing women's equal rights to land, productive assets, decent work, income and decision-making power.

Women Take Centre Stage at Insiza District Expo

Women entrepreneurs from Insiza District took their businesses to the next level at the Insiza District Business Expo, held at Filabusi Mthwakazi Grounds.

With support from We Effect, Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF) supported three women-led enterprises namely Qinisela Greenhouse, Cute Clothing and Phakamani Nuts to showcase their products, connect with potential customers and explore new market opportunities.



The women proudly demonstrated how their enterprises are contributing to household incomes and local economic development. The Expo also provided opportunities to build business knowledge through sessions on financial literacy, business management, tax compliance and farming practices.

A highlight was Phakamani Nuts' potential market linkage with Zapalala Supermarket, which expressed interest in purchasing peanut butter in larger quantities. Qinisela Greenhouse also connected with women traders interested in buying tomatoes, while Cute Clothing attracted potential customers for their African attires.

The Expo was a platform for visibility, learning and opportunity, showing what women-led businesses can thrive when they have access to markets and the right support.



EWF Statement: Breaking the Cycle of Gender-Based Violence

Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF) is deeply concerned by the recent cases of gender-based violence, domestic violence and femicide reported in Zimbabwe. These incidents remind us of the devastating consequences when violence and conflict are allowed to escalate.



Violence does not begin with its most extreme outcome.

- Controlling behaviour,
- threats, intimidation,
- emotional abuse,
- isolation and
- repeated conflict can be early warning signs that should not be ignored.

EWF calls on individuals, families and communities to seek help early before conflict escalates into violence. Our counselling and psychosocial support services are available to help individuals and couples navigate challenges, strengthen healthy communication and access appropriate support and referrals.

You do not have to wait until a situation becomes dangerous to ask for help.

Recognise the signs. Speak up. Seek support early. Prevent violence before it escalates.

Working towards a GBV free society free from gender-based violence.

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