OCTOBER 2026

NEWSLETTER



EWF Takes Zimbabwe's Voice to the Global Stage at SVRI Forum 2026

Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF) joined global researchers, activists, policymakers and women's rights organisations in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5–9 October 2026 for the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum, held under the theme "Strengthening Evidence and Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls."

Represented by its Director and Programmes Manager, with support from We Effect, EWF brought community-based experience to the international platform, sharing insights on the connection between women's economic empowerment and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

The Forum challenged EWF to deepen its work at the intersection of climate change and GBV, recognising how climate-related shocks can intensify economic vulnerability, increase pressure on households and disrupt access to essential survivor support services. Discussions on technology-facilitated GBV, feminist movement building and survivor-centred responses further enriched the organisation's learning.

SVRI provided EWF with an opportunity to network with various stakeholders whose focus is on GBV prevention and response. Together we can prevent GBV.

Strengthening Women's Voices in International Platforms



Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF) showcased emerging practice-based learning on integrating Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) into the SASA! Faith approach during the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The poster presentation, titled "Strengthening Violence Against Women and Girls' Prevention Through Integrating Women's Economic Empowerment into the SASA! Faith Approach in Zimbabwe," highlighted how addressing women's economic dependence and unequal control over resources can strengthen efforts to prevent gender-based violence (GBV).

Drawing on implementation experiences under the Ireland Civil Society Partnership (ICSP) Programme, EWF demonstrated how economic empowerment can complement social norm change interventions by addressing the power dynamics that influence women's choices, agency and safety within households and communities.

The presentation highlighted practical initiatives such as goat pass-on schemes, poultry projects, Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups, agroecology, food processing and bead making. These interventions provide opportunities for women to strengthen their livelihoods while creating entry points for conversations about who owns productive assets, controls income, makes financial decisions and carries unpaid household responsibilities.

The presentation provided an opportunity to share Zimbabwe's emerging programme experiences and contribute to wider conversations on strengthening evidence-informed, community-driven approaches to violence prevention.





How Women in Ngazimbi Are Cultivating Economic Independence and Safer Homes

Women in Ngazimbi, Ward 7, Insiza District, are changing their lives through a nutrition garden that is strengthening household incomes, improving food security and promoting cooperation within families. Before joining the garden initiative, the women faced economic vulnerability, with limited opportunities to generate income and meet household needs, circumstances that increased their susceptibility to gender-based violence (GBV).

Through the WE Effect-funded initiative, the women are gradually building more sustainable livelihoods. Sibusisiwe noted that participation in the garden has brought positive changes to households and the wider community, particularly in easing financial pressures and improving access to water and food.

"Because we are in a rural area, most men work in towns or outside the country, which has its own challenges for us. But if you have something that can sustain you financially, it reduces the burden we face. The nutritional gardens are also a good source of water for us. We no longer struggle to get water," she said.

Beyond generating income, the garden has strengthened cooperation among couples and family members, who increasingly work together in gardening activities. Members reported that this collaboration has helped reduce GBV within families by encouraging shared responsibilities and improving relationships at household level. Income from the sale of vegetables is also helping families meet daily needs and support their children's education, while the fresh produce contributes to improved household nutrition.

The garden is currently producing spinach, green peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, onions and other green vegetables. Members have recorded sales of US$20 and R1.223 since the 2 weeks of harvest and 14 buckets of tomatoes have been harvested sor far.





PRESS STATEMENT

EWF 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

> **UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity.**

Across Zimbabwe, women and girls continue to face gender-based violence in their homes, communities and workplaces. From domestic violence and child marriages to sexual abuse, economic violence and harmful cultural practices, these violations rob women and girls of their dignity, safety and freedom.

This 16 Days of Activism, we must move beyond awareness to action. Every survivor deserves to be heard, believed, protected and supported. Justice must not depend on a survivor's financial circumstances, social status or location. Perpetrators must be held accountable, and silence, stigma and impunity must no longer shield those who commit violence.

Ending GBV is everyone's responsibility.

Let us stand together to strengthen survivor support, demand justice, challenge harmful gender norms and invest in services that protect women and girls.

Take action. Speak out. Support survivors. Challenge violence. Demand accountability.

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For Support reach out to

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October Highlights









We Are One.

Tiripamwe Sisonke Fund

At Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF), we believe that real change happens when awareness is matched with action. Through the We Are One Fund, your support helps us turn knowledge into protection providing legal aid, psychosocial support, and safe spaces for survivors of Gender-Based Violence. Your contribution also amplifies women-led initiatives, strengthening grassroots efforts that challenge harmful norms and advance equality in our communities. As we continue to confront the structural barriers that erode the rights of women and girls, we invite you to stand with us your donation is not just support, it is a lifeline that empowers survivors and fuels lasting change.

DONATE NOW https://weareonefund.org/#donate

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