

CHROMA VOICES

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Editors Note



“When we raise our voices together, even the walls of silence must fall.”

Dear Reader,

July and August have been months of both reckoning and reflection for us as a community. They have reminded us of the deep wounds caused by violence, of the vulnerabilities our children face daily, and of the urgent responsibility we all share to protect them.

The painful headlines of these months have left us shaken. In July, we were confronted with chilling accounts of violence against children — cases that underscored how abuse hides in plain sight, often at the hands of those entrusted with care.

In August once again: the horrifying rape of a Grade 7 pupil at Rezende Parkade, right in the heart of the city, showed how unsafe even our public spaces have become. As if this were not enough, news broke of a Dzivaresekwa man now on the run after allegedly raping his lover’s Grade 5 daughter not once, but twice.

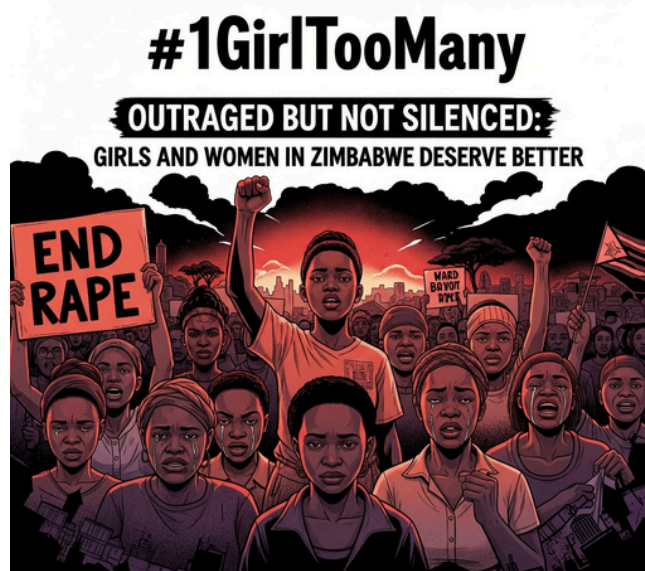
Let us be clear: girls and young women are not safe. Not in their homes. Not in their churches. Not in schools. Not even in our public spaces. And this is unacceptable. We cannot continue to normalize a culture of silence. Too often, survivors are shamed while perpetrators walk free. Too often, families and communities are pressured to “settle” cases instead of demanding justice. Too often, police investigations drag on without resolution, and courts delay justice until it is justice denied.

This is a collective fight. It belongs to parents, leaders, teachers, policymakers, churches, the justice system, and every one of us. The safety of our children is not negotiable. Let us not just be outraged — let us be moved to action. Together, we can and must create a world where no child’s body, dignity, or future is ever violated again.

In solidarity,
Tracey Gwatidah
Communications and Campaigns Coordinator, DAWA

ACT TO STOP RAPE AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN ZIMBABWE

Join us in standing against sexual violence in Zimbabwe. Sign the petition <https://t.co/KN181xrROp> Share it widely. Add your voice to the chorus demanding justice and safety for every child. Together, we can break the cycle of silence and build a country where girls are safe, valued, and free.



DAWA at the 2025 EVAWG Convening

Reflections from the Regional Dialogue on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls



From July 22–24, 2025, DAWA joined youth-led organizations, policymakers, and advocates in Johannesburg, South Africa, for a powerful gathering focused on a common cause: Ending violence against women and girls in Southern Africa. Hosted by Hivos and SRHR Fund, the Regional Convening on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) provided a platform for intersectional dialogue, movement strategy, and cross-border learning under the theme “Advancing a Feminist Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Progress, Challenges and the Path Forward.” From panel discussions to learning labs, the convening highlighted that ending GBV requires more than laws—it demands feminist solidarity, shared leadership, and intentional listening to those most affected.

Participants reaffirmed that feminist work must be inclusive, intersectional, and rooted in communities. We were reminded that addressing GBV is not just about service delivery or legal reform—it’s about transforming power dynamics, dismantling patriarchy, and building systems of care and accountability that respond to the needs of survivors. A feminist approach to ending GBV means more than adding women and youth into existing systems—it means transforming those systems. It means asking hard questions:

- Who is still being left out of GBV policy and services?
- Whose voices are deemed too radical to fund or include?
- Are survivors being centered or instrumentalized?

From these provocations emerged a shared vision: a SADC region where justice, care, and collective liberation guide our responses to GBV.

Looking ahead, DAWA will use the knowledge and partnerships gained from the convening to strengthen cross-border collaboration, amplify youth voices, and deepen community engagement. We will continue to prioritize survivor-led storytelling, invest in grassroots movement building, and push for policy reforms that reflect lived realities.

The convening affirmed that while challenges remain our voices are unstoppable, we refuse to let youth-led, survivor-centered organizing be an afterthought, we refuse to return to silence and our collective power as feminist movements is growing. By centering care, courage, and collaboration, we move forward—boldly and unapologetically. Because for us, and for every survivor, silence is not an option





International Youth Day Message

As the world celebrates International Youth Day, it's essential to recognize the critical role Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite facing numerous challenges, AGYW leaders are driving positive change, innovating solutions, and inspiring their communities.

The Power of AGYW Leadership

AGYW leaders possess a unique combination of passion, creativity, and resilience. They're tackling pressing issues like education, healthcare, climate change, and social justice. By empowering AGYW leaders, we can unlock their full potential, amplify their impact, and accelerate SDG progress.

AGYW Contributions to SDGs

SDG 4: Quality Education: AGYW leaders are advocating for girls' education, challenging barriers, and promoting inclusive learning environments.

SDG 5: Gender Equality: AGYW are driving gender equality initiatives, combating gender-based violence, and promoting women's empowerment.

SDG 13: Climate Action: AGYW leaders are developing innovative climate solutions, promoting sustainable practices, and advocating for climate justice.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite their contributions, AGYW leaders face significant challenges, including:

- Limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities
- Social and cultural barriers to leadership and participation
- Violence, harassment, and marginalization

To overcome these challenges, it's essential to:

- Provide AGYW with access to education, training, and resources
- Foster inclusive, supportive environments that encourage AGYW leadership
- Amplify AGYW voices, stories, and experiences

Conclusion

As we celebrate International Youth Day, let's recognize the transformative power of AGYW leadership. By empowering AGYW leaders, we can unlock their potential, accelerate SDG progress, and create a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Call to Action

Let's commit to:

- Supporting AGYW-led initiatives and organizations
- Amplifying AGYW voices and stories
- Advocating for policies and programs that empower AGYW leaders

Together, we can create a world where AGYW leaders thrive, drive positive change, and achieve the SDGs.



Ruvimbo Stacey Mapfumo
DAWA Board Member

Champions Voice

A Journey of Resilience and Empowerment



My name is Virgilance, and my story is one of starting over and not giving up. In 2019, I passed my A-levels with 17 points. I had big dreams—but without money for university, those dreams were put on hold. I tried my luck in South Africa, hoping for a breakthrough, but I came back home with nothing. Despite this setback, I refused to give up. I tried every possible avenue to achieve my dreams, but it seemed like all doors were closed.

Then something beautiful happened—DAWA came into my life. Through their project Connecting adolescent girls and young women for HIV prevention I met young girls from different communities who inspired me with their stories and determination. Their passion and resilience motivated me to step out of my comfort zone and take action.

The second training with YETT further fueled my growth. I met people from diverse backgrounds who shared their experiences and insights, inspiring me to push beyond my limits. This training also equipped me with leadership skills, and I earned a Leadership Development Certificate.

My dedication and passion for the project caught the attention of the SRHR Africa Trust (SAT) Zimbabwe, which recognized my work and awarded me the Adolescent Activism Award. The second training with YETT further fueled my growth. I met people from diverse backgrounds who shared their experiences and insights, inspiring me to push beyond my limits.

This training also equipped me with leadership skills, and I earned a Leadership Development Certificate.

This recognition not only boosted my confidence but also validated the impact of my efforts. DAWA continued to support my growth, linking me to a training program in Sustainable Agriculture Technology Zimbabwe (SAT). This new skill set opened doors to innovative ways of promoting food security and sustainable livelihoods in my community.

Today, I'm not giving up on my dream of graduating. I'm working hard, not just for myself, but to inspire others like me who couldn't afford tertiary education. My story is about never giving up – and what's possible when someone believes in you.

DAWA In Action



From mid-July to mid-August, in partnership with My Age Zimbabwe we held dialogues and trainings in Masvingo and Mwenezi to advance HIV prevention for AGYW.

Community and Mystery Service Provider Dialogues exposed barriers such as cultural restrictions, long distances to clinics, and lack of youth-friendly services. These sessions also allowed AGYW to directly engage duty-bearers, co-create solutions, and highlight the urgent need for non-judgmental, confidential, and supportive service delivery.

Key recommendations emerging from these activities include the expansion of innovative HIV prevention methods like oral and injectable PrEP and the dapivirine ring, increased training for healthcare providers on youth-friendly services, and stronger peer networks to bridge information gaps in rural areas. Stakeholder meetings also underscored the importance of condom distribution at community events, involving men in self-care clubs, and using champions and youth structures to expand outreach.

Future of HIV Prevention Feedback from LEN Meeting

The recent Lenacapavir (LEN) meeting held at the Holiday Inn in Harare provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of HIV prevention strategies, emphasizing the potential role of LEN as a supplementary PrEP option. Several key themes emerge that will shape future HIV prevention efforts, particularly in Zimbabwe and similar contexts.

Positioning LEN in the HIV Prevention Portfolio

The consensus is that LEN should be integrated as an additional prevention choice alongside existing methods such as oral PrEP and long-acting injectables like CAB-LA. This highlights a shift toward diversified, tailored prevention options that cater to individual and population-specific needs, emphasizing the importance of choice to improve uptake and adherence.

Implementation Considerations

Future strategies must focus on population-specific needs, differentiated service delivery models, and integrated services to ensure acceptability and accessibility. The emphasis on provider training, awareness campaigns, and demand creation indicates a comprehensive approach that considers both supply and demand factors.

Supply Chain and Value Chain Analysis

The emphasis on conducting a Value Chain Situational Analysis (VCSA) underscores the need for robust planning to identify gaps, opportunities, and challenges in product introduction and scale-up. Lessons from previous PrEP rollouts, including oral PrEP and CAB-LA, will inform the integration of LEN, ensuring that supply chain and management systems are resilient and responsive.

Strategic Focus on Women and Adolescents

The prioritized scenario for females 18+ indicates a strategic focus on populations that bear a significant burden of HIV. Scaling up LEN for this group could significantly impact overall transmission rates, especially if supported by targeted demand creation and tailored service delivery.

Future Outlook and Strategic Recommendations:

- **Strengthen Community Engagement:** To improve uptake, especially among women and adolescents, community-led awareness and demand generation activities should be prioritized.
- **Enhance Data Systems:** Robust monitoring and evaluation systems must be established or strengthened to track adverse events, resistance, and overall program impact.
- **Foster Multi-sectoral Collaboration:** Engaging stakeholders across health sectors, civil society, and donors will facilitate coordinated efforts.
- **Prioritize Capacity Building:** Ongoing provider training and education will be essential to ensure readiness for LEN introduction and management.
- **Leverage Lessons from Past Rollouts:** Continuous learning from previous PrEP implementations will guide adaptive strategies, mitigating challenges early.

In conclusion, the future of HIV prevention with LEN appears promising, offering an additional tool to reduce transmission, especially among key populations. Strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive management will be key to translating this potential into tangible health outcomes.



Tendai Kunyelesa
Co-founder (DAWA)



OUR LAST WORDS TO YOU THIS MONTH

NO MORE SILENCE, NO MORE EXCUSES.

Why This Matters

-  Survivors wait months or years for justice in our courts.
-  Silence protects perpetrators, but action protects children.

SIGN THE PETITION

Stand with survivors. Demand justice. Protect our girls.

 [\[Petition Link\]](#)

Hashtag of the Month

#1GirlTooMany

#MiswaiMahwindi

STRONGER

TOGETHER

FINAL THOUGHT: FROM US TO YOU

If this is the first time you're reading Chroma Voice — welcome.
If you've been with us for a while — thank you for walking this journey with us. Here's to being real.
Here's to showing up.
Here's to raising our voices and holding the line — together.

Want to share your story in the next issue? Email us at coms.dawa@gmail.com or send a message at +263 77 888 3840



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