



# WOZA MOYA

WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE ARISE (WOZA) November 2011

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WOZA means 'Come forward'. By women for women and with women, across race, colour, creed, class or political persuasion. Empowering women to be courageous, caring, committed and in communication with their communities.



**From 25 November to 10 December we commemorate  
16 days of Activism against Gender Violence  
The year's theme is:**

**From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World:  
Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!**

There are deeper socio-economic structures that promote and perpetuate violence against women and girls this was the discovery of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL). Simply defined **militarism** means - an ideology that creates a culture of fear and supports the use of violence, aggression, or use of military for settling disputes and enforcing economic and political interests.

One activist from Mozambique expressed her concern that there could not be "Peace on Earth while there is War in the Home." Her comments stayed with us, and we hope this year's theme describes the complex relationship between peace in the home and in the world, and recognizes the many spaces where militarism influences our lives. Therefore, the 2011 theme slogan is:

**From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World:  
Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women**

During this year's 16 Days Campaign we will look at five priorities to stop gender violence:

1. Bringing together women, peace, and human rights movements to challenge militarism: For decades, women's, human rights, and peace movements have advocated for the use of peaceful strategies to end conflict and violence and to achieve women's rights. Civil society plays a crucial role in pushing for deeper understanding of security so it emphasizes **peace and the fulfillment of human rights as a way to achieve genuine security for all**.
2. The increasing number of weapons and their role in domestic violence. This violence becomes even more dangerous when guns are present in the home, as they can be used to threaten, injure, or kill women and children. According to the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) Women's Network, women are three times more likely to die violently if there is a gun in the house. So we must make sure that there are checks on the sale, trade, proliferation, and misuse of small arms.
3. Sexual violence in and after conflict: Rape is often used as a tactic of war to drive fear and humiliate or punish women, their families, and their communities. Sexual violence is used to belittle women and promote manliness and political hierarchies. While there has been more attention to this crime in recent years, sexual violence remains a major barrier to women's safety and its effect strips women and their families of their dignity and affects them physically, psychologically, and socially.
4. Political violence against women, including Pre/During/ Post-election violence: The use of violence to achieve political goals has specific gendered implications. From electoral violence that targets women with sexual violence to harassment or using as "sexual bait" female protesters, political candidates, and ordinary women. Public and political spaces are not safe spaces for women and girls and their rights are abused indiscriminately.
5. Sexual and gender-based violence is a weapon of state agents, particularly the police or military. Even in places where there is no war, there is a war on women's bodies. Sexual violence is a tool that is used to assert power over others. Individuals in positions of authority may believe they can commit crimes with impunity, and this is seen by high rates of sexual violence within the military, threats by police to women reporting cases of violence or assault, violations committed by peace-keeping forces, and violence against women living and working around military bases.

There are many international protocols to call on Governments to protect their own people from human rights abuses. But many Governments do the reverse. Military force is used against their own civilians, they suspend rule of law in an "emergency" period, and they use "anti-terrorism" laws to suppress pro-democracy movements or to silence human rights defenders. They pass repressive laws that attempt to pass off violence as "security" measures when they are really laws to suppress peaceful human rights defenders.

Join the fight to transform violent or militaristic mindsets. Help to do this by focusing on how "peace in the home" can be "peace in the world," Take time to understand non violence and promote it to change the violence around you. You can influence the attitudes of friends, families, communities, governments and other actors.

## **ZIMBABWE HAS A PROBLEM WITH ALL 5 OF THESE ISSUES**

### **Herald Press report: 124 raped in 11 days: police 16/09/2011 by Staff Reporter**

TWENTY FIVE murders and 124 rape cases were reported in the first half of this month, shock police figures released on Friday reveal, chief police spokesman Senior Assistant Commissioner Wayne Bvudzijena said. The sharp spike in serious and violent crimes has puzzled police. "These cases were recorded between September 2 and 13 this month and we are concerned by this sudden increase," Bvudzijena said. On average, four murders are committed in Zimbabwe every week, Bvudzijena said, suggesting there had been a three-fold increase this month. Bvudzijena said poverty and alcohol abuse were key factors in most of the murders which result from petty arguments over small sums of money.

"Mostly, these murders could have been avoided," Bvudzijena told the Herald.

Police are equally concerned by increasing sex attacks, mainly on juveniles, usually by their guardians. Most of the cases, Bvudzijena said, involved attacks on young girls left in the care of friends or relatives by their parents for extended periods. "It is at this particular time that these girls are raped in most cases by persons who are known to their parents. We appeal to the courts to mete out deterrent punishments to those convicted of such offences," he said. The highest number of sex attacks were recorded in Harare, Midlands and Mashonaland East, he added. Some of the criminals were posing as police officers. "Even if they are wearing police uniform, you must ask for their police identification particulars, which show the face of the officer, force number, rank, name, date of birth and international registration number," the police spokesman said.

**The 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 is International Day of Peace and WOZA members' organised a peaceful march in Bulawayo. Hundreds of Police officers carrying baton sticks conducted a 'military' campaign in town, mercilessly beating members. One of the Officer commanding was Crime Prevention Unit, Sergeant J. Dzikiti. He shouted a foul language Shona phrase (referring to the 'female body part of a mother') at the peaceful protestors. As the police officers beat the human rights defenders with baton sticks, Sergeant Dzikiti shouted 'uraya', meaning 'kill' in Shona. A formal complaint has been made by WOZA (IR 7900/11) but there is no progress.**

**Twelve members were arrested but two Williams and Mahlangu were charged with kidnapping and theft and sent to Mlondolozhi Prison until the high court gave them bail. Law and Order Officer George Levison Ngwenya has on many occasions has threatened to fix the two with criminal charges because the Supreme court recognizes the right to peaceful protest.**

**This is just another incident of gender discrimination by male security forces.**



..... Breaking news.... As this newsletter goes to print news is reaching WOZA that the Ministry of Gender and Women's empowerment has scored an own goal. It seems they have given instructions to the police that WOZA is barred from commemorating the 16 days of Activism?

Is this not just another abuse of power? Who do they represent? Judge for yourself!  
**WOZA have just one message – You Strike a Woman and You Strike a Rock!**