



**Date: 25 November 2021**

**Statement: Commit to Tangible Actions and Replicate Community Innovations to Address Gender Based Violence.**

Murewa – Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT) joins the world in commemorating 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence is an annual international campaign which begins on 25<sup>th</sup> November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10<sup>th</sup> December, Human Rights Day.

This year's theme, ***Orange the World: End Violence Against Women Now!***, calls for immediate action to end gender based violence and comes at the backdrop of the devastating effects of COVID-19. Rozaria Memorial Trust calls on communities, government leaders, civil society organisations and global actors to commit to tangible actions and replicate community innovations to help end gender based violence.

We recognise the community innovations and efforts made by Traditional Leaders in Zimbabwe; namely Chief Mangwende of Murewa and Chiefs Bushu and Nyamaropa of Shamva District in the development of By-laws to end Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). The traditional leaders have committed to institutionalise the Nhangwa and Dendere innovation in their jurisdictions as critical methodologies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Rozaria Memorial Trust therefore makes the following call to action:

1. Call for the replication of community innovations such as the Nhangwa and Dendere, around the world, as holistic methodologies for emergency support, prevention, protection and empowerment of girls and women.
2. Call on African Government leaders to engage traditional and religious leaders as critical leaders in transforming negative cultural norms and practices that perpetuate violence against women and girls.
3. Call upon world leaders and global actors to invest in girls' education and ensure the economic empowerment of women as part of the mechanisms to help address Gender Based Violence.
4. Call upon the comprehensive provision of health services including on HIV and mental health for girls and women survivors of Gender Based Violence.

Rozaria Memorial Trust is a non-profit organisation, with a mission to create opportunities and unleash the potential of girls and young women living in rural communities through education, health and entrepreneurship.

**Contact Person:** Mr Kudakwashe Dizha, RMT Acting Executive Director. **Details:** +263 775 336 291 **Email:** [info@rozariamemorialtrust.org](mailto:info@rozariamemorialtrust.org), **Website:** [www.rozariamemorialtrust.org](http://www.rozariamemorialtrust.org)