

PRESS STATEMENT

ZWRCN Calls for Women's Meaningful Participation in the 2027 Local and National Budget Consultations

As consultations on the 2027 National and Local Authority budgets are due to take place soon, the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) calls on women across the country to actively and meaningfully participate in these important public consultation processes.

The forthcoming consultations provide an important opportunity for women to influence the priorities that inform public resource allocation. Budgets are not simply financial documents; they are powerful public policy instruments. They determine how public resources are mobilised, allocated and spent, and ultimately who benefits from public expenditure. Budget decisions therefore have direct implications for gender equality and for women's access to essential services, economic opportunities and social protection.

For over three decades, ZWRCN has championed Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as an approach to gender-responsive public finance, ensuring that decisions on how public resources are mobilised, allocated, disbursed, spent and monitored respond to the different needs and priorities of women, men, girls and boys and contribute to addressing gender inequalities.

As consultations for the 2027 budgets take place, women must use these spaces to bring attention to priorities that directly affect their lives, including water and sanitation, unpaid care and domestic work, maternal and reproductive health, prevention and response to gender-based violence, social protection, economic opportunities and women's economic empowerment.

ZWRCN particularly encourages the participation of women from rural and urban communities, women with disabilities, young women, women entrepreneurs and women working in the informal economy.

Women participating in the consultations should call for:

- Gender-responsive resource allocations that address identified inequalities and priorities;
- Adequate financing for essential public services that reduce women's unpaid care burden and improve their wellbeing and economic participation;
- Clear links between budget allocations and measurable gender equality results;
- Timely disbursement and effective utilisation of allocated resources; and
- Transparency and accountability throughout the budget cycle, including expenditure tracking and monitoring of service delivery.

ZWRCN therefore also calls upon Government, Parliament, Local Authorities and institutions facilitating budget consultations to ensure that the processes are inclusive, accessible and responsive, particularly to women whose voices are often underrepresented in public decision-making. Consultation must provide genuine opportunities for women's priorities to inform final budget decisions.

Women are not merely beneficiaries of public budgets. They are citizens, taxpayers, workers, entrepreneurs, caregivers and economic actors who have a right to influence how public resources are mobilised and used.

ZWRCN remains committed to strengthening women's voice and agency in economic governance and advancing Gender Responsive Budgeting at local and national levels.

A gender-equal Zimbabwe requires gender-responsive public finance. Let us make women's voices and priorities count in the 2027 Local and National Budgets.

Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN)
Advancing Gender Equality through Gender-Responsive Public Finance