

International Women's Day 2008

“Theme 2008 Financing for Gender Equality”

What do expect?

As Caritas Zambia we join the rest of the country in commemorating International women's day, which falls on the 8th March, 2008. As a faith based organization we implore our countrywomen and men to take cognizance of the above theme 'Financing for Gender Equality'. What does it mean for everyone?

To the women, we urge you to take be proactive during this period and to take this opportunity to explore all avenues from all financial institutions, financing agencies, business houses, projects and educational institutions that may be offering loans, grants, lower interest rates, training for entrepreneurs, etc.

Caritas Zambia is committed to the elimination of all forms of gender imbalances. We aim to improve and engage in the transformation of gender relations and the empowerment of both women and men especially in terms of participation, representation and leadership. We are inspired by gospel values and the social teaching of the church and therefore commit to the advancement of integral human development, social justice and empowerment for the less privileged in society, through conscientisation, advocacy, research, training and institutional strengthening.

What we expect from this years theme is that in calling for the financing for gender equality there should be respect for the dignity of every person. Financing should not be biased or done with partiality. Let all who have the capacity, the drive, motivation and bankable proposals and plans be the criteria on which this financing will be based.

Caritas Zambia calls for Justice and Solidarity, mutual acceptance and trust as well and just remuneration for our women and men in Zambia. Hard work and commitment should be the cornerstone of all law abiding and religious persons who are striving to be financed or who will be financing projects and services to our people. Transparency, stewardship as well as accountability as a line of attack in ensuring that there is self-sustainability of financed projects. We end with the Message that in 'Financing for Gender Equality' lets have respect for our leaders, environment and fellow human beings.

- Let us provide guidance in the orientation with regard to financing for gender equality.
- Let us provide technical support to our women and men in the implementation of Gender activities.
- Let us monitor and evaluate the implementation of financed projects and services.
- Let us develop advocacy strategies for women empowerment.
- Let us facilitate the holding of community dialogues in financing for gender equality.

- Let us facilitate the developing of gender activities in functional literacy development.
- Let us develop gender workplace policies and lastly but not the least.
- Let us conduct research in financing for gender equality