



FOL Newsletter

Fountain of Life

ISSUE 17

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE 2017



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. This year's theme was "Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls" – reflecting the core principle of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During this campaign, the Women Lawyers Association (WLA) of Malawi, a non-profit organization made up of women lawyers, paralegals, students, judges and honorary male members carried out "Legal Clinics" at the Blantyre One Stop Center to any woman or child who required legal assistance on GBV related issues for free.

Fountain of Life was also invited to UNICEF offices in Lilongwe during this campaign period to orient new staff members on what FOL does at the OSCs as a partner for UNICEF. It was the first time FOL used the animation video that was produced earlier this year for awareness.

FOL got to connect with UN Women who expressed interest in the animation video. They requested that FOL show the video to its staff and possibly share the video in all the other languages available so that they view it to other partners and their members of staff.

FOL can share the video with all interested parties after demonstrating how to use it. Contact us at any time.

Did You Know?

- "Orange the World" was part of theme for this year's 16 days of Activism globally. Malawi government opted for purple as this year's color.
- Construction of the KCH OSC officially began in 2015.
- You can contact FOL to come to your organization, school, church, community to view the awareness video and then share it with you.
- Sexual assault cases increase during the holidays.

LILONGWE ONE STOP CENTER UPDATE

As of 20th December 2017, the Lilongwe One Stop Center (OSC) at Kamuzu Central Hospital has not yet been launched or opened its doors to provide services to victims of sexual assault.

It is unfortunate since construction of the building was finished and it appears to be ready to open its doors but we still do not know why the building has not yet been opened.

Fountain of Life counselors continue to provide services at the hospital and the victim support unit at area 3 police. We can only hope the OSC is opened in 2018.



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FOL AT IWAM FUNDRAISING EVENT



International Women’s Association of Malawi (IWAM) International Bazaar is an annual fundraising event for charity projects they monitor and support. Fountain of Life was privileged to be given the opportunity to attend and display its services at the bazaar to raise awareness to other organizations and the community.

The bazaar was held on 4th November 2017 at Bishop Mackenzie International School. It was a different type of audience from the previous awareness campaigns and displays like CONGOMA NGO week in 2016 where the target audience was the local community . The IWAM bazaar was a fundraising event where all Stall Holder contributions and other fees went directly to the charity projects. Since it was an event that required entrance fee, located at an international school and far away from the town the audience was mostly international .

It was a great opportunity to connect, provide information about FOL, its projects and services to a different audience and we hope to be invited again next year.

You can donate towards any of our projects like comfort packs, communication costs, counselor support and more. Contact us through email or Facebook or visit our website. There is always room and ways for you to help us bring comfort to victims of sexual abuse

SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

It is holiday season when we are all surrounded by family, relatives, friends and sometimes strangers . It is time to be festive but also time to be cautious. Anyone can be a victim and anyone can be a perpetrator. Do not leave children alone. Do not leave them with strangers or someone you do not trust. Do not go out alone or at least tell someone you trust of your whereabouts. Empower children to report any suspicious and inappropriate behavior and please BELIEVE THEM until proven otherwise. If sexually assaulted please go to the nearest HOSPITAL as soon as possible. FOL will be officially closed from 22nd December 2017 to 3rd January 2018.

FOL wishes you all a Merry , SAFE Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

REPORT DEFILEMENT AND RAPE IMMEDIATELY!!!!



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**HELPING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
RE-BUILD THEIR LIVES**