

# **The Lundazi Traditional Leaders' Code of Conduct**

**ON INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN RURAL AREAS  
FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)**



**A JOINT DECLARATION BY CHIEFS FROM KAPICHILA, MAGODI,  
MWASEMPHANGWE, MWASENTEMBWE AND ZUMWANDA**

## **1.0. PREAMBLE**

Delivered in response to the Women for Change (WfC) validation meeting for traditional leaders of Lundazi District in Eastern Province, Zambia, the following is a Code developed to guide the operations of the chiefs in the district and provides the declarations noted and compiled by the Royal Highnesses present. It is aimed at raising the serious issues that the chiefdoms are facing in the attainment of sustainable human development specifically in the area of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

We, the Chiefs of Lundazi District representing the Chiefdoms of Kapichila, Magodi, Mwasemphangwe, Mwasentembwe and Zumwanda gathered here at Johnester Executive Lodge, having examined the findings of the European Union funded project implemented by Women for Change in Increasing Access to Justice in Rural Areas for Survivors of GBV in Lundazi from 2016 to March, 2018 and having analysed the lessons learnt in the implementation of the project do hereby this day of Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 put forward this Code of Conduct as a guiding principle in the fight against GBV in our chiefdoms, and further commit to this declaration which shall remain as the basis for development programmes in the district.

## **3.0. DEVELOPMENT**

We the Chiefs of Lundazi District know that Development can only be achieved by combined efforts from Government bodies, Chiefs, all citizens whether women or men; girls or boys; and other stakeholders who include Civil Society Organisations and religious bodies. We are all duty bound to see to the uplifting of human living standards through working together. Realising GBV is prevalent in our respective chiefdoms and has displayed its face in the various forms namely wife battery, early marriage and economic deprivation of resources we acknowledge that it plays a big role in perpetuating gender inequality resulting into poverty.

### **3.1. Forbidden Negative Practices:**

Realising that GBV is prevalent in our chiefdoms we will ensure that these vices - wife battery, early marriages and economic deprivation of resources in addition to other forms of GBV are addressed. We are deeply concerned about the negative effect that the following negative practices have on our culture and social norms in our chiefdoms:

### **3.2. Recommended Practices**

We the 5 Chiefs, resolve that the following shall guide the attitudes and behaviour of our people when resolving conflicts in our chiefdom and serve as a point of reference at all levels of traditional authority defined at the level of the:

- Chief
- Chief's Advisor
- Senior/Group Headperson
- Headperson
- And the Traditional Council

Because we understand that GBV is influenced by our cultural practices and socialisation we as the traditional leadership will work seriously towards improving the situation especially as it affects women and girl children. We will do this by acting as an example in our own lives and homes and also by sensitising our people on the harmful effects of GBV.

We the Chiefs, resolve that we will abolish all negative practices in our cultures and customs that reinforce GBV against women and girls in our communities; we will allow women to enjoy their rights thereby upholding the Gender Equity and Equality Act of 2016 and the Anti-GBV Act of 2011 which are national initiatives of bringing about equality between women and men.

### **3.3. Recommended Practices**

Therefore, we resolve that the following should guide the attitudes and behaviours of our people and serve as a point of reference for us, our headpersons and all subjects in resolving conflicts in our chiefdoms:

#### **3.3.1. The Role of the Chieftaincy**

- Assenting that there is general lack of knowledge on what constitutes GBV, we the Chiefs commit to conduct sensitisations on GBV during village meetings.
- Acknowledging that GBV Victims live in fear, we the Chiefs commit to support the Survivors to avoid them withdrawing the cases. Headpersons will be requested to get involved to ensure the case is not withdrawn by helping the survivor to go to the Victim Support Unit (VSU).

#### **3.3.2. Support to GBV Survivors**

- Identify individuals to form groups of 5 to 10 people to work as a neighbourhood watch against GBV
- Support the establishment of paralegal groups to support the neighbourhood watch.

#### **3.3.3. Linkages with other Stakeholders**

- Acknowledging the importance of other stakeholders, we the chiefs will keep a directory of contact information of the stakeholders to call upon them when need arises. Direct link with government departments like the VSU will ensure the cases are acted upon.

#### **3.3.4. Creating a GBV-Free Environment**

- Realising the importance of creating a GBV-Free environment, we the chiefs will endeavour to put in place mechanism and procedures to respond to GBV.
- Commit to handle GBV cases without fear or favour.

## GBV cases considered as emergencies

In line with the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act of 2011, we resolve that the following cases shall be referred to the police and courts without any delay to ensure access to justice for our subjects:

- Defilement
- Child and Wife battering
- And all other critical cases that happen in our chiefdom

## Conclusion

We the 5 Chiefs, hereby, declare our chiefdoms GBV-free zones and direct our efforts to ensuring adherence to this Code by all.

**Discussed, Agreed and Adopted by all the 5 (Five) Chiefs, on this day of Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at Johnester Executive Lodge in Lundazi by their Royal Highnesses from Chiefdoms: Kapichila, Magodi, Mwasemphangwe, Mwasentembwe and Zumwanda**

NAME	CHIEFDOM	SIGNATURE
1. Her Royal Highness Chieftainess Mwasemphangwe Lititia Phiri	Mwasemphangwe	
2. His Royal Highness Chief Kapichila Benard Smart Moyo	Kapichila	
3. His Royal Highness Senior Chief Magodi Alfred Ndhlovu	Magodi	
4. His Royal Highness Chief Mwasentembwe Senior Chief Jonathan Mtonga	Mwasentembwe	
5. His Royal Highness Chief Zumwanda Stephen Mwale	Zumwanda	