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A Peaceful Zimbabwe For All Generations

NPRC STATEMENT ON THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

Today, the 15th of October 2021, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission joins the Nation and the rest of the world in celebrating the International Day of Rural Women.

The International Theme; **‘Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All’**, presents an opportunity for the NPRC to celebrate the critical role that rural women play in fostering peace through food production for their communities and the nation at large. Rural women play a variety of essential roles in cultivating food for all; from crop production, processing harvest, distributing products, to preparing food, ensuring that both their families and communities are nourished thus ensuring peace, harmony and social cohesion.

The NPRC also strongly associate its commemorations in line with the National Theme: **‘Women Empowerment: Key Element in Building Resilience to the COVID 19 Pandemic’** The National Theme is pertinent in the wake of escalating climate and environmental crises, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has led to increased levels of violence, discrimination and disruption of rural livelihoods .

As aptly captured by the National Theme, resilience building through a prevention-oriented approach is key to strengthen the protection and empowerment of rural women thus, enhancing local capacities for peace. One of the key areas of focus by the NPRC is ensuring non recurrence of violence and conflicts. Empowerment of rural women particularly for food production enhances their resilience and coping with vagaries of disasters thus ensuring conflict prevention.

In the same context, the NPRC commends and applauds the Government for the successful recovery and resilient building programmes such as a ‘Pfumvudza’/ ‘Intwasa’ farming concept targeted at rural communities with rural women substantially benefiting. Approximately 80% of women live in rural areas and provide 70% of the labour in agriculture. The NPRC therefore calls upon all relevant stakeholders to develop strategies that result in more resilient societies where rural women are safe from chronic threats of violence and other vulnerabilities such as abject poverty, hunger, disease, repression and disruptions of livelihoods which can act as triggers of conflicts and violence.

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