**NPRC Embarks on Electoral GBV training**

 The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and UN Women partnered to embark on a training to sensitise and train communities to guard against Electoral Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The training took place from the 13th to 17th of February 2023.

The NPRC engaged communities in Manicaland, Masvingo, Midlands, Bulawayo and Matabeleland South Provinces and equipped stakeholders with knowledge on electoral gender based violence, developed strategies and pro- active interventions and mechanisms to address, prevent and respond to Electoral Gender Based Violence before, during and after elections, as well as raise awareness and sustain discussions on UNSCR 1325 as a framework that supports actions for the prevention of Electoral Gender Based Violence.

Speaking during the Matabeleland South Chapter of the Electoral Gender based Violence Prevention and Management Training, the NPRC Chairperson Retired Justice Selo Masole Nare, who graced the Bulawayo and Matabeleland South Provinces training expressed gratitude to the collaborating partner, Zimbabwe Council of Churches and the development partner UN Women Zimbabwe.

"May we be torch-bearers in peacebuilding in our respective communities and continue to work to bring to an end to gender related violence," said Chairperson Retired Justice Selo Masole Nare.

"Let us all remember that a united and collaborative effort is the best approach to building a peaceful Zimbabwe," said Retired Justice Nare.

NPRC Vice Chairperson Reverend Dr Chiropafadzo Moyo who addressed the Masvingo and Midlands Provinces training sessions stressed that participants to that training should encourage the communities they live in to treat men and women as first-class citizens. "Let us not normalise weaponization of violence, let us join hands as we teach people about peace,” Reverend Dr Moyo said.

Reverend Dr Moyo reiterated on the need to navigate ways in which sexual intimidation and violence against women can be curbed. She also stressed on the commitment of the NPRC and other partners to end sexual violence against women.

The General Secretary of the ZCC, Reverend Wilfred Dimingu exhorted on the need for people to help one another in resolving conflict amicably. “As the church we have the role of facilitating peace agreements, providing safe spaces for conversation between contending parties and to work directly with the victims of violence.” The General Secretary stated, "As the church we have a theological mandate to promote peace and the NPRC has the same constitutional mandate. This corroborated effort in promoting peace is for the good cause of our communities and country.

 Let us continue to preach the gospel of peace. We want elections to be a process that everyone enjoys participating in as a constitutional obligation for all Zimbabweans.”

Plans to train the remaining provinces (Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East, Harare and Matabeleland North) are underway. It is the Commission’s intention to cover the length and breadth of the country implementing various programmes in its peacebuilding work. The Commission remains grateful to the Government of Zimbabwe, collaborating partners and development partners whose assistance make it possible to do their peacebuilding work.

*Compiled by NPRC Media and Communication Unit*