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UDACIZA
Union for the Development of Apostolic and Zionist Churches in Zimbabwe - Africa

UDACIZA NEWSLETTER

Union for the Development of Apostolic and Zionist Churches in Zimbabwe, Africa

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION *Monthly Newsletter*



Trocaire and its partners during the SVRI 2026 Conference , Thailand, Bangkok

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UNITY IN FAITH

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

UDACIZA brings Apostolic and Zionist churches together to grow in faith, speak with one voice and work for the development of our communities across Zimbabwe.

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A WORD FROM THE LEADERSHIP



Philemon Handinahama Hwami

Pasowe October Greetings

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As a network of Apostolic and Zionist Churches in Zimbabwe, UDACIZA remains committed to promoting unity, strengthening Apostolic church leadership and advancing community development through the ICSP Project. During October, the organisation enhanced church mobilisation and community engagement through leadership engagements, provincial structures and community initiatives that foster dialogue, collective action and community-driven solutions. Member churches continued promoting gender equality, preventing GBV, protecting children and vulnerable groups, safeguarding human dignity and building peaceful communities. UDACIZA appreciates the support of church leaders, member churches, Trócaire and community stakeholders whose partnership continues to strengthen its impact in creating inclusive, violence-free and sustainable communities.

Philemon Handinahama-Hwami
Programs Manager, UDACIZA

SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE (SVRI) 2026

UDACIZA strengthens global learning and visibility at SVRI Forum 2026



UDACIZA representative at the SVRI forum engaging a delegate during a poster presentation

As part of Trocaire's localisation strategy, implementing partners, including UDACIZA, were supported to participate in the SVRI Forum 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. This investment enabled local organisations to engage directly in global conversations on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, research, policy and practice while sharing community-driven experiences from Zimbabwe.

A major highlight of the SVRI Forum 2026 was the presentation of the paper, *"Strengthening Women's Leadership in Faith Communities to Prevent Gender-Based Violence: Learning from SASA! Faith Implementation in Zimbabwe,"* co-authored by Trocaire and UDACIZA. The presentation showcased how strengthening women's leadership, participation and decision-making within faith communities can challenge harmful social norms and contribute to preventing violence against women and girls.

The Forum provided valuable learning for UDACIZA, reinforcing the importance of sustained, feminist and community-led approaches to GBV prevention, institutional partnerships and long-term social norm transformation. Discussions also highlighted the need to scale effective systems rather than isolated activities, integrate GBV prevention into climate resilience programming, and ensure that women's economic empowerment translates into greater control over resources and decision-making.

The Forum further emphasised the value of practice-based evidence, collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and the role of faith communities in advancing gender equality, dignity and non-violence. For UDACIZA, participation strengthened organisational visibility, expanded professional networks and provided practical insights to inform the continued implementation of SASA! Faith and future programming. It also demonstrated the importance of bringing local evidence and innovations from Zimbabwe to global platforms, contributing to collective efforts to end violence against women and girls.

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CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS



Mutare DDC Mr Tendai Kapenzi reading a solidarity speech during the ordination of Bishop Paradza Shava, Bocha-Marange, Manicaland.

UDACIZA's Church Mobilisation and Community Engagements

UDACIZA mobilises Apostolic and Zionist churches across Zimbabwe to promote inclusive community development, gender justice, health, climate resilience and social transformation through church engagement, capacity building and community dialogue, strengthening the role of faith communities in sustainable development. As part of its church mobilisation and community engagement process, the ordination of Bishop Shava was attended by the Mutare DDC, Chief Marange, the local Councillor, Village Heads, Ecumenical leaders and the Bocha Community members. For more read Here



Bikita, Ward 22, Taguta Garden farmers during GBV awareness raising session.

GBV Awareness Raising among Caritas Masvingo Structures (farmers)

UDACIZA, through the ICSP Project, facilitated a GBV awareness raising to 26 farmers under Caritas Masvingo to deepen understanding on GBV, power sharing and referral pathway. The dialogue challenged misconceptions about violence, encouraged healthy relationships and shared responsibility and reinforced the message that achieving gender equality and ending GBV requires collective action and meaningful opportunities for women to influence decisions that shape their families and communities.



Bikita, Ward 13 St Alphonse Roman Catholic Couples' Session

Couples' Session

UDACIZA monitored a couple's sessions, supporting couples to recognise different forms of GBV while strengthening healthy, faith-based relationships that foster safety, dignity and understanding within families.



UDACIZA representative presenting during ICSP Annual Review Meeting in Mutare.

ICSP Annual Review Meeting

UDACIZA participated in the ICSP Annual Review Meeting, which provided an opportunity to review programme progress, share lessons learned, address implementation challenges and strengthen planning for sustainable impact in 2027.

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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Goat Pass-On project, Bikita District, Ward 32

Ward 32 Community Activists (CAs) recently celebrated a significant milestone as goats purchased by UDACIZA through the ICSP Project were officially passed on to religious leaders (RLs), strengthening community ownership and sustainability of the initiative. The pass-on ceremony was more than a transfer of livestock, it reflected a shared commitment to improving livelihoods, promoting solidarity, and creating lasting benefits for families and communities.

The initiative was particularly meaningful for women CAs, many of whom expressed their joy and pride at owning livestock for the first time. Several women shared that traditional norms have often limited women's access to productive assets such as cattle and goats, making this opportunity a powerful step towards economic empowerment and greater household participation in decision-making. By increasing women's access to and control over valuable assets, the project is helping to challenge longstanding gender inequalities while building household resilience and food security.

As the goats continue to reproduce and are passed on to other beneficiaries, the initiative is expected to create a ripple effect of economic empowerment, social inclusion and community transformation demonstrating how small investments can contribute to sustainable livelihoods and gender equality at the grassroots level.



Ward 32 Community Activists passing on goats to the Religious Readers and Community Action Group Members



Ward 32 Community Activists passing on goats to the Religious Leaders

Beyond the economic benefits the goat pass-on initiative is strengthening relationships between CAs and RLs, creating a shared sense of responsibility for community development and social transformation. By investing in productive assets that can be passed from one beneficiary to another the project promotes a culture of mutual support, sustainability and collective growth. The testimonies shared during the handover highlighted how access to livestock can restore dignity, increase confidence and create new opportunities for women to participate more actively in household and community decision-making, reinforcing UDACIZA's commitment of promoting women's voice and leadership, gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Venue	Time
02/12/2026	16 Days of Activism against GBV	Bikita, Ward 21, Gangare	9.00 am
Date to be shared	Youth Dialogue and Engagement	Mashonaland Central	9.00 am
Date to be shared	Church Mobilisations & Community Engagements	Mashonaland West	9.00 am

PHOTO GALLERY



Community Activist facilitating SASA! Faith session, Bikita, Ward 21, Roman Catholic Church



Community Activist practicing Agroecology, Bikita, Ward 13, Ushe Village



Couples session, Bikita, Ward 21, Zion Apostolic Church of God

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ All members, church leaders, youth and community stakeholders are encouraged to participate in upcoming UDACIZA events. The Youth Dialogue and Conferences and Church Mobilisations & Community Engagements provide important opportunities for learning, dialogue, networking and community transformation.

Please note that the exact dates and venues will be communicated in due course through official UDACIZA channels. Stay informed and prepare to be part of these impactful engagements.

UDACIZA

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