



**THE LAW SOCIETY
OF ZIMBABWE**



PRESS STATEMENT ON COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ) joins the rest of the world in commemorating the 2019 International Women's Day (IWD). This day remains an important opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for increased gender equality and parity.

The Law Society notes and appreciates the United Nations theme 2019 for International Women's Day, **Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change**. This theme advocates for a world in which innovation and technology are used to create more opportunities for women to close all existing gender gaps. **Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change** prioritizes innovation as a way of determining the needs and viewpoints of women in resolving barriers to public services and opportunities. The theme acknowledges the need to go beyond rhetoric campaigns of gender balance and adopt and implement smart and effective solutions that address the needs of men and women equally. The theme resonates with the recent calls by the Law Society to its members to adopt positive disruptive innovations for the increased gender parity for women in the legal profession.

There is continued need for lived reality of equality and justice for women. Women have faced continual discrimination both in private and public places for long. This propels to the fore the need for real and smart actions which will bring real changes and improved experiences for all women. The theme calls for translation of this International Women's Day campaign into action,

empowering and protecting women in all settings, irrespective of race or creed.

The LSZ fully associates itself with the 2019 International theme and advocates for a practical approach in ensuring that women and girls everywhere realise their potential.

While some strides have been made to protect and promote women's rights in recent times, the need for greater intervention remains urgent. The Law Society therefore calls upon all employers of female legal practitioners to mainstream gender equality and equity in their workplaces.

The LSZ takes this opportunity to affirm its commitment to equal opportunities and access to decent work and life for all lawyers. The Law Society denounces any workplace bias particularly in the legal profession. The Law Society equally implores government to **think equality** and adopt **smart and innovative** ways to bring real changes and improved experiences for all women.

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