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Message

by

H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma
Chairperson of the African Union Commission

On occasion of White Ribbon Day

26 November 2013

Today marks the beginning of the 16days of activism to end violence against women also known as the White Ribbon Day in which progressive societies globally commemorate the 16days of activism. Women and men all over the world observe the 16days of activism during which they undertake advocacy campaigns to raise awareness on the increasing incidences of violence against women and girls which include and not limited to domestic violence, rape, incense, harmful traditions practices like early marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM) and all forms of violence against women. These are directed to intimate partners, vulnerable members of society including elderly women, young girls and children.

On behalf of the African Union Commission, I call on all men and boys everywhere and particularly in Africa to identify with this campaign and become champions of Gender Based Violence against women and girls, not just in the next 16days but every day of their lives. As champions for women's Human Rights, they receive full support of the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa which among others isolates this pandemic and calls on all Member States to implement provisions in this Protocol geared towards Gender Equality And Women's Empowerment in general with specific provision on ending Gender based violence.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish all Member States that launched this campaign fruitful outcomes and join members of Civil Society Development partners, Human Rights and Women's Rights Activists in condemning violence against women everywhere.

H.E DR. NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA

CHAIRPERSON AUC