

# YET NEWS



Youth Empowerment and Transformation Programme (YET)

**Inspiring and empowering youths to reach their full potential**

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

Volume 2

April 2007

Youth Leadership Development  
Youth, Advocacy and Information Dissemination  
Poetry Box  
YET in Pictures

## Coordinator's Note

Greetings to you all.

The first three months in 2007 were characterized by changes in operational context in terms of the political, social and economic environment. The development has led to increased collaboration between YET and partner organisations as evidenced by eight activities held between January and March 2007. The activities were implemented in pursuit of empowering young people to be agents of the reconstruction process. The Winter School Reflections Meeting held in Chinhoyi revealed that YET through the Winter School has managed to create a leadership base for young people in Zimbabwe. The Young Women Leadership Retreat that gave space for young women

members of YET was not only an empowering process for young women but also an inclusive process for women from Matebeleland and rural young women who are often marginalized.

The resilience of young people has been shown by the submission of 13 proposals in the first quarter of 2007 and nine of them were supported by YET Secretariat. The role of YET have been of facilitating young people to be pioneers of change. Many thanks to the Local Reference Group (LRG) members for their immense and invaluable support to the YET Secretariat.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF YET ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2007**

# YOUTH AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## Winter School Reflection Meeting 11 to 13 February 2007

The Winter School Reflection Meeting was implemented by YET secretariat from 11 to 13 February 2007 at Chinhoyi Diocese as a follow up to the Winter School Programme for 2006. The main objectives of the reflection meeting were to review the 2006 Winter School and share individual and organisational experiences and formulating strategies of sustaining the leadership skills/programme. A platform was provided for the winter school alumni to share stories and experiences on YET thematic areas and learn from each other.

The reflection meeting was practical and managed to produce results as most participants proved they had been incorporated into the family of hardworking youth leaders. The Winter School alumni had gained so much confidence as they spoke out clearly on their experiences. The most reserved participants during the July Winter School turned out to be the ones who had more stories to share during the reflection meeting. The reflections revealed that most participants were active in the fight against HIV/AIDS at various strata of the society.

The winter school alumni were active in conflict transformation as some of them managed to read books and write poems on conflict.

**There was a reasonable degree of networking amongst the winter school alumni as some managed to hold joint programmes for example the commemoration of the World Aids Day in Masvingo by the mutual efforts of Batanai and Youth Alive. Most young people increased participation in national and civic issues as evidenced by their attendance of programmes held by other organisations, public meetings and following the course of debate on matters of national concern. This resulted in the consolidation of relationships between YET partner organisations.**

**There was remarkable evidence pointing at an increased search for knowledge through wide reading and interactions. This increased their knowledge base and enhanced informed contributions to the communities they hail from. The participants showed their willingness to contribute articles to YET newsletter.**

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## Young Women Leadership Retreat 12 to 15 March 2007

The experiences of YET for the past three years has shown that there is minimal participation of young women in youth activities. In order to address this gap YET Secretariat implemented a Young Women Leadership Retreat. The objectives of the workshop were to enhance the capacity of young women in leadership and confidence building so that they will play a leading role in transforming their organisations. The workshop also sought to enhance the capacity of young women to stand up for their rights and responsibilities in their organisations and communities and that they

become responsible role models in terms of moral behaviour and self esteem. Twenty four participants were drawn from YET partner organisations. Participants were able to learn and understand basic principles of gender, feminism, women's rights, leadership, HIV and AIDS, sexuality and conflict transformation. A

leadership base for young women was



**Young Women Leadership Retreat participants**

created as the participants were equipped and enlightened on leadership for transformation. Sessions zeroed in on life related topics which enabled them to become relevant in everyday lives of the young women. The retreat was vibrant and participants showed a lot of enthusiasm.. Participatory methodologies were used for the retreat which enabled interaction among participants. Young women were able to speak freely in groups and as individuals and share experiences as they were open with each other. Participants cited that the methodology of the retreat was interesting and exciting and enhanced learning. Networking and team building were enhanced through interactions between young women from rural and urban areas. Young women were given the confidence, self-esteem and skills to speak about the issues that concern them, challenge and confront the existing power structures.



'Thanks a lot for the sessions on spirituality and values, gender, feminism, confidence building, conflict transformation and leadership for transformation because they were a source of empowerment and

### Female Capacity Building Workshop - SCMZ

YET supported SCMZ to implement a female student's capacity building workshop in Harare from 10 to 12 March 2007. The workshop was attended by 23 female students from around the country. The major objectives of the activity were to strengthen leadership skills for the females through providing them with a platform for participation and mentorship programmes. Participants were equipped with leadership skills so that they will increase their participation in SCMZ activities and development of the nation at large. The workshop enhanced the understanding of gender issues and the importance of mainstreaming gender issues in daily lives. Networking and building of alliances between young women were enhanced

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## YOUTH ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

### International Women's Day 10 March 2007- YWCA

YWCA through the support of YET implemented an activity on the International Women's Day on 10 March 2007. The activity sought to recognize and strengthen young women's participation in decision making and advocate for young women to be pioneers of their own decisions. The workshop was attended by 50 young women

and 5 men. It was recognized that young women are marginalized in national decision making and participants were urged to lobby and advocate for an increase in representation of women in politics and decision making. Networking was enhanced as a platform for interaction was created.



## POETRY BOX Freedom

We cry for peace  
That is perfect peace  
Peace, peace, peace, where are you?  
Everyone needs peace

We cry for freedom  
That is equality freedom  
Freedom, freedom, freedom, where are you?  
Everyone needs freedom

Freedom that was once claimed to be there  
In our country but no longer existed  
Freedom that was fought by our fore fathers  
Never seem to prevail any day

Freedom of association, assembly  
Freedom of expression, information  
Above all, freedom of speech but,  
There is no freedom after speech

Sons and daughters of our mother country  
Lets stand up for our rights as we all need freedom  
Our not so called incognito.  
With a mucus drainage on his face  
Someone who is greedy, incompetent, above all corrupt  
Selfish has caused him being the one  
Who owns freedom in his life

Lets all fight for freedom  
A guest for true freedom  
As defined by African logic  
And not minority influence

The mystic  
Breaking shackles of mind  
Restoring pride in blackness  
Making freedom real

Freedom, freedom  
We all need freedom!

**Compiled by Tendai Gumbo, 2006**  
**Winter school alumni**

## YET IN PICTURES



**Rev Shirley Dewolf facilitating the session on spirituality and values at the Young Women Leadership Retreat**



**Mr Deprose Muchena stresses a point during the Young Women Leadership Retreat.**



**Participants at the Winter School Reflection Meeting sharing their experiences**



**Local Reference Group members analysing the operational context of YET on 20 March 2007.**

**Pictures by Lynnet and Rosewita**

### YET NOTICE BOARD

1. YET will be holding the third edition of the Winter School Programme in July 2007.

# ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY YET AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS JANUARY TO MARCH 2007

Activity	Organisation	Venue
World Social Forum	YET Secretariat	Nairobi, Kenya
Winter School Reflections Meeting	YET Secretariat	Chinhoyi
Awareness Campaign on HIV and AIDS	CHIYSAP	Chitungwiza
Commemoration of the International Women's Day	YWCA	Harare
Female Capacity Building Workshop	SCMZ	Harare
Workshop on Human Trafficking	D.P Foundation	Bulawayo
Young Women Leadership Retreat	YET Secretariat	Ruwa
Youth and Information Dissemination	Silveira House	Mutoko

## For your Views and Comments

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