

## **ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE**

### **SUMMARY**

Simuka-Arise Initiative is an NGO-Trust registered August 2015 in Zimbabwe.

### **Mission Statement**

The empowerment and emancipation of young women in the academic, economic and social aspects of life.

### **Vision**

To empower and emancipate all young women economically, socially and academically, with the support and engagement of the male counterparts.

### **Objectives/Goals**

1. To raise a generation of young women who are empowered and emancipated in their academic, social and economic lives.
2. To break social barriers and challenge social norms that govern how women create their life choices.
3. To raise generations of young men who are supportive and engaged in the empowerment and emancipation movement of women and to hold workshops and mentorship programs that are beneficial to them, so that they can help in the fight against abuse towards women.
4. To incorporate the use of talks, workshops, trainings, counseling and mentorship programs to empower young women into freedom that will help them engage in self-development.
5. To mainstream cross cutting issues such as teenage pregnancies and domestic violence.

### **PROJECTS**

1. Our current flagship program is the #GirlEmpowered Personal Development Class (September 2017-Present), a 16-week program where young women are taught critical life skills necessary for their development and in making positive decisions for their future. 63 young women and girls have been worked with so far in Zimbabwe. We believe this program has the following lasting effects:

- To nurture girls and women who are highly esteemed and confident
- To nurture girls and young women who are knowledgeable in their self-development
- To nurture girls and young women who are equipped with life sustaining resources that enable them to lead empowered lives

2. HiddenGEMs showcase of inspirational women in Zimbabwe. A series of videos which commenced May 2019 is available to view on Simuka Initiative Facebook page, where women from different walks of life share their raw stories of obstacles they have faced and how they have managed to rise above the difficulties. The aim of this series is to inspire and motivate as well as show that many women are HiddenGEMs in their own right. The HiddenGEMs brand also conducts fundraisers where proceeds are used to financially support young single mothers in Zimbabwe who are conducting income-generating projects.

3. One of the anchors of our work is in gender-based violence awareness especially amongst the youth. We engage females and males in creative and innovative channels by which they can advocate against gender-based violence. We've hosted a fun-run and hand-print art

project in Harare as ways of raising awareness against gender-based violence. We also train youth advocate in gender-based violence advocacy. Our mantra is 'I advocate against gender-based violence. DO YOU?'

4. We conduct critical conversations of social norms that have harmful effects on personal development of young women. Such conversations include males – bringing in the dimension of societal influence on women empowerment. Our conversations are held in partnership with The African Millennial podcast and new episodes air weekly.

## **PAST PROJECTS**

We have also conducted the following projects:

- 3 charity fundraisers which raised funds to assist young single mothers pay for their children's tuition. 16 funding cycles were achieved where four children's tuition fees from 3 single mother households were catered for.
- Sanitary pad donation drive throughout Feb-June 2017, to donate sanitary pads to girls at Kundayi High School in Mazowe. 180 packets of pads were donated.
- Human Rights talk session in March 2017 (University of Zimbabwe) to educate young people on their rights and how to advocate for other people's rights.
- Economic Empowerment Seminar in April 2017 with notable guests i.e. Mr S Zuze and Dr F Nyamukapa and other organizations such as JAZ, IYF and YWIB. This was meant to inspire and motivate leadership and entrepreneurship in young people especially young women.
- Talk session in April 2016 graced by the project coordinator of ZWYB, Tsitsi Mangadze who spoke to the audience of young women and men on how to start-up businesses with little to no capital, maintain them and make an honest living out of working with ones' hand.