

FOSTERING PEER TO PEER AND INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS AMONG YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS IS A SUPER POWER!

The journey of women's participation in decision making and politics has been pioneered by courageous women who chose to brave their way up the leadership ladder in a male dominated and hostile environment. Their resilience and fearlessness coupled with a passion to be the voice for other women energized them to straddle through the crooked, rough and tough path.

They were drenched in the deep trenches as their male counterparts tried to silence them yet with agility they refused to give in. With outstretched arms, these women paved a way and opened up spaces for generations of young women to climb the leadership ladder.

Today, we celebrate these daring women for demonstrating that women are capable and for igniting a spark and illuminating the path on which emerging young women leaders can tread on as they embark on the leadership terrain.

These predecessors are indeed significant and powerful and they are ably fit to hold the hands of emerging young women leaders to empower and inspire them so that they become more confident to take on the challenge.

Time to soak in...

On a daily basis, an increasing number of young women leaders are encountering gruesome experiences in their quest to claim for their constitutional rights while others are contending with demands of having to finance their political careers. Their experiences coupled with psychological distress is evidence of the need for support systems and platforms where they can share solidarity and learn more about emotional and financial wellness. There is need to ensure that these young women leaders are not left in solitude but have a shoulder to lean on.

Why Sister 2 Sister Connect....?

For the emerging leaders to succeed in their leadership endeavors, they can be equipped through peer to peer and intergenerational mentorship. This will enable them to understand the journey of their forerunners and garner a wealth of knowledge and wisdom which is necessary for them to succeed.

As an adept organization, Institute for Young Women Development worked around the clock and devised new approaches and innovative ways to foster knowledge exchange through a peer to peer and intergenerational mentorship virtual [Sister 2 Sister Connect Boot Camp](#) on the 30th of July 2020 through the Zoom platform. Sandra Zenda, Program Coordinator at IYWD summed it all when she said, “We believe in the effectiveness of transferring knowledge and capacity from current women leaders to young aspiring present and future leaders. Intergenerational mentorship inspires young women to be the change agents in driving processes that inform and influence the gender agenda in Zimbabwe.”

The organization had earlier on scheduled for a physical boot camp nonetheless, due to the global Covid 19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions on gatherings and movement, it was needful to ensure that young women are safe and yet do not miss out on knowledge transfer and solidarity.

Among the panel included prototypes in the women’s rights movement who magnificently conquered inhumane ambushes and waylaid their opponents. Now, their tribulations and heroism are a testament that must be shared with emerging leaders to inspire them and resurrect a passion to run the race. Margaret Dongo shared wisdom nuggets on ***Solidarity and Security*** and in her captivating words, she said, “Solidarity is the greatest weapon for your success. Develop the people whom you want to represent because tomorrow they will develop you and stand with you both morally and financially.”

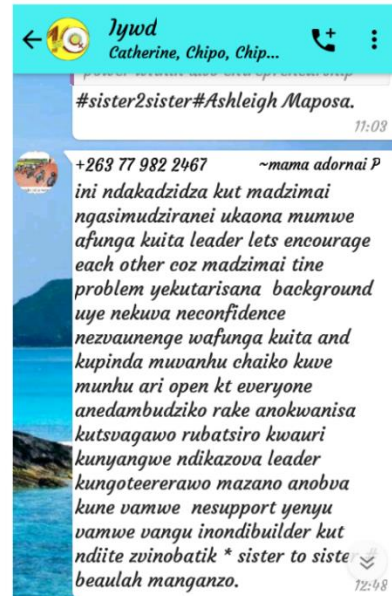
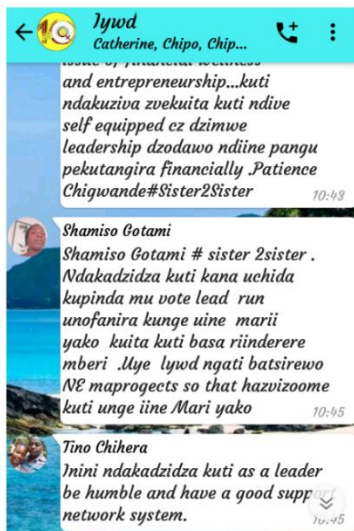
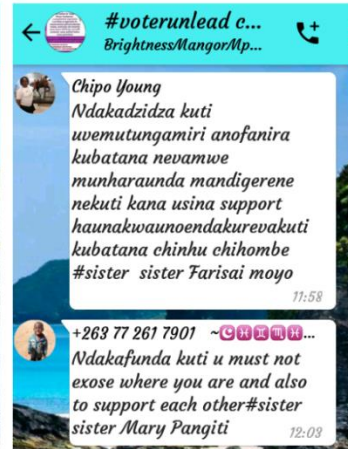
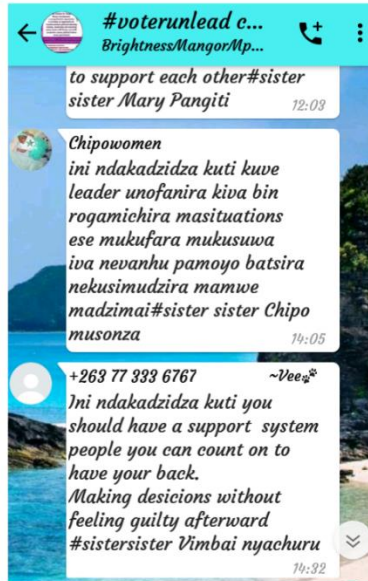
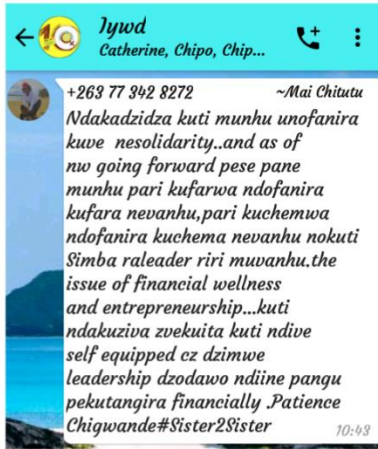
On ***Financial Wellness***, Lucia Matibenga left no stone unturned. She highlighted that “Financial wellness builds strong young women leaders who are confident, assertive, and ready to take on the challenge. A financially well leader is stress free, highly productive and will participate in processes without any hindrance such as absenteeism caused by ill health. A financially well leader is focused and becomes a high achiever with a stable political career and a fulfilling life.”

One of IYWD's #VoteRunLead Alumni, now Honorable Lindiwe Maphosa (MP), passionately shared on ***Emotional Wellness*** and said "For you to have emotional wellness you need to believe in yourself and believe in your inner strength. Focus on the positives because they will make you stronger. Have a strong support network."

With her invigorating words, the moderator, Virginia Muwanigwa, Chief Executive Officer for Zimbabwe Gender Commission summed it up by saying, "We need to be in decision making so that we can speak on behalf of more women out there who may not be able to speak. Let's be united because we are more powerful as a collective. Build power with other women to increase your net- worth."

The thirty young women leaders who participated in the boot camp comprised of IYWD's membership, #VoteRunLead Alumni and different networks.

TESTIMONIALS FROM YOUNG WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BOOT CAMP



ⁱ Young women who expressed interest and ran for political office during the 2018 Presidential Elections.