

REPORT ON WORKSHOP ON HIV & AIDS MAINSTREAMING IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY (CENTRAL REGION COMMITTEE) HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2006 AT KAMUNDI MOTEL IN LILONGWE-MALAWI



**Compiled By: Nizia Chrissie Ndhlovu
UNI-AFRICA WOMEN'S COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

The workshop was graced by the Treasurer General of CIAWU and the Chairperson of MCTU women's committee. In his opening remarks, the Treasurer General of CIAWU Thanked Sister Ndhlovu for organizing the workshop. He also thanked the UNI thour Monique Marti for putting Malawian women on the map and also urged women to work hard in making sure that their businesses prosper and that they know their rights. He said women should not be shy but humble and listen to their clients whenever they are complaining. He also talked on HIV/AIDS which had impacted more on women and urged them to take seriously what would be discussed.

The Chairperson of MCTU Women's Committee encouraged women to take their businesses seriously citing example of the Coordinator of the project (Sister Chrissy Ndhlovu on how she started organizing fellow women in the informal economy. She further said that, she started her business with a small business but now she is doing very well. The Chairperson also said support from husbands was important so that women should refrain from immoral behaviour to avoid HIV/AIDS. Honesty , cheerfulness and hard work were the solutions to business prosperity. Women should aim high in order to have big businesses.

OBJECTIVES

1. to elect a committee for Lilongwe branch
2. to empower women on HIV/AIDS issues
3. to encourage women on business management

TOPICS COVERED

- What is a trade union and why informal economy group
- Trade union and HIV/AIDS By Victoria Nyirenda MCTU EDUCATOR
- Assertiveness By: Nizia Chrissie Ndhlovu-MCTU/CIAWU EDUCATOR

CONTENT

The meeting discussed the relationship between informal sector and trade union. It was mentioned that the aim of the project was to make sure that businesses for women are boosted and also women are empowered so that should assist in economic activities of the country. It was noted that a lot of women are victims of retrenchments hence end up on the informal economy and as such need to be encouraged in order turn their businesses to formal. HIV/AIDS has also been mainstreamed in the project noting that the informal economy involves a lot of exposure to different environments hence empowering women would prevent the spread of the pandemic.

Thereafter, elections were done and the following were elected:-

Chairperson – Dorothy Mhone
Vice - Victoria Nyirenda
Secretary - Kamugholi Zalira
Vice - Glena Mtalimanja
Treasurer - S Nyando

Committee members

S. Simwaka

J. Msiska

F. Nawa

E. Kilembe

H. Zalira

M. Kapisamo

A. Kampala

CLOSING

The Chairperson elect encouraged the women to have confidence in whatever they were doing and asked the women to support one another in their businesses in order to have viable businesses. The Coordinator assured the women that would assist them in different areas from training and loans in order to improve their businesses.

Nizia Chrissie Ndhlovu