

# Statement on the International Day of African Child

The African child is uniquely characterized by remarkable resilience in the face of adversity, a strong cultural heritage that shapes their identity, a community-oriented mindset that emphasizes collective responsibility, and a vibrant spirit that enables them to thrive in challenging circumstances. These qualities make the African child a vital and valuable part of the continent's future, equipped to overcome obstacles, celebrate their diversity, support one another, and shine with energy and enthusiasm.

Today, June 16th, we commemorate the Day of the African Child, a day to honour the precious gift of our children and the potential God has placed within them. As Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), we believe that every child is created in the image of God, deserving of love, care, and protection.

We recognize the progress made by the government of Zimbabwe towards improving access to education, healthcare, and protection for children in Zimbabwe. However, as ZCC, we also acknowledge the existing challenges, such as child abuse, poverty, child marriages, violence and conflict, and limited access to quality education, and the emerging issue of drug and substance use. In this regard, we continue to advocate for continued efforts to address these issues by all relevant stakeholders in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Happy International Day of the African Child!