

Voices OF HOPE

Zambia

In the Katete district of Zambia, the Raising Adolescents' Voices for Change project, supported by PWRDF and the Zambian Anglican Council Outreach Program (ZACOP), is transforming the lives of adolescent girls by working to end child marriage. This project builds upon the success of the Ending Child Marriages initiative and seeks to empower young girls and boys to recognize their rights and potential. For many girls in Zambia, childhood is cut short by marriage, depriving them of education, health, dignity, and the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives. As 17-year-old Mercy shared, "I was supposed to be married off, but the project helped me see a different future for myself. Now, I'm focused on school, and I hope to become a nurse."

Through a combination of awareness-raising and skills training, the project engages community leaders, teachers, and church leaders to challenge harmful cultural practices and encourage the completion of education, particularly for girls. "It takes the whole community to stand up and say no to child marriage," said Pastor Chanda, one of the local faith leaders involved in the initiative.

Educators, trained in child rights, sexual and reproductive health, and the harms of child marriage, work closely with their peers to build understanding. By empowering girls like Mercy and shifting community attitudes, the project is lighting a path toward a future where every girl can dream, learn, and thrive.



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