

Covid-19 Pandemic Emergency Aid

Joint action - an awareness campaign against Covid-19 on 12 June 2020



**Deutscher Frauenring
DFR**



**Association Suisse des
droits des femmes ADF-SVF**

**Women Comfort Corner
Foundation Zimbabwe**

Report of the activities by **Rita Marque Mbata**, President Women Comfort Corner Foundation WCCF

A covid-19 training was held by WCCF in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe with the support of ADF-SVF Suisse the Swiss and DFR the German IAW Affiliate Organizations. The workshop was held on 12 June, 2020. There was a delay in the convening of the workshop because the country was under lock down, and people were not allowed to congregate. Prior to the workshop Women's Comfort Corner Foundation tested the temperatures of all the attendees who had registered to attend on a daily basis for a period of 14 days and demonstrated how to do a bleach solution, a method which was easily grasped by the participants.

When the workshop started extreme priority was given to adults and teenagers who had underlying medical conditions some living with HIV AIDS, diabetes and lung disease. Prior to gaining entry into our premises every participant had their temperatures taken and masks provided by the Women's Comfort Corner Foundation through the support availed by the ADF-SVF Suisse and Deutscher Frauenring.

An instruction was conveyed to the participants to be conversant of social distancing and be at least a meter apart. The participants appreciated and understood that respiratory droplets can unfortunately land on people close by and at worst inhaled into the lungs by people having underlying medical conditions and could also affect a person without a medical condition.

It was also emphasized that when one has to buy medication or go out in public the use of mask was essential and the protection was reinforced by social distancing. The participants were grateful for the information that mask should not be placed on babies. What was also appreciated was that the face mask was not a substitute for social distancing.

During the meeting a fierce debate raged that people in private settings without access to mask are advised to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue and when coughing or sneezing to use the inside of their elbows. Everyone was against the throwing of the used tissue in the trash as the corona may escape from the said tissue.

When assisting a sick person it is imperative for the caregiver to wear gloves in order to prevent infection although some alleged that the said conduct would be viewed as discriminatory. After intense discussion all participants seemed to have understood that the facilitators were advocating for health and for the protection for everyone.

Although a necessity the use of disposable gloves in Africa when washing utensils is viewed as a luxury. The best advice given to the participants was to wash plates and pots using hot water. There were also demonstrations on how to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects like phones, keyboards, toilets and doorknobs. The two disabled attendees were very grateful to Women's Comfort Corner Foundation for the demonstration as they left the workshop with their wheelchairs sparkling clean and promised to share the knowledge attained with other disabled people.

All the attendees particularly those with underlying illnesses were also encouraged to buy household items which could at least last a month and essential medication as most pharmacies now allow for a three month refill on prescription medication. Finally, a questionnaire was passed around for comments and thereafter closed the meeting.

