

# PEACE BUILDING AND CIVIC EDUCATION

## The Situation

**Art4PeaceAgainstPolitical Violence** responded to the political violence upsurges in Chitungwiza following the death of a political woman activist More blessing Ali that led to the birth of the **#Nyatsime16** and the arrest of Job Sikhala and the rise of **#FreeWiwaMovement**. The project was a creative response to stop political violence that manifested as youths were being used as tools to incite violence. Youth unemployment made young people (males and females) in Chitungwiza vulnerable to any remunerative activity because of this there were a target group to toxic party politics

## The Response

Art4PeaceAgainstPoliticalViolence used murals with peace story-lines to trigger conversations around violence and had a urban-rural activism component to ensure young women share intimate conversations around election mode, sexual health and civic participation in a safe space. Three (3) murals were constructed in Chitungwiza (25 wards) targeting high political violence hot-spots. The Murals where namely **Peace is My Vote**, **Participate and Engage in Civic Education** and **PEACE HURUYADZO**.

## The Results

The youth managed to advocate for peaceful elections, this was a success because it's the same youth who were engaging in political violence during election processes.

The murals triggered conversations amongst community members, especially young people who were the risk population during the **August 2023** elections. Our murals had an impulsive behavior impact as it caused them to think and reflect over their actions. The murals were a medium of opinion as conversations emanated around political violence, elections and the role of youths in propelling violence.

## The Evidence

Whilst installing our murals that had peace story lines debunking political violence and messaging, we prompted conversations in the community.

These spoke to both our target youth groups of females and males. In addition, even the community gate keepers acknowledged the impact of our work and the need for the intervention.

- Some of the comments probed included *zvamaita zvobatsira kudzora vechidiki muno vanopihwa hwahwa kuti vaite mhirozhonga* which translates to **your work helps reduce violence instigated by young people who are given alcohol to fuel political violence and noise.**

- The art for piece brief documentary shows a young woman from ward 11 appreciating our work and also pledging to maintain the peace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oX-XIJzkdwtw>

- Because of the innovation around the Art4PeaceInitiative we were nominated as a finalist for the Youth Carnegie Peace Prize 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcMX98eVyP8>

- Most murals in Chitungwiza were defaced and written **#FREEWIWA** including the Welcome to Chitungwiza signage. None of our Art4Peace murals were defaced which showed ownership and embracement of the Peace message.

