



## PROFILE OF THE WOMEN'S MANIFESTO MOVEMENT (WOMAN)

### What is the Women's Manifesto Movement?

The Women's Manifesto Movement (**WOMAN**) is a non-partisan and autonomous grouping of diverse institutions, organizations and individuals that facilitates women's agency and came together to lead Malawian women in developing the first ever Women's Manifesto in 2018. The Movement was co funded by WOLREC, Oxfam and HIVOS. The Movement has wider membership from other organisations such as the Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC), Action Aid, *Governance, Gender Justice Development Centre (GGJDC)*, *Tovwirane*, Girls Empowerment Network(GENET), CECWODA, CEWAG, *Action Aid, NGO Gender Coordination Network, Centre for Multiparty Democracy, Democracy Works Foundation, Centre for Civil Society Strengthening (CCSS), Men For Gender Equality (MEGEN), Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, UN Women. Women Doctors Association, Living Hope, Young Feminist Network, Centre for Victimized Women and Children (CAVWOC), Rural Women's Assembly among others.* The WOMAN has national level presence as well as district level and community level presence.

The movement celebrates its diversity and continues to mobilize widely for its membership. As part of localization, the local cofounder WOLREC acts as the secretariat of the

Movement. The Movement collaborates with other strategic sectors of the women's rights stakeholders such as the Ministry responsible for Gender, The Parliamentary Women's Caucus, The Malawi Human Rights Commission and the academia working on feminist and women's rights discourses.

### **What is the Women's Manifesto?**

The Women's Manifesto is a document that contains Malawian women's and girls' aspirations and demands on issues that affect their lives which leaders are expected to address to improve the position and situation of women and girls in the country. Such leaders include the State President, Government, Political leaders, Private sector leaders, Public sector leaders, Non-State Actors leaders, Religious leaders among others. The First edition of the Women's Manifesto was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 after various consultations were carried out with representatives of women from various sectors, including wide consultations held during a Women's Assembly held in November 2018. The Manifesto was used as an engagement tool with Presidential Candidates that stood for the 2019 General Elections.

The Women Manifesto Movement has since its formation undertaken a lot of activities in furtherment of its mandate of facilitating women's agency and advocating for the promotion and defending of women's rights. These activities have included engagement with the State President Dr Lazarus Mc Cathy Chakwera, and many other duty bearers. A mid-term review of the Women's Manifesto was conducted in November 2022 to assess progress of its implementation and areas that need strengthening. The insights from the mid-term assessment and from the recent regional consultations held in 2025 have led to the revision of the Women's Manifesto and the development of its second edition that will be launched on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 ahead of the September 2025 elections.

Ends.