

THE BRAVE ABEDNICO DUBE

“I am very happy with the knowledge and support I got from WLSA. I wish I can also help others who are in my predicament with the knowledge I got from WLSA.”

Abedinico Dube, a 34 year old man who stays in Msewele village ran out of words to thank WLSA for the constructive advice, knowledge and support they imparted to him ,which in turn helped in being a law abiding citizen. Abedinico’s heart was broken by his promiscuous wife who took advantage of her husband’s ill health to fall in love with his neighbor Maqhawwe Ncube. The wife took advantage of the fact that the husband could not rise and walk.

“Almost every evening she could leave me after preparing my supper and come back in the wee hours of the next morning”, Mqhwawe said.

“As I got better, I started to suspect that something fishy was happening and I knew I was going to discover it one day. As I was on the recovery path and now able to walk around the yard, I could see footprints daily and they were just the same”, he added.

After having several questions in his mind about these foot prints and the changed attitude and behavior of his wife, Abedinico followed the footprints one day, which led him to the nearby forest. Just outside the gate he realized that his wife was walking with the person with the footprints in question. As he followed the footprints they led him to a hidden place in the forest where leaves were spread to cushion people from sleeping directly on the ground.



Abedinico Dube (on the left) just after the interview on how he benefitted from the WLSA project.

Upon moving around the place, he discovered some used condoms and pieces of dreadlocks allegedly for his wife. When he went back home he confronted the wife about what he saw and

the wife admitted that she had intercourse with Maqhawe. The wife escaped to her parents' home (about 12km from her house), fearing his infuriated husband would thoroughly beat her up.

The angry husband went to Maqhawe's place with an axe with the intention of killing him. Luckily Maqhawe had travelled to Bulawayo, hence could not find him.

After coming back to his place, he thought of going to the ward councilor, Gladys Moyo who is also his distant relative to seek advice. Gladys referred Maqhawe to Oppah Ndlovu, one of the Community Popular Opinion Leader (CPOL) in the area. CPOLs are a group of WILSA structures who were trained in fighting against domestic violence as well as all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Their capacity was also built on challenging bad cultural/religious practices which look down upon women and those which promote GBV.

Oppah Ndlovu had a three hour session with Abedinico explaining to him the negative consequences of using violence to solve domestic disputes. She highlighted that, the constitution of Zimbabwe and the Domestic Violence Act does not allow the use of any form of violence to solve conflicts. Oppah gave a number of amicable solutions which Abedinico could pursue some included either reporting the case to the chief or to go for counselling. Following the discussion he reported the case to the paramount chief Mabikwa. Oppah also took the initiative to refer Abedinico and his wife to a local priest for counseling. She also successfully persuaded the wife to come back on the assurance that Abedinico had forgiven her. The chief ruled in Abedinico's favor and ordered Maqhawe to pay two beasts to Abedinico as adultery damages. Maqhawe apologized publicly at the chief's court and promised not to do it again. Meanwhile Abedinico and his wife are now staying together again. He had this to say as his parting shot, ***“I am very happy with the knowledge and support I got from WLSA. I wish I can also help others who are in my predicament with the knowledge I got from WLSA.”***