

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) has raised concerns about the challenges faced by children in Rwanda. These include homelessness, school dropouts, and abuse. Many of these issues stem from problems within families.

MIGEPROF made the call this Monday as part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The campaign focuses on addressing violence against women and children worldwide.

Console Uwimana, Minister of MIGEPROF explained that gender-based violence is often linked to deeper family issues. These include a lack of understanding of gender equality, raising children without the means to care for them, and harmful behaviors like neglect and domestic violence.

“Children are especially affected,” said Minister Uwimana. “We see malnourished children, those who drop out of school, and others who run away from home. Many end up on the streets or turn to drugs, escaping poverty, conflict, and abuse.”

The Minister also highlighted a growing problem of child sexual abuse in the country. She stressed that these issues need urgent attention. They not only harm children but also threaten the future of the nation.

Minister Uwimana pointed out that there is still a gap in preventing gender-based violence. Many people don’t report families in conflict, allowing problems to worsen. She called for more proactive intervention.

“We need to speak up when we see trouble,” she said. “We can’t remain silent while children are suffering.”

Recent research shows the severity of these issues. A 2020 study found that 33% of children under five years old were malnourished. The Ministry of Education’s 2022-2023 report showed that 6.8% of children who should be in school were absent. In the past five years, 20,000 children were born to teenage mothers.

Minister Uwimana urged all Rwandans to take action. She called on citizens, leaders, and government officials to help families in conflict. Early counseling and support are key to protecting children and strengthening families.

“We all have a role to play in building a better future for our children,” she said.