

# UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN 1975-1985

Issued 13<sup>th</sup> November 1985

*(Extract from PTC Bulletin No 5 of 1985)<sup>2</sup>*

“The United Nations Decade for Women 1976-1985 has been instrumental in making people and governments recognise the importance and magnitude of women's role in society.

Midway through the decade, in July 1980, a World Conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, to review the achievements and obstacles of the first five years. This Conference served to advance international awareness of the integral part that women are of every global concern in all spheres of life. It adopted a Programme of Action for the second half of the Decade to promote equality, development and peace and the sub-themes of the Decade, employment, health and education.

As a conclusion to the Decade, in July, 1985, the General Assembly convened a World Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, to review and appraise the achievements of the UN Decade for Women.

Soon after independence in 1980, Zimbabwe joined the United Nations as a sovereign state. This meant the nation had only half the period of the Decade to utilise her resources and those offered by the UN agencies for the purpose of uplifting the status of women.

In 1981 the Zimbabwe Government demonstrated its commitment to the UN recommendations and created a Ministry of Women's Affairs to plan and implement programmes for the development of women.

Since then there have been positive changes in employment, education, civic affairs, legislation and some cultural and traditional practices which in the past fostered women's inferiority.

Undeniably the United Nations Decade for Women has been instrumental in making the Government of Zimbabwe and its people appreciate the importance and magnitude of women's role in society.”<sup>2</sup>

The designs, by Cedric Herbert a local artist, are in stylised form and depict three women, each portraying an aspect of women's advancement.

The 10c issue depicts women's place in modern development. Women are as much a vital part of the computer age as men and have proved themselves in the contribution they have made to global technological progress.



The logo for the decade contains the symbol of the dove of peace and progress, the mathematical symbol for equality and the biological symbol for female.



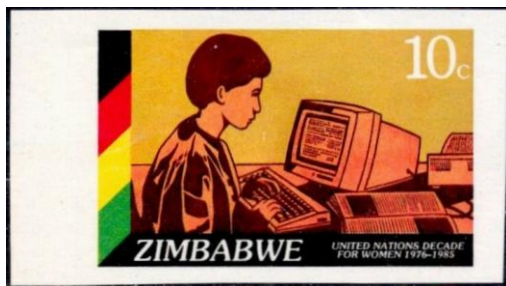


The 17c stamp depicts women's contribution to the health of the nation. In their roles as doctors, nurses, teachers, advisors and mothers, women are vital to the wellbeing of the society in which they live and work

The 26c stamp depicts women's equality in all spheres — education, communication, technology and science — and the scope for women's achievements in the future — given equal opportunities and recognition



The values of the stamps are puzzling, only the 26c stamp is the airmail rate to Europe. The only use of the 10c stamp is for internal printed paper rate (useful for sending out monthly accounts), and the 17c is the rate for surface postcard anywhere in the world. The last two are not values that are usually produced for a commemorative issue, and are usually seen in definitive issues.



Essay printings of 10c and 26c. The gap on either side of the printings should, with a sheet proof, show the next stamp.  
*(Source eBay December 2021)*

## Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC <sup>1</sup>	Value	Description
685	112	10c	Woman on computer
686	113	17c	Nurse & child
687	114	26c	Woman graduate

## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	All values	42 x 28 mm
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
<b>Artist:</b>	Cedric Herbert	
<b>Paper:</b>	ZSC paper type B – HS6, fluorescent coated paper with PVA gum with a blueish/greenish tinge.	

<b>Print colours:</b>	All values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow			
<b>Perforations:</b>	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼			
	Top margin:	Perforated through.		
	Other margins:	Imperforate		
<b>Printer:</b>	Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe			
<b>Printer's Imprint:</b>	Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Columns 2 to 4. Imprint printed in black			
<b>Cylinder numbers:</b>	Top margin above column 5. Colours reading from left All values – yellow, cyan, magenta, black			
<b>Colour register:</b>	Type TL 4– round boxed – right margin opposite R1/5. Colours reading down. All values – black, magenta, cyan, yellow			
<b>Sheet Value:</b>	Top margin, above R1/1, printed in black.			
<b>Sheet Number:</b>	Type SN 4a with ‘PTC’ prefix, left margin, opposite R1/1, reading down.			
<b>Print numbers:</b>	10c	750,000	17c	500,000
	26c	500,000		
<b>Issue date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> November, 1985			
<b>Withdrawal from sale:</b>				
<b>Demonetarisat</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> January, 1994			

### Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted

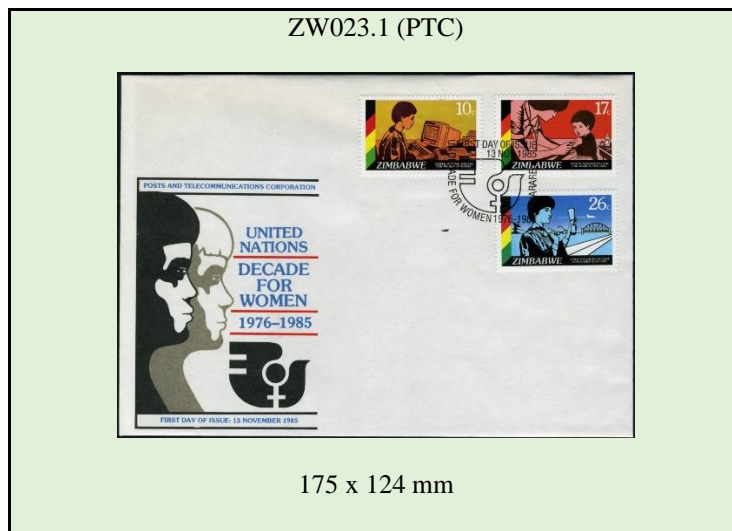
### Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds.

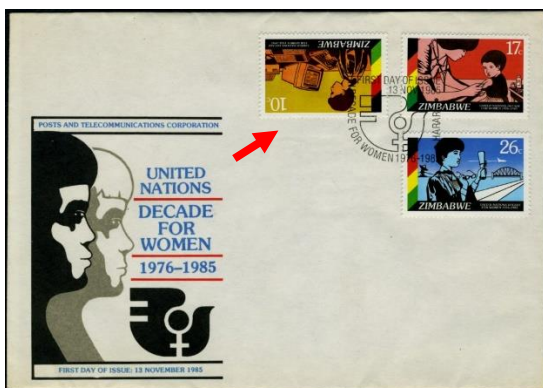
## First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



## Related Material



Inverted 10c stamp on Philatelic Bureau first day cover



Inverted 26c stamp on Philatelic Bureau first day cover

Covers produced by the Philatelic Bureau had their stamps placed on the envelope using the Autophix machine. In these instances, the stamps were placed in the cassettes upside down.

**Bibliography:**

1. “The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue”, published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 1985. (Note second bulletin with this number)

<b>Additions/Changes since December 2020</b>	
3-2022	10c & 26c essay printings