

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Zimbabwe
HUMAN RIGHTS
NGO Forum

SOLIDARITY AMONG RIGHTS DEFENDERS

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THE STORY OF THE FORUM

Solidarity Among Rights Defenders

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WHO WE ARE

ABOUT THE FORUM

In the Beginning

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (the Forum), was established in 1998. The Forum came into existence following the State's repressive response to the 1998 food riots. From an initial membership of eight human rights organisations in Zimbabwe, the Forum has grown to 20 human rights organisations working in areas of women's rights, children's rights, youths, LGBT rights, prisoners' rights, freedom of expression and of the media, anti-corruption, good governance, peace-building, and non-violent ways of conflict resolution.



Our Partnerships

In addition to our membership, the Forum works closely with partner organisations. Our partnerships reach beyond the borders of Zimbabwe. We have partnered with institutions that range from citizen initiatives, informal traders, government entities, development partners, student movements, international human rights organizations, United Nations (UN) bodies and academic institutions. These are a testimony of our work beyond just us. The following are organisations that we have partnered with in 2019 in shaping Zimbabwe's human rights discourse.

CIVICUS

CIVICUS is an international non-profit organisation, a global alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world. In 2019, the Forum partnered with CIVICUS in international advocacy at the United Nations Human Rights Council, and in an investigation on the rise of anti-rights groups.

CSVR
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) is a multi-disciplinary institute that seeks to understand and prevent violence, heal its effects and build sustainable peace at community, national and regional levels. The Forum partnered with CSVR in hosting a dialogue on transitional justice at the 2019 Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Human Rights Watch is a global human rights organization that investigates and exposes human rights abuses and presses for change. In 2019 the Forum partnered with Human Rights Watch in a number of initiates including jointly hosting dialogues in Harare on abductions and torture, and in Johannesburg on transitional justice.

Our influence

As the biggest and oldest human rights coalition in the Zimbabwe, our influence continues to grow. Our products have received international recognition and been listed by credible academic institutions, including Stanford University, among many others. Our transitional justice interventions have inspired the birth of a continental civil society movement for transitional justice that has seen recognition by the African Union in promoting the African Union Transitional Justice Policy. Our litigation and advocacy initiatives at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) have shaped regional jurisprudence on the rights of victims of human rights violations. Our reports have influenced international policy on Zimbabwe and the United Nations Human Rights Council's recommendations and intervention in Zimbabwe.

Our work with Parliamentarians has increased human rights consciousness and increased the momentum in the domestication of international treaties.



Working for Human Rights Across Africa

We continue to play a pivotal role in regional networks such as the Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Court Coalition), and the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN). Our members have ensured that the human rights situation in Zimbabwe remains on the local, regional and international agenda through participation at fora such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR).



Vision & Mission Statement

The vision of the Forum is a society which promotes and protects the rights of all people.

Its mission is to provide leadership and coordination on the human rights agenda in Zimbabwe.

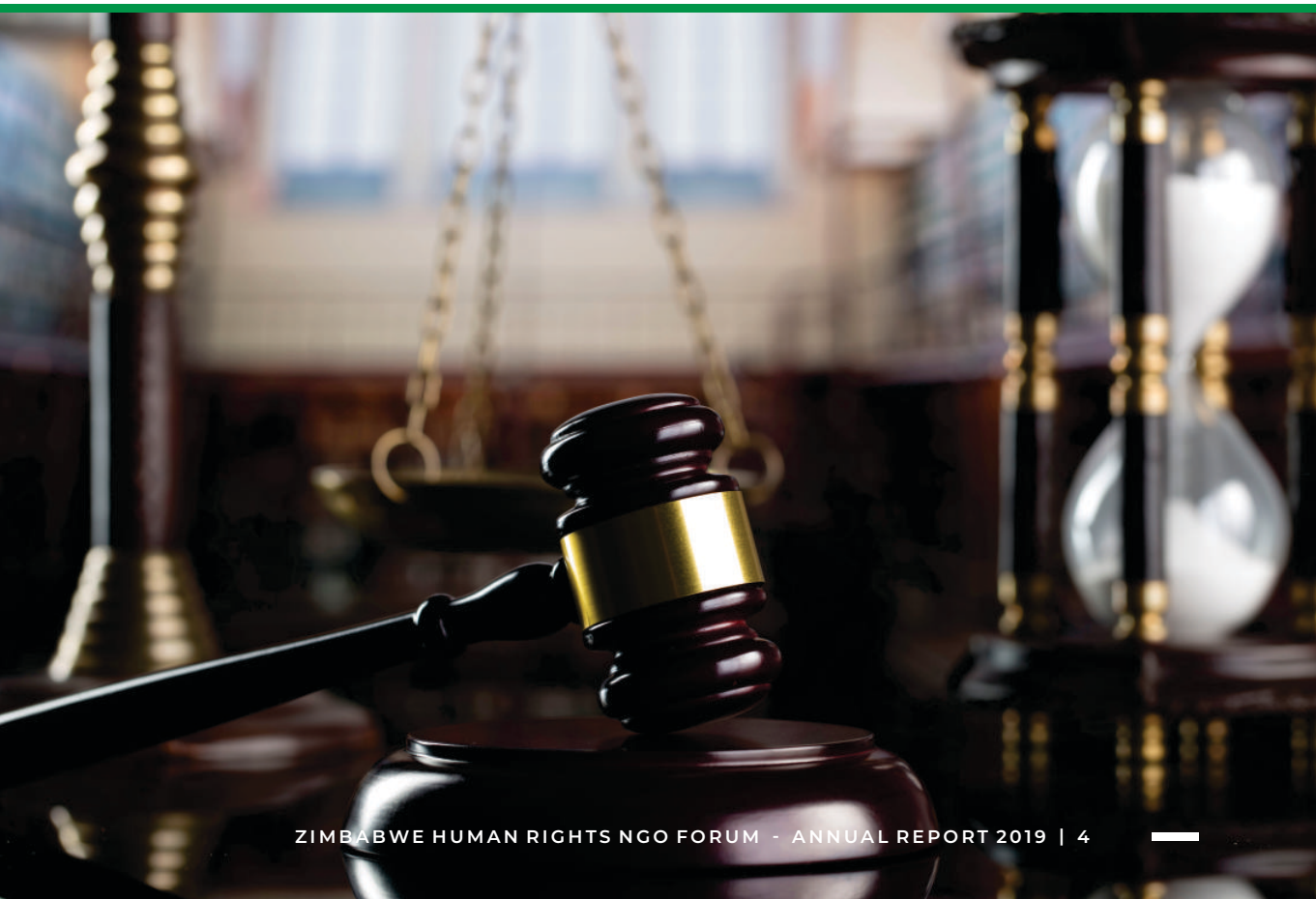
Programmatic Units

Our Secretariat is organised within three programmatic units as follows:

a. Transitional Justice Unit (TJ)
b. Public Interest Unit (PIU)
c. Research and Documentation Unit (RDU)

The National Transitional Justice Working Group

The Forum is also the Secretariat of the National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG), which is a platform established by 46 Zimbabwean transitional justice stakeholders to provide interface between the stakeholders and the official transitional justice authorities in Zimbabwe.





Jestina Mukoko | Chairperson

MESSAGE

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The year 2019 was a miserable year for human rights in Zimbabwe as it witnessed unprecedented episodes of violence. In January 2019, the government increased fuel prices triggering massive protests across the country. The protests were met with aggravated state violence leading to the extra-judicial killing of at least 17 people across the country. In this report, we feature some of the worst encounters of violence in 2019. So gross was the violence that in 2019 alone that the Forum produced 12 special reports unpacking the violence. We proceed in this report to cover the reaction of the world and the efforts of our members to assist the victims.

The year further witnessed a sharp decline in the economic conditions in the country. Coming from a controversial and disputed 2018 election, the government came up with a raft of policies without investing in consultations with stakeholders. Instead of improving the economic fortunes of the country, the policies caused untold suffering for many ordinary Zimbabweans.

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the government came up with a raft of policies without investing in consultations with stakeholders. Instead of improving the economic fortunes of the country, the policies caused untold suffering for many ordinary Zimbabweans.

As the suffering intensified, protests increased. This was the year when Zimbabwe witnessed one of the longest strikes by public health workers, resulting in the country's major health facilities shutting their doors and turning away thousands of desperate people including pregnant mothers. As health workers took to the streets, so did other government workers, including teachers, who declared incapacitation to work.

In all these protests, the government responded with heavy-handedness. In a state of panic, suspected state agents were unleashed and carried out a series of abductions and torture targeting government critics and protest leaders.

During the course of the year, our members recorded 67 cases of abductions, with the majority of the victims later found dumped in various places after having been tortured. Victims told horrific stories of torture and being forced to drink urine and raw sewage. In August 2019, the Forum joined hands with victims of 1 August 2018 shootings. The documentary *'We have not forgotten'* was launched at the Eastgate Cinema, reflecting on the failure by the government to acknowledge the atrocity and failure to implement the recommendations of the Motlanthe Commission that included prosecution of the people behind the shootings, and compensation for victims and their families.

In the same month, the tragedy of police brutality returned to Harare where the opposition had called for mass protests, but protestors were violently dispersed at the Africa Unit Square.

Forum members documented serious attacks on civilians by suspected soldiers and militia disguised as police officers. This prompted the Forum to release the report *'The New Deception: What has changed.'* Despite worldwide condemnation, police brutality returned to the streets of Harare in November ahead of the main opposition party the MDC Alliance's Hope of the Nation Address. In all this tragedy, Forum members stood with many victims and provided the world with accurate information, analysis and proactive proposals to resolve the situation.

> *As the suffering intensified, protests increased. This was the year when Zimbabwe witnessed one of the longest strikes by public health workers, resulting in the country's major health facilities shutting their doors and turning away thousands of desperate people including pregnant mothers.*

For our efforts, a number of our colleagues received recognition for their work. Dr Frances Lovemore was honoured for her work of assisting victims of violence. In my capacity as the Chairperson of the Forum, I received the Board Chairperson of the Year Award in the Non-Profit sector from the Institute of Directors. From Forum Secretariat, the Programmes Coordinator Dzikamai Bere received the Presidential Precinct's Young Leader of the Year Award in Washington. But the greatest reward for our membership is always the testimonies from the many survivors whom we assisted.

They have real stories to tell. As you go through this report, you will come across such stories of pain, suffering and triumph. We feature these stories because we want them to encourage all of you to continue supporting our work and to keep believing that the struggle for human rights in Zimbabwe is not lost.

We are grateful to our funding partners, the Secretariat, and all members who made it possible for us to make this difference.



Jestina Mukoko
Chairperson



Dr. Kika Musa | Executive Director

MESSAGE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019 was another grim year for human rights defenders in Zimbabwe. Civil society actors faced serious attacks against their person, families, personal dignity and professional lives. It was in this year that the State charged over 24 human rights defenders with the politically-motivated charge of seeking to subvert a constitutionally elected government. Rights Defenders were arbitrarily arrested by law enforcement agencies, while some of them were kidnapped or abducted in violation of the due process of law.

It was in 2019 that Zimbabwe witnessed the rise in anti-rights groups. This saw the state sponsoring organised groups to target human rights defenders. These groups included the Patriot newspaper, which invested heavily in propaganda in 2019 targeting civil society actors. These stories were outright lies but were used to create hate speech against human rights defenders. The other anti-rights group that emerged was the Citizens Forum, which, among other things, attacked Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and threatened to invade their offices.

In several statements, the government went on to criticise and effectively criminalise the

work of human rights defenders in violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which it signed and ratified. Of course, these unwarranted attacks were rightly met with a strong rebuke from both the United Nations and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In 2019, the government worked tirelessly to evade accountability, presenting patently false reports at the UN in New York and to the African Commission in Banjul. The government misled the international and regional community of its intention to implement the Motlanthe Commission.

The year ended with no single recommendation of the Commission having been implemented. For our part, we did not only document these transgressions but moved further to provide possible remedies. The Forum members litigated on behalf of over 72 victims of organised violence, including families of the people who were shot by the soldiers in January 2019.

As the Secretariat, we were privileged to serve a committed membership which was able to shape the human rights agenda and expose the deception of the Zimbabwe's so-called *'new dispensation.'*

I sincerely thank our membership for their great work which made our own work much easier.

At the end of the year, we bid farewell to a long-serving member of the Secretariat, our Programmes Coordinator Dzikamai Bere, who has now taken over as the National Director at one of our member organizations, ZimRights. We extend our best wishes to him in his new role.

We also witnessed a transformation of the Forum Board. The Forum adopted a new constitution which created a smaller technical board of 5 board members from the previous 20-member board. While the changes are still ongoing, in this report we provide a detailed report on what that transformation entails.

As we celebrate a milestone, crossing into the new century, we invite you to join us in celebrating 22 years of the life of the Forum. In that celebration, we note the increase in attacks on human rights defenders, hence our theme, *'Solidarity Among Rights Defenders.'*

Musa Kika
Executive Director



ABOUT WHAT WE DO

A GLANCE AT OUR WORK & ITS IMPACT



Research and Documentation

Our Goal

Accurate, timely and relevant research is integral to human rights campaigning, advocacy and lobbying. In 2019, the Forum has established itself as a repository of verifiable quality reports on key thematic human rights issues. We documented abuses for the preservation of a public record and to engage duty bearers for possible redress.

Our Products and Interventions

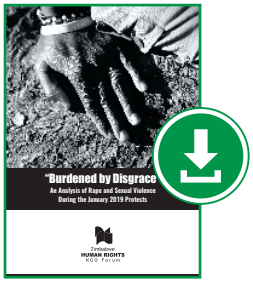
Publications

A number of products were published which shaped Zimbabwe's human rights agenda locally and internationally.



2018 State of Human Rights Report

The report documents human rights violations documented in the year 2018 including enforced police brutality, extra-judicial killings, matters of discrimination, torture, arbitrary arrests, violations of freedom of assembly, among many other. It makes 6 recommendations to address the pressing human rights challenges.



Burdened by Disgrace

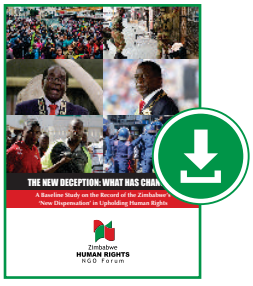
In February 2019 the Forum produced a report that documented 17 cases of rape and sexual assault and other violations during the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU) organised stay-away between the 14th – 16th January 2019. The violations were allegedly perpetrated by the military and the police service. Burdened by Disgrace analyses the 17 reports filed by 17 women victims of rape and sexual assault at the hands of soldiers. The basis of the report is to ascertain whether the events of this period, particularly the rape and sexual assault meet the elements of crimes against humanity.



Justice Under Siege

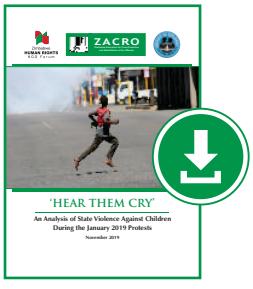
In 2019, the promises of the new dispensation evaporated like morning due in the face of the African summer sun. From the hope and optimism that characterised the November 2017 transition from the de facto one-man rule under Robert Mugabe, many Zimbabweans are now left with a lasting sense of despair and hopelessness.

The justice delivery system was been weaponised against government critics, and due process has become elusive for those charged with public order crimes and crimes against the state. This report examined the period from August 2018 to February 2019 and assessed the extent to which the formal legal protections granted by the Constitution of Zimbabwe, and under international law, were followed. It concluded with recommendations on the de-politicisation of the criminal justice delivery system to ensure that the law is not weaponised or abused.



The New Deception-What has changed?

On 27 August, the Forum launched the report at an event attended by 45 people who were drawn from members of the diplomatic community from the British Embassy, Spanish Embassy, and Dutch Embassy. The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum's founding Chairperson and Senior Researcher of the Research and Advocacy Unit, Mr Antony Reeler and the current Chairperson and Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project, Ms Jestina Mukoko led the discussions. The report presents a comparison of human rights incidences before and after November 2017. The report concluded that human rights violations in the new deception are far more frequent, nasty and brutish. The report also exposed that the promises of freedom and human rights promised by the new dispensation are just a mirage.



Hear them Cry

The report focuses on the January 2019 protests particularly relating to children's rights. The report gives a detailed analysis of the direct and structural violence against children during the January 2019 protests. On structural violence, the report addresses the defects in the legal framework and the structures that are supposed to protect children and expose the loopholes and notoriety of the system. On direct violence, the report looked at intentional infliction of physical or psychological harm on children at the hands of state agents and their ancillaries.

Fact sheet on the Ratification of the Convention against Torture

Fact sheet on the Ratification of the Convention against Torture and other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The fact sheet advocated for the ratification of the Convention against Torture and other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by the Zimbabwe government. The fact sheet also highlighted the importance of ratification of the Convention and its implications on the seemingly intractable human rights situation in Zimbabwe. The calls to ratify the Convention against Torture comes about due to the calls from Zimbabwe's peer countries like Rwanda, Ghana and Zambia who have called on Zimbabwe to sign and ratify the Convention.

Calls to Criminalise Torture Intensified

In commemorating the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June 2019, the Forum called for the government to criminalise torture and provide rehabilitation for its victims. The Forum and its members used the occasion of this day to call on the Government of Zimbabwe to take steps to criminalise torture in Zimbabwe. In a statement released to commemorate the day, the Forum and ZimRights expressed concern that torture in Zimbabwe continues to be a feature that is used by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA). This was evidenced by the cases of torture documented during 1 August 2018 post-election violence and the ZimShutDown Atrocities in January 2019. During the January shutdown, the Forum is litigating on 586 cases of torture and assaults. The 26 June commemorations were held on 29 June 2019 in Entumbane in Bulawayo.



Advocacy at Regional and International Platforms

The Forum compiled a shadow report on the human rights record for Zimbabwe in 2019 after consultations with civil society in Zimbabwe. The report was submitted to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) at the 65th Ordinary Session in Banjul, in October 2019. The Forum also presented a statement to the ACHPR on the review of Zimbabwe's human rights record. Through the tireless advocacy of the Forum, the Commissioners of the ACHPR interrogated the Zimbabwean State Report and tasked the Zimbabwean government to respond on critical human rights concerns such as the use of excessive force as on protesters, the human rights violations witnessed in January 2019 and the attacks on civil society leaders. The Forum attended the 40th and 41st sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in March and June 2019. The statement for the 41st session is available on: *https://www.facebook.com/ZimHRNGOForum/videos/435428427298693/*

The Forum in collaboration with Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights coordinated two meetings with the UN Special Rapporteur on Peaceful Assembly and Association and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in September and November 2019. Through interactions with these UN special mandate holders, the preliminary findings of both mandate holders reflected that there is need for the government to enable enjoyment of freedom of assembly and association as well as to address the issue of food insecurity. The preliminary report by the Special Rapporteur on Peaceful Assembly and Association is available on *https://zw.one.un.org/newsroom/news/end-mission-statement-united-nations-special-rapporteur-rights-freedom-peaceful*. The preliminary report by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food is available on *https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25348&LangID=E*



FEATURED INTERVENTION

NEW DISPENSATION COMES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum launched the special report *'The New Deception: What has changed'* which critiques the record of President Mnangagwa's government in human rights respect. The report reflects on the promises of the return to constitutionalism and rule of law made by President Emmerson Mnangagwa on 26 August 2018 when he was sworn in after the July 2018 elections. The Forum launched the report which captured the human rights situation in the *"new dispensation"* on 27 August 2019. Apart from launching the report, the Forum held an engaging discussion which was focused on the key highlights of the report such as the nature and distribution of violations witnessed since November 2017 to date. The thrust of the event was to stimulate conversation around the current human rights violations being witnessed in the country. The event also sought to respond to the question on everyone's mind: Is this the Zimbabwe we all want?

The launch of the report was attended by stakeholders from civil society and the diplomatic community. In his opening remarks, Calvin Fambirai from Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR), highlighted that a year had passed since President Mnangagwa promised *"a new Zimbabwe, a Zimbabwe we all want."* He added that citizens should reflect on the progress which the *"new dispensation"* has made in delivering its promises. Research and Advocacy Unit's Tony Reeler, who is the lead researcher on the paper explained that human rights violations had increased since November 2017. He added that the violations, particularly abductions are systematic in nature. He also emphasised on the deployment of the military in civilian affairs and the unconstitutionality of such deployments.

Tony further explained the potential challenges and chaos relating to a nation with a huge youth bulge vis-à-vis a failing economy. On launching the report, the Forum's Chairperson, Jestina Mukoko stressed the practical effects of the failed promises on the lives of ordinary Zimbabweans which includes abductions, assaults and intimidation by members of the security forces especially the military. In his closing remarks, Chesterfield Samba, from GALZ, reiterated the need for the government to uphold human rights as a precursor to the international re-engagement agenda. He added that for Zimbabwe to be open for business, respect for human dignity should be a prerequisite.

The Forum raised awareness on the current trends in the human rights situation in Zimbabwe in the new dispensation. The event provided a good platform for presenting facts about the new dispensation and its stance on human rights on the backdrop of the violent crackdown on protestors in January and August 2019. The report also provided a platform for an honest evidence-based conversation on the human rights situation in the country.

> *"The thrust of the event was to stimulate conversation around the current human rights violations being witnessed in the country."*



PUBLIC INTEREST UNIT

Public Interest Litigation

Our Goal

The Forum seeks to use the law both in assisting vulnerable people and to develop a jurisprudence that promotes human rights in Zimbabwe. Our litigation is broad, covering infringements of the rights of the citizens particularly anti-impunity litigation where civil claims against security services are effected for the payment of damages for victims of organised violence and torture.

What We Achieved

Legal Advice and Litigation

The Public Interest Unit (PIU) working with various member organisations in doing litigation convened several mobile human rights clinics in which citizens received one on one legal advice. For the year 2019, the Forum conducted 11 mobile human rights clinics in different areas in Mhondoro Ngezi, Gwanda, Hwedza, Chipinge, Mutoko, Chimanimani, Zvishavane, Binga,

650
Cased litigated

Bulawayo, Buhera and Lower Gweru and provided legal education to 1020 people in these vulnerable communities. The Forum secretariat litigated on 650 cases against the Commissioner-General of Police and the Ministries of Defence Security and War Veterans and Ministries of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage.

Highlights of the Cases

While all the cases are important to our work, the following have been selected to highlight our impact.

Case 1: Donimore Magoshe vs Gabrus Sanyamaropa HC 1863/09

The High Court granted an order for default judgment amounting to US$5 000.00 on 22 May 2019 in favour of our client Mr Donimore Magoshe in the case of ***Donimore Magoshe vs Gabrus Sanyamaropa HC 1863/09***. Mr Donimore Magoshe was stabbed with a knife by the Defendant who was known as a ZANU-PF militia leader, on the 8thof October 2008, at around 5pm in Nyamaropa Village in Nyanga. The Defendant approached him with a group of youth militia locally known as ZANLA forces. The Defendant then accused Mr Donimore Magoshe of being a supporter of an opposition party. Defendant proceeded to stab Mr Donimore Magoshe with a knife on the back. Mr Donimore Magoshe was rushed to Nyanga General Hospital and underwent chest drain operation to prevent lung collapse. Through the Public Interest Unit of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Mr Donnimore Magoshe was awarded US$5 000.00 by the Honourable Justice Mary Zimba-Dube on 22 May 2019.

Case 2: Clementine Chikovo vs. Minister of Home Affairs HC 4381/07

The High Court of Zimbabwe awarded the victim of Police brutality with US$1000.00 judgment for shock, pain and suffering against the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Commissioner General of Police and the retired ex-member of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP).

Clementine Chikovo, a 29 years old mother was assaulted by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) officers in 2007 at her place of residence in Budiriro, Harare. The police officers, who included the then retired Assistant Inspector

Simbanegavi, acting in concert with one another and within the course and scope of their employment with the Minister of Home Affairs and Commissioner General of police, assaulted her together with her mother when she was 17 years old. Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (Forum) fought to restore her dignity by instituting court action claiming damages of shock, pain and suffering in the High Court of Zimbabwe. Justice Phiri on 2 October 2019 awarded her with a judgment of US$1000.00 or the equivalent in local currency at the prevailing market rate at the time of payment.

The Impact of Our Work for Families

Litigation not only affects the litigants but also has a ripple effect on the families and the community at large. Victims are not a homogenous group of people but are complex and vary from person to person. Although they may be different, it cannot be ignored that families of litigants are consequently radically transformed. The judgments awarded in favour of litigants bring in a sense of hope and instils confidence in the justice system.

Our Impact on the Law

The laws have not made much traction, but we have managed to influence the jurisprudence in relation to human rights cases. Case law on human rights is now reflective of the fundamental considerations that are enunciated in the Zimbabwean Constitution, regional and international law owing to the litigation efforts.

Our Impact on Domestic Human Rights Policy

Section 31 of the Constitution provides that the State must take all practical measures to provide legal representation in civil and criminal cases for people who need it and are unable to afford legal practitioners of their choice.

In the wake of legal aid coordination and legal awareness, the Forum has been a critical stakeholder in influencing policy change for the justice, law and order sector. The Forum has actively participated in the stakeholder workshops to bring about the importance of upholding human rights and access to justice.

What is no longer the same

Owing to the legal avenues provided by the Forum, an increase has been seen in the victims of human rights violations coming forward to report their complaints. This has been a great stride forward in the fight against impunity by bringing perpetrators to book.

Legal Research

The Forum leads advocacy for the establishment of the Independent Complaints Mechanism as envisaged in Section 210 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe

In 2019, the Forum led in researching and developing the model law on an Independent Complaints Mechanism. On 16 July 2019, the Forum presented to stakeholders a model Independent Security Services Complaints Commission Bill, 2019 as a lobby and advocacy tool to bring to fruition the provisions of Section 210 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The section imposes an obligation on the government to put in place an independent and effective complaints mechanism for receiving and investigating complaints from members of the public about the misconduct by members of the security services and to remedy harm caused. Since the enactment of this Constitution, the government has delayed operationalizing section 210 of the Constitution.

The validation meeting was attended by various stakeholders including the Deputy Attorney General (Legal Drafting), senior members of the academia and civil society representatives. Participants appreciated the Forum draft bill much and made recommendations to improve in some areas.



Forum Lobbies for Oversight on the Security Sector

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum welcomed the advent of the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment No. 20) Act, 2013 with section 210 in particular. Section 210 of the Constitution imposes an obligation on the Legislature to put in place an independent and effective complaints mechanism for receiving, investigating complaints from members of the public about the misconduct on the security services and to remedy any harm caused. Since the enactment of this Constitution, the government is yet to operationalize section 210 of the Constitution.

In this light, the Forum drafted a model bill as a lobbying tool. The Forum conducted validation workshops in Harare, Bulawayo and Gweru to solicit the views of the stakeholders in refining this model law. These validation meetings were well attended by stakeholders including the Attorney General's office, security services and Academia.

Engagements with Parliamentarians through Portfolio Committees on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and Home Affairs, Defense and Security were conducted to acquaint them on the necessity of enactment of this law.

This bill was refined, and further advocacy initiatives are in the pipeline to lobby for the establishment of this mechanism.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Bulawayo added their voice to call the government to move with speed in coming up with an Independent Complains Mechanism law pursuant to Section 210 of the Constitution. Participants to the roundtable meeting listened to some horror stories on impunity by the police from Zenzele Ndebele, Director of the Centre for Innovation and Technology who was arrested at Bulawayo State House where he was attending a meeting between the President and CSOs.

Advocacy for the Transformation of the Prison System

On 6 June 2019, the Forum convened a policy dialogue on the Prison system project, a project where the Forum is working with CSOs and Prison authorities to transform the prison system of Zimbabwe from a punitive system to corrective and rehabilitation system. This policy dialogue meeting was attended by various stakeholders in Harare. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (MoJLP), members of the Parole Board, representatives from the Attorney General' office, civil society organisations working on rehabilitation of former inmates, as well as representatives from churches and faith-based organisations.

The dialogue emphasised the importance of having conversations on prisoners' rights, particularly the need to mainstream human dignity, correctional and rehabilitation aspects.

The dialogue noted that the task for the transformation of the correctional system is indeed everyone's duty. History has shown that everyone has a place in our prisons. A cabinet Minister today, a prisoner tomorrow. "It is our place to fix".

Participants noted that CSOs play a crucial role and need to collaborate more to avoid duplication of initiatives. The Chairperson of the Parole Board, Rex Shana, noted that principles for amending the Prisons Act *[Chapter 7:11]* are currently underway, and the Bill is presently being worked on. The Bill focuses on restorative and rehabilitative justice. It provides for the need to establish functional correctional centres. He encouraged delegates to engage the relevant authorities for the challenges that they may face in advocacy around prisons.

Delegates from the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (MoJLPA) noted that Community service is another means of ensuring rehabilitation as these offenders are allowed to be in the community and give back while they reform. To date, there are about 300 000 court orders that have been issued. Community service probationers are part of the community. The MoJLPA reported that the Parole Board is being resuscitated and encouraged CSO to formulate interventions to engage this Board.

Delegates who attended this policy dialogue recommended the following action points to be implemented by the Forum:

- To develop a position paper on the Prisons Bill and make contributions during the public consultations and also lobby with the Clerk of Parliament of Zimbabwe for policy reform that complies with international standards.
- To collaborate with the Parole Board of Zimbabwe and develop an action plan on initiatives aimed at the rehabilitation of prisoners.
- To conduct training and workshops for prison officers on prisoners' rights in line with the Constitution of Zimbabwe, international human rights and international best practises.



300 000

Court orders issued

Since the production and publication of the Rights Behind Bars Report in 2018, the organisation was recognised as a critical stakeholder in the transformation of prisons in Zimbabwe. It is on this background, that the Forum was invited by the MoJLPA to a workshop in Mutare in December 2019 to contribute on the development of the Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, set to amend the Prisons Act [Chapter7:11]. The Forum made contributions to this bill. Notwithstanding the sterling contribution to make additional provisions to address the issue of poor prison conditions which amounts to inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners, this bill concentrates more on the administration of the prisons. The Forum is currently developing the shadow bill for further engagement with the MoJLA and Parliament of Zimbabwe to ensure that this bill promotes the dignity of prisoners.

Publications

The Public Interest Unit also published reports and factsheets to advocate for human rights improvement in Zimbabwe.

i. Anti-Impunity Report

On 13 June 2019, the Forum launched the 2018 Anti-Impunity Report in Harare at a function attended by colleagues from civil society, the diplomatic community, the media, the law sector, Parliament and survivors of police brutality. The report is based on an analysis of over 30 000 cases of organised violence and torture documented by the Forum since 1998. It exposes the legal loopholes in Zimbabwe's human rights framework and the accountability deficit of the current administration is refusing to honour judgement awarded by the courts in favour of the victims. Then the report asks the ultimate question, 'Will the dream of justice be ever realised for the victims?'

The Report is Available here

ii. The handbook on rights and remedies

Amidst increasing human rights violations in Zimbabwe, the Forum compiled the handbook to help victims and survivors of organised violence and torture to seek justice. The handbook spells out human rights as indicated under Chapter 4 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (Number 20) Act, 2013. The handbook goes on to elucidate the remedies that citizens can initiate to seek justice. The report was distributed nationally through mobile human rights clinics.





iii. About the Forum Pamphlet

The pamphlet showcases the history of the Forum and the profiles of members of the Forum. The pamphlet also includes contact details of the Forum and Forum Members to aid citizens to contact them. The pamphlet was also distributed at mobile legal clinics to publicise the work of the Forum and its membership.

iv. Fact Sheet on The Bill of Rights

The Forum also produced a factsheet on the bill of rights as articulated under Chapter 4 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (Number 20) Act, 2013. The factsheets also stipulated the Constitution-making process and the principle of Constitutionalism.



FEATURED INTERVENTION

THE CASE AGAINST IMPUNITY

Zimbabwe suffers a deep culture of systematic violations of human rights, encouraged by impunity, disregard for the rule of law and an ineffective legal framework for greater human rights accountability. Violence has manifested at every political event since Zimbabwe's inception. Perpetrators remain in positions of power and victims remain marginalized and blamed. Impunity creates the conditions for new violence because there are no sanctions for human rights violators.

In 2019, the Forum convened a Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) anti-impunity round table meeting. This meeting was on the backdrop of the launch of its Anti- Impunity Report on 18 June 2019 and a shadow bill it developed in terms of Section 210 of the Constitution which the Forum presented at a stakeholders' validation meeting in Harare on the 16 July 2019. This bill was further discussed with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence, Security and Home Affairs at a breakfast meeting hosted by the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.

Objectives of the anti-impunity round table meeting was as follows:

- To present the findings of the anti- impunity report;
- To create a platform for victims of torture to express their experiences;
- To acknowledge and recognize the challenges of human rights lawyers in fighting impunity;
- To strengthen the collaborative relationship between victims and partners in the fight against impunity;
- To amplify the call for the government of Zimbabwe to uphold the rule of law to end impunity.

Victim Testimonies

Zenzele Ndebele gave a recall of the experiences of the past violations he has faced in the past and countering the challenges he faces. He indicated that in March 2019 he was arrested and charged with criminal nuisance after being found in possession of empty tear gas canisters. He recalled that in the many other instances he had been arrested, he was not made aware of the charge put to him by the police for long periods of time until a lawyer is present or the time for him to appear in court is approaching, as such being required to sign a warned and cautioned statement. Upon arrest, his cell phone was taken by the police and as such he had no access to contact his family and his lawyers leaving him to go for hours without food or water. He also indicated that due to him being a prominent figure, his arrests have attracted attention and many people would come to visit him at the police station some he did not know.

Due to suspicion and fear, he did not accept any clothes or food from them unless it was brought by his family. Ndebele also indicated that after the arrest and court processes, the intimidation continues. It also becomes traumatic for the family as he is constantly followed and often fears for the security of his family when he is away. He implored the actors present that they need to do more in order to eliminate political influence over judicial processes. He stated that although laws are in place, advocacy work has to be done in order to strengthen institutions that have an oversight mechanism in order that they execute their mandate without fear and effectively.

Parliamentarians' Perspectives

Member of Parliament, Honourable K Phulu indicated that legal actions are necessary for creating jurisprudence on dealing with human rights violations in Zimbabwe. He commended the efforts of players such as the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights who have come up with strategic interventions of pre-trial intervention which prevent people from going missing and offer free legal representation which would otherwise be exorbitant. He indicated that more should be done to avert torture by advocating for the enactment of laws that protect the general citizenry. He highlighted that the model bill in terms of Section 210 of the Constitution is a powerful tool that should be used for lobby purposes. He further recommended that the Parliamentary Portfolio on Justice and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs be apprised of the model bill as this portfolio fits within its mandate with the realignment of laws with the Constitution.

Recommendations

During the plenary session, the following points were the recommendations for mapping the way forward:

- CSOs need to ensure that they work together in order to ensure that there is adequate support for victims of violence.
- There has to be more practical action to combat the issues of impunity.
- Accessing human rights defenders who have been arrested is difficult, it is more imperative that there be a systematic synergy amongst civil society actors to best assist victims.
- The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum must approach the political caucuses with its model law in terms of Section 210 of the Constitution as an advocacy initiative to raise awareness of the importance of such a law.
- Ordinary citizens need to be capacitated on what actions they can take within the communities in the fight against impunity. Citizens are tired of lip service and want to see real actions that produce tangible results.
- There is a real perception within the citizenry that human rights defenders gain some benefits from the violations that are perpetrated against them. This is a narrative that needs to be fixed in order that the citizenry realises that people suffer irreparable harm and support is crucial for human rights defenders.

The Forum took these recommendations seriously and is currently implementing these including advocacy around the establishment of the Independent Complaints Mechanism envisaged by section 210 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act, 2013.



NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

Our Goal

The Forum serves as the Secretariat of the National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG). The NTJWG seeks to influence official transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe and create an inclusive space for the coordination of transitional justice stakeholders, share experiences, and build synergies for comprehensive, accountable, victim-centred and participatory transitional justice processes in the country.

What We Achieved

- Expanding the Archival project
- Implementing Recommendations of the National Transitional Justice Symposium on strengthening the Secretariat
- Expanding Thematic Committees
- Hosting community dialogues
- Reviewing the NPRC Monitoring Framework
- Continuing with the NPRC Watch



FEATURED INTERVENTION

2019 TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY REPORT

On 29 August 2019, NTJWG convened the 2019 Stakeholders Conference in Harare. The following is a summary of the outcomes.



Presentation of Findings from the NTJWG Evaluation Report

The conference noted the need for an effective communication strategy that includes the translation of materials into local languages as well as braille and sign language. Further, the secretariat should consider alternatives to web-based communication systems for stakeholders and geographic areas that face internet coverage and cost challenges.

The conference highlighted the critical role of the NTJWG in equipping stakeholders to carry out TJ work. It recommended the review the current functions, set up and operationalisation of thematic committees so that they are more effective for TJ work. It was proposed that the committees be further devolved to the district level. The NTJWG agreed to remain flexible to deal with TJ issues as they arise at the national/provincial or sector level.

Adoption for the Draft NTJWG Strategy 2019 - 2023

The draft strategy was adopted by stakeholders pending the incorporation of suggested changes. The vision of NTJWG should be anchored in human rights. When working against the grain, NTJWG should be mindful of political, social, economic hindrances and be realistic about what can be achieved and what should be prioritised. Plenary noted that the strategy should emphasize harnessing indigenous mechanisms on transitional justice and learning from local communities of practice.

Emphasis should also be placed on strengthening internal coordination capacities. The TJ pillars should include mediation as part of dialogue and reparations. Delegates noted that the strategy should consider methodologies of translating TJ to young people and parliamentary briefings should be conducted on a bi-annual or quarterly basis. Additional briefings should be conducted for the media fraternity.

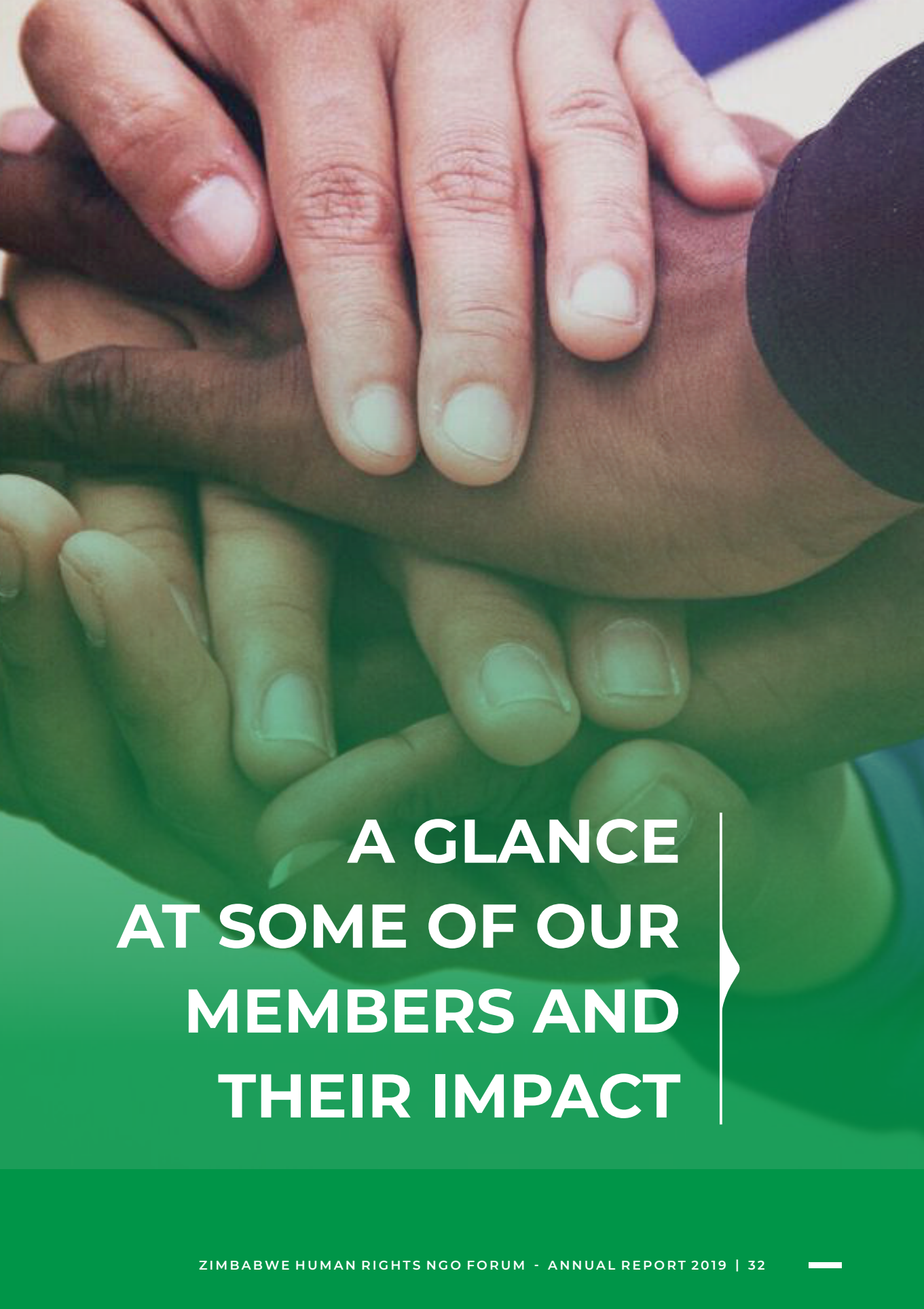
Presentation on the Elective Process

Plenary accepted the proposal to develop rules of procedures on office tenure and notification of an election later this year or early next year. Thus, all nominations are temporary until the election.

There was consensus that the elections for the current vacancies and newly created positions (thematic leader on rehabilitation and reparations, survivor welfare, gender and knowledge management) will take place through a devolved process at the thematic committee level as set out in the election process note.

The deadline for submission of nominations was 13 September 2019. The NTJWG Secretariat forwarded a list of organisations that are eligible across the thematic areas on 30 August 2019. The secretariat will support the election processes as necessary.

> *When working against the grain, NTJWG should be mindful of political, social, economic hindrances and be realistic about what can be achieved and what should be prioritised.*



A GLANCE AT SOME OF OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR IMPACT

Amnesty International – Zimbabwe (AI-Z)

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About Amnesty International, Zimbabwe

Amnesty International Zimbabwe is part of the global movement of more than seven million members people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all people who campaign for internationally recognised human rights. Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights that are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. We are independent of any government; political ideology economic interest or religion and we are funded mainly by our membership and public donations. Donations to the organisation can be accepted only to an extent that does not threaten Amnesty's ethical independence from political and economic interests as well as transparency.

Amnesty International Zimbabwe focuses on human rights abuses that drive people deeper into poverty, for instance, forced evictions, sexual reproductive and health rights, gender-based violence among others. These and other human rights violations form the basis of our campaigns. The campaigns are framed within the global strategic goals that are agreed on in every four years.

Civic Education Network Trust



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Background

The Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET) was formed from the Church/NGO voter education campaign that was established in March 1994 as a civil society initiative to address the problem of voter apathy. After the 1996 election, the ensuing evaluation recommended the institution of a long-term civic education project to educate Zimbabweans on their rights and obligations as citizens with specific reference to issues of citizen participation, development and democracy. This was in response to continued decreasing participation by citizens in economic, political and community development issues.

CIVNET's vision is *'An empowered and responsible citizenry'*. Its mission is *'To empower citizens and promote peace through participatory civic education and leadership development'*.

Methodologies

CIVNET's strength is in its participatory methodologies which are heavily influenced by Paulo Freire. The training of facilitators and education of communities are based on participatory methods. It has a lot of experience building capacity of organisations and individuals to facilitate development projects.

Feedback

An officer from the UNDP who attended one training workshop concluded, *"This is amazing. Complex and difficult issues are distilled in very simple and fun-filled ways. The methodologies should be documented and shared. CIVNET should be a resource for CSOs."*

Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ)

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About the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ)

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ) was formed in 1972 to address issues of justice and peace, particularly in relation to the Zimbabwe liberation war. After independence in 1980, CCJPZ moved closer to the people. Using the Catholic Church as an entry point, it established Diocesan Commissions that have created community-based structures useful for monitoring justice and peace situation in the country as well as disseminating justice and peace messages. Underlying the work of CCJPZ are Social Teachings of the Church (STCs) which informs its civic education on pertinent issues such as voting, electoral processes, human rights, environmental justice, peacebuilding and conflict management. The STCs sheds light of the gospel on issues that affects our lives in society and offers the Church's wisdom, insight and experiences in dealing with them.

Vision

A God-fearing, democratic, just and peaceful nation

Mission

CCJPZ exists to promote justice and peace guided by gospel values

Values

CCJP is guided by the following Gospel Values:

- Truth
- Justice
- Freedom
- Love

Programmatic Areas

1. Providing civic education
2. Conducting research, advocacy and lobbying for justice and peace
3. Organizational development
4. Social Teachings of the Church

a) Start fund: civil unrest response

The START FUND project was in response to the civil and political unrest that occurred in the country during the period 14 to 16th of January 2019. This was a 45-day project working in collaboration with Caritas Zimbabwe on the emergency response. The civil unrest left hundreds of people in Harare, Bulawayo and other areas arrested, tortured and raped following the deployment of police and army officers. The project managed to provide food and non-food items to the beneficiaries who were in remand prisons especially in Bulawayo and Harare. Caritas Zimbabwe was responsible for distributing food and non-food items, hygienic kits while CCJPZ offered psychosocial support to the victims of the civil and political unrest. A total number of 66 CCJPZ animators form the archdioceses of Bulawayo and Harare received training on how to offer victims psychosocial awareness and coping skills by Tree of Life. These training capacitated CCJPZ animators on how to conduct and deliver psychosocial support to the victims of civil and political unrest.

b) TRACE Phase Two project: Enhancing the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Zimbabwe

CCJPZ is a consortia member of a TRACE-TROCAIRE supported program that seeks to empower communities to demand their rights and holding duty bearers accountable. Other consortium members are CCJP-Masvingo; CCJP-Mutare and Masakhaneni Trust. The project is in response to the 1 August 2018, 14 January 2019 and 16 August 2019 incidents where some citizens lost lives and limps during demonstrations, and whilst not condoning violence, the Church is morally mandated to ensure citizens' exercise their fundamental rights responsibly. The project is conducting the following activities:

i. Church-Security Sector Dialogue Meetings

CCJPZ working together with other Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denomination (ZHOCD) successfully held a *Church-Security Sector Dialogue Meeting* in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo and Diocese of

Masvingo as a way of accompanying the security sector to peacefully meet and engage with the citizenry guided by the Gospel values on how they can peacefully co-exist. The church-security sector dialogue meeting which was held at Brethren in Christ Church on the 30th September 2019 was attended by *144 participants comprising 75 females, 69 males* and Masvingo Diocese at St Peters and Paul Cathedral on the 14th of November 2019 were 215 comprising *108* females and *107* males.

ii. Constitutionalism and Realignment of Laws

CCJPZ/CPLO in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs embarked on Constitution dissemination drive to raise awareness of the constitution. Community stakeholders and the participants received a copy of the constitution in their Local Languages (Ndebele and Shona). The meetings were aimed at disseminating the constitution with an emphasises on the (human) bill of rights and the process involved in the realignment of laws to enhance democracy as a way of promoting peace and development in the country. A meeting was convened at Brethren in Church Christ on the 22nd of November 2019 to reflect on constitutional provisions in relation human rights and freedoms and engage participants in a deeper reflection to identify existing laws that need to be aligned with the constitution. The meeting was a success and various stakeholders attended including representatives from different CSOs, church organisations, ZRP, Office of President and Cabinet actively participated throughout the processes. A total number of 145 participants from both rural and urban areas were present: *55 males* and *90 females.*

c) Constitution translation and multilingual project

The Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (MoJLPA) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference (ZCBC) supported by European Union (EU) implemented the Constitutional Translation and Multilingual Awareness Project. The project was implemented in 2 PHASES:

i. Development and Adoption of a strategy for dissemination and awareness education.

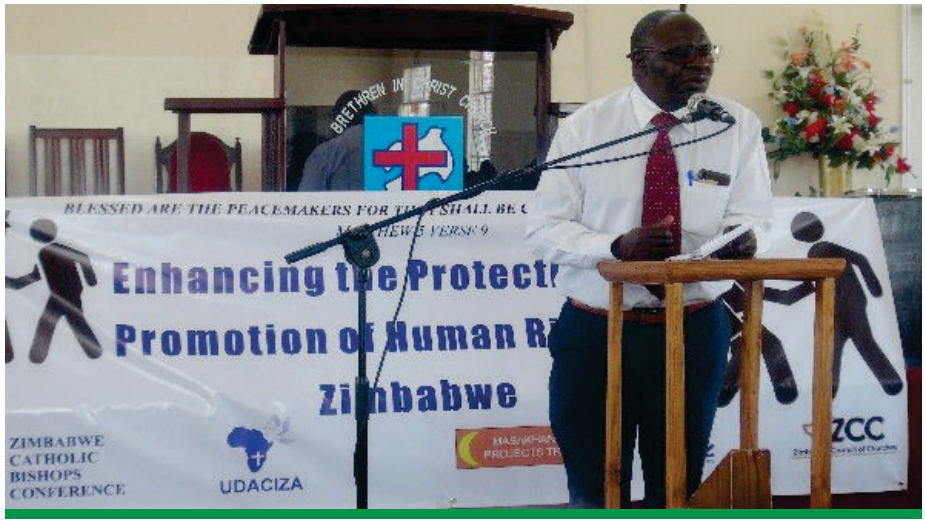
ii. Bulk printing of the Constitution; distribution, continuous constitutional awareness and educational programmes in the diocese of Masvingo, Diocese of Mutare, Diocese of Hwange, Diocese of Gokwe and the Archdiocese of Bulawayo.

The meetings focused on group constitutional discussions and outreach meetings were successfully done in fourteen (14) officially recognized languages namely; Ndebele, Chewa, Venda, Tonga, Shona, Nambya, Kalanga, Shangani, Khoisan, Sotho, Tswana, Chibarwe, Xhosa and Ndau.

d) CCJPZ Institutional support programme

CCJPZ embarked on National Peace and Reconciliation Initiative (NPRI) program aimed at raising community awareness on the mandate of NPRC Commission, exploring strategies for citizens and local duty bearers to participate in the national peace and reconciliation processes and strengthening human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms for evidence-based advocacy at National level. The project has four themes as follows;

- Theme 1: Advocacy and liaison for a victim-centred national peace and reconciliation (NPRC) process.
- Theme 2: Primary Justice, Inclusive Participation and Cohesion.
- Theme 3: Resource Governance, Economic Justice and Stewardship of Creation.
- Theme 4: Policy Engagement and Development.



ZDF National Chaplain Joseph Nyakudya presenting during the church and security sector dialogue meeting in Bulawayo



Constitution Dissemination Outreaches workshop participants in Archdiocese of Bulawayo



Constitution Strategic Development Workshop

Media Reports/ Testimonials

- CCJPZ National Coordinator, Mr Paul Muchena, was interviewed by Newsday and a story titled, *'Church urges citizens, security sector to co-exist'* was published on https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/10/church-urges-citizens-security-sector-to-co-exist/. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1284245408450644&id=100005955916981. https://twitter.com/catholiccommissionforjusticeandpeacezimbabwe
- The Provincial Security Sector Dialogue meeting in Masvingo was published in the Catholic Church News online https://catholicchurchnewszimbabwe.com/author/catholicchurchnewsonlinezim/ and Print Newsletter on 17 December 2019, titled, **"Church and Security Sector engagement a path to peace and true freedom"**

GALZ: An association of LGBTI People in Zimbabwe



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About the Organisation

GALZ is a universitas, that is, voluntary membership-based organisation established in 1990 to serve the needs of the lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgender and intersex [LGBTI] community in Zimbabwe. GALZ's vision is a just society that promotes and protects the human rights of LGBTI people as equal citizens in Zimbabwe. The organisation strives for the attainment of full and equal human, social and economic rights for its constituency. GALZ therefore protects, promotes and serve the above community through research, lobbying, advocacy, and training. The organisation offers psychosocial support and clinical referrals for SRHR services through some of its key stakeholders who provide the services, para-legal and other human rights needs for LGBTI persons and all those who support such cause. The organization offers empowerment activities to its membership through a number of forums such as workshops, focus group discussions. GALZ offers technical support to stakeholders who work closely with the LGBTI members, particularly sensitization and training of health care workers, journalists, traditional leaders and parliamentarians on matters relating to SOGIE. GALZ also offers safe space for its constituency, where members can meet and socialize. Through one of its partners, GALZ offers human rights training and legal assistance to its members. The organisation also offers information through fliers, website upload, pamphlets and its library services and a broad social media connection through Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups. In its endeavour to encourage safe sex, GALZ offers protective barriers and affiliated commodities such as lubricants and dental dams, though the latter are difficult to obtain at the moment. GALZ has, over the last five years, been offering technical support and space to upcoming organisations in the LGBTI sector by hosting them physically and fiscally and offering them capacity strengthening support on areas that include resource mobilization, community engagement and advocacy.

Justice for Children

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About the Organisation

Justice for Children (JCT) is a non-governmental organisation which was established in December 2002 as a Trust under Trust Deed Number **MA1300/02**. The organisation is registered with the Law Society of Zimbabwe to provide legal aid to orphans and vulnerable children below the age of 18 years. Its lawyers are registered both with the High Court of Zimbabwe and the Law Society of Zimbabwe. The organisation is also registered with the Department of Social Services as a Private Voluntary Organisation under **PVO07/12**. The organisation has a vision of A Zimbabwe in which all children have access to justice and enjoy their human rights, and a mission to ensure access to justice and the enjoyment of human rights by all children below the aged of 18 years through the provision of legal aid to children in difficult circumstances; empowering the children and adults on child protection laws and child rights and responsibilities; and research on issues affecting children and advocating reform.

The organisation was formed in view of the rising levels of poverty which were accompanied by escalating legal fees making it impossible for many to access justice. The HIV and AIDS pandemic also weighed in with the problems of orphan hood, child-headed households and denial of children's rights in cases like inheritance. Child abuse in all forms was on the increase and the children needed support as they go through the justice system. There was also a general lack of knowledge on the laws and policies that protect children hence their rights would be violated without having recourse to the justice system. These factors are still prevailing in Zimbabwe.



Media Monitors (MM)



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About the Organisation

Media Monitors is an independent Trust registered under the laws of Zimbabwe under Trust deed number 282/2000. The organisation has an 18-year track record of monitoring the media, existing between 28 March 2000 and 2016 as the Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe (MMPZ) and re-branded to Media Monitors in 2017.

Media Monitors vision is to have: *"Informed citizens effectively engaging in the development and democratic processes in Zimbabwe"*

Its mission is *"To conduct media monitoring that promotes evidence-based interventions for societal development."*

To validate its mandate the organisation monitors the Zimbabwean media space for the purpose of promoting responsible journalism and upholding fundamental liberties that include freedom of expression, freedom of the media, access to information, promoting awareness and citizen participation as well as accountability and transparency through information dissemination.

Media Monitors has been pivotal in documenting the local media's coverage of governance and democratic processes that include elections, service delivery and poverty alleviation. In addition, the organisation works closely with its stakeholders in the civic, private and public sectors to provide useful communication data that aids planning, execution of activities and evaluation of results to achieve their specific organisational goals.

Legal Resources Foundation



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About the Organisation

LRF is a charitable trust, established in 1984 and registered under the Private Voluntary Organisation's Act. LRF's vision is to see a Zimbabwe where human rights are upheld, and all people have access to justice. LRF promotes access to justice and human rights in Zimbabwe through legal assistance, legal education and advocacy and strengthening the justice delivery system. In terms of legal education, the LRF reaches out to communities, particularly those in remote regions, educating communities and mobilising them to discuss legal issues affecting their community and identify solutions available to them. The LRF, through its offices and help desks at magistrates' courts, provides legal assistance to the marginalised, to enable them to navigate the justice delivery system. The LRF also takes legal services to directly to the people through mobile legal aid clinics moving around the rural areas.

The LRF gathers evidence from its interventions and uses the information and data to engage with appropriate players in the justice delivery sector to advocate for law and policy reform. While the LRF prioritizes dialogue, it also uses public interest litigation and publicity campaigns to promote a human rights culture and the importance of observing the rule of law. The LRF works with authorities and institutions to strengthen the justice system, identifying barriers to accessing justice and addressing these through building the capacities of officials responsible for the administration and delivery of justice.

Our programmes have improved the delivery of justice in rural and marginalized areas, both through building the capacity of traditional leaders across the country on professional court processes and also

empowering individuals by making them aware of how the customary law courts function and their rights when they appear before the court.

Highlights

Increased reach and sustainability of legal education interventions

LRF worked with community volunteers to increase the reach and sustainability of legal education interventions. A total of 300 workshops were conducted during the reporting period, reaching 9,086 community leaders who were trained as community volunteers. LRF identified community champions who are passionate about bringing positive change in their communities and trained them for purposes of disseminating legal information in their communities. LRF targeted people who hold influential positions in the community such as, village health workers, Ward development committee members, Village Development Committee members, village heads, pastors, teachers and CBO representatives. These were equipped with legal knowledge on various topics including the Declaration of Rights, Domestic Violence, Inheritance and Property rights.

Protecting the marginalised through legal service provision

The LRF through its paralegals and lawyers provided legal assistance to the indigent who cannot afford the services of lawyers. The organisation afforded protection to marginalized and vulnerable groups through these services which were offered at LRF offices, courts across the country and mobile legal clinics. The LRF also conducted prison visits to assist vulnerable inmates. LRF further conducted public interest litigation as a way of ensuring accountability on the part of duty bearers. 16213 people were assisted through our legal services.

Publications in Braille

The LRF is constantly looking for ways to update and upgrade its IEC materials. In addition to the traditional pamphlets that LRF produces in over five languages, the organisation managed to produce pamphlets in braille and audiobooks for people who are blind. This was a welcome development for people who are visually impaired particularly at Capota School for the Blind where some of the materials were handed over.

Influencing policy and law reform

Administration of Estates

The LRF commissioned research on the administration of estates, to establish the extent to which beneficiaries are being affected by the current legal and policy framework, especially the fees required for winding up estates and the procedures to be followed. A report was produced, and a validation workshop subsequently conducted to verify the findings, attended by peer CSOs, two judges and the Master's Office. The LRF will take up the issues with the relevant stakeholders.

Sentencing patterns of sexual offence matters

The LRF conducted research to explore sentencing patterns of sexual offences matters following observations on the wide variation in sentences passed for rape and aggravated indecent assault in the courts.

The findings of the research were shared at a workshop hosted by the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on the Amendment of the Criminal Law (Codification & Reform) Act. LRF will engage the relevant stakeholders in the justice sector for possible ways to address recommendations from the research report.

Justice delivery sector survey Zimbabwe

The LRF was commissioned by the Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ) to conduct a survey on the justice delivery sector, to establish the gaps with the justice delivery system. Two major gaps were noted in the report, relating to the accessibility of the justice delivery system. The current legal assistance programmes were inadequate to meet the demands, with court officials estimating that an average of 65% of urban litigants and 85% rural litigants approach the Courts without legal representation. It was also noted that there were factors which compromise the integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of the justice delivery system, such as corruption, lack of knowledge, inadequate resources and unfriendly and unwelcoming staff at the Courts and the police.

Recommendations were made for the development of a coordinated approach to offering legal services: ensuring that the target groups with the greater need are prioritised; prioritisation of allocation of resources; and training of stakeholders on ethics and integrity.



Media Reports/ Testimonials

Testimonials from Beneficiaries

"As the ZPCS we are in the process of rebranding. Hence the training by LRF are crucial in our rebranding process to capacitate us on human rights issues. We therefore kindly request that a manual is done to be used in training new recruits." Mr. Tamai, Senior Officer Ntabazinduna Training Institute

"On behalf of ZPCS Manicaland province, I would like to thank you for your assistance and sponsorship towards the human rights workshop recently held at Mutare Farm Prison Junior School from 16th to 18th August 2018. This workshop was indeed an eye-opener in several respects on human rights issues which include prisoners' *rights, domestic violence and inheritance as both prison officers and their spouses benefitted a lot from the workshop. We believe that your immense contribution shall be of great value in shaping our organisation as we implement our strategies of ensuring correctional excellence as individuals, families and the organisation. We look forward to a good and prosperous working relationship in future on a number of areas of collaboration. Your support is indeed greatly appreciated."* Officer Commanding Manicaland.

"Zimbabwe Republic Police Professional Updating Centre Manicaland wishes to express its profound gratitude to your organisation Legal Resources Foundation for funding our Victim Friendly Unit workshop..."

A client wrote the following testimony:
"I thank the LRF for the assistance in handling my case against my village head and his son. I am now at peace and I am farming my land peacefully without any challenges. Through you, God has helped me a lot."

Media Institute for Southern Africa



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Website: https://zimbabwe.misa.org

About MISA Zimbabwe

MISA Zimbabwe is one of 11 chapters of the Media Institute of Southern Africa, which promotes and defends media freedom and freedom of expression across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region. We are an independent membership-based organisation comprising our Board of Trustees, National Governing Council (NGC), Advocacy Committees and Secretariat. The five-member National Governing Council (NGC), which is elected by our members every three years, gives policy direction to the Secretariat.

We have approximately 200 members, made up of journalists and other media professionals including media houses, online content creators, freedom of expression activists, bloggers and media students.

MISA Zimbabwe was registered as a Trust on 27 August 1995 and established a fully-fledged Secretariat in August 1997. Since then, MISA Zimbabwe has evolved as the brand leader and reputable source of information and strong voice in speaking against media and freedom of expression violations, promoting access to information, free expression online and offline as well as raising awareness on internet governance and digital rights issues.

Our vision

A Zimbabwe in which every person enjoys their rights to freedom of expression, access to information and privacy of communication as well as access to all forms of media that is independent of undue political, economic and commercial interests.

Our Mission

Lobby and advocate for an environment that fosters the enjoyment of freedom of expression, access to information and privacy of communication by every person and an independent, ethical and sustainable diverse media.

Our values

The mission and vision of MISA Zimbabwe are based on the following values:

- Free speech
- Equality
- Diversity
- Participation
- Accountability
- Responsibility
- Balance and fairness

Highlights

Publications

In 2019 MISA Zimbabwe produced the following publications:

Beyond a Click: Regional Assessment of the state of Digital Rights in Southern Africa

- An assessment of the state of digital rights in Southern Africa. *Commentary on the Freedom of Information Bill.*
- These submissions by MISA Zimbabwe, which is a media freedom, freedom of expression and access to information lobby and advocacy organisation, are made pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe that requires consultation of citizens in respect of law-making by the Parliament of Zimbabwe.
  Commentary on the Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill, 2019
- This is an analysis of the Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill which contributes to the debate on the reform of laws relating to freedom of expression and access to information

Documentation of Violations Against Journalists

In 2019, MISA provided support to media practitioners under siege. A number of journalists were attached during the January 2019 fuel riots. Serious cases included the kidnapping of Samantha Kureya, the arrest of Leopold Munhende, the bombing of 263 Chat, and the assault of Ruvimbo Muchenje.

Research and Advocacy Unit

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About the Organisation

The Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU) is a leading think tank with over a decade of experience in conducting research across a wide range of policy issues including human rights and governance, with particular focus on women and youth. Its strategic direction focuses on three interlinked programmes: active citizenship, community security and influencing policy and is buttressed on the theory of change that *'where good policy research on issues that matter to the people is availed, they are able to exercise their agency'*. RAU conducts research in areas such as human rights, democracy and governance particularly issues pertaining to women, children and state institutions.

Highlights

Kushanda Pamwe/ Working Together

RAU and its partners managed to advocate for the improvement of inmates' conditions particularly women, inmates with disabilities, juveniles and children accompanying their mothers in prison. After going through advocacy activities geared towards promoting the rights of people in contact and conflict with the legal system in Zimbabwe the government is talking about open prisons for female inmates. More so we now talk of inmates rather than prisons and rehabilitation in place of imprisonment.

PACT Highlights 2019

Young women have taken initiatives to engage local authorities on issues that affect people on daily basis such as access to clean water, proper sanitation, recreational and health facilities as well as equal participation of young women in decision-making processes. Of late

Bulawayo young women engaged Minister of State for Provincial Affairs Bulawayo Honourable Judith Ncube intending to get the Minister's support on their local devolution initiatives.

KAF Dialogue Series

The post-coup dialogues in which citizens were evaluating the economy, freedom, social and political life during the post-coup era.

RAU Engagement with the Ministry of Youth

RAU engaged with The Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, Zimbabwe Youth Council and other government departments to review the youth policy which addresses the needs of the youth as well as empower them to become resilient citizens given the multi-layered challenges faced by Zimbabwe. RAU is also set to launch a youth training manual entitled Youth Resilience and Peace Building Manual.

Media Reports/Testimonials

RAU launched advocacy initiatives and raised awareness on the devolution policy through various programs which involved, workshops on prospects for devolution, training on section 264 of the constitution. Under Section 264 and Active Citizenship: Creating Demand for Devolution by Young Women, 60 women went through devolution training with specific attention on Chap 14, Section 264, 4 districts of Harare, Bulawayo, Bindura and Gwanda. These women have become devolution champions as evidenced by an increased agency which saw them demanding local leaders and ordinary citizens, to push for full implementation of the devolution policy as provided for in the constitution. Some of the workshops grabbed the attention of the media as evidenced by the stories provided below.

KAF Dialogue Series

https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/06/destructive-policies-leadership-exclusion-chasing-away-youth/

https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/07/mutare-lagging-behind-residents/

Kushanda Pamwe Project

https://zimmorningpost.com/load-shedding-ticking-timebomb-at-mutare-remand-prison/

https://zimmorningpost.com/prison-hunger-boiled-vegetables-a-daily-bread-for-inmates/

PACT: Creating Demand for Devolution by Young Women, 60 women went through devolution training

Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) can testify through devolution workshops live-streamed on their Facebook page.

KAF Dialogue Series

https://www.facebook.com/CITEZW/videos/2651153528242676/

Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender

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About the Organisation

Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO) is an organization which works to prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in order to have peace in society while advocating for rule of law, accountability and good governance in the justice system of Zimbabwe. ZACRO is a membership not for profit-making organization founded in 1923 as a Prisoners' Aid Society. In 1968 ZACRO was officially registered as a Welfare Organization (65/68) and is administered by a full-time Secretariat headed by the C.E.O who reports to an elected National Executive Committee headed by a President. ZACRO operates through a network of country-wide volunteers addressing the needs of vulnerable groups that are in conflict and in contact with the Justice system. The organization envisages an empowered crime-free society where everyone is secure and enjoys his or her rights.

The organization is credited for advocating for the Rehabilitation Department within ZPCS, Commemoration of the Prison/ Nelson Mandela Day, Opening of prisons to the public and other CSOs among others. ZACRO has over 90 years of hands-on experience in policy influence, advocacy, research and humanitarian work around prisons which has confirmed its resilience to stand with the primary actors in times of gross human rights violations, even before the new Constitution was in place.

Highlights

Prison Monitoring Visits

In 2019 ZACRO managed to conduct some prison visits with the objective of doing a needs assessment to prisons visited as well as

monitoring compliance of Prison Administrators to the Standard Minimum Rules of treating Prisoners in the areas of food, health, bedding, clothing, water, sanitation and hygiene and other areas affecting inmates. The findings of the prison visits were also used by ZACRO to try to influence policy by Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary affairs.

The following were the highlights of the prison visits:

- In terms of water, sanitation and hygiene in prisons visited it was observed that the majority of prisons fall short in terms of providing safe and clean water and a lot needs to be done to improve sanitation facilities for both officers and inmates and promoting good hygiene.
- Where there are dams, they have been affected by siltation and need to be rehabilitated in order to function normally. ZACRO observed that most prisons have no running water in kitchens and have to fetch outside in boreholes.
- Most prisons visited were overcrowded with an unlock figure of almost double their holding capacity.
- Prison Administrators bemoaned an influx of prisoners which was a major challenge to the prison authorities as they did not have enough blankets for the inmates to keep them warm. As a result of inadequate blankets, the inmates were said to be affected by infections like flu, coughs, cold due to the cold weather. An influx of inmates to prisons was attributed to the harsh economic environment in Zimbabwe.
- In terms of health the prison hospitals had a challenge of drugs where simple drugs like pain killers as well as antibiotics, bandages, wound dressings, disinfectants were said to be in short supply and also drugs for chronic illnesses like BP, Sugar Diabetes. Only drugs for TB and HIV positive inmates were readily available. Drugs for mentally detained patients had also become a problem ever since MSF which was working with detained mental patients had left. Some Detained Mental Patients had stabilized but due to lack of drugs, they were reported to have relapsed.

Health Programmes

Conducted peer education and psychosocial support in selected prisons

Ex-inmates Empowerment and Networking

Strengthened ex-inmates Association

To deepen our commitment to the most vulnerable members of our society the ex-offenders, our work as ZACRO for 2019 centred on successful reintegration of ex-inmates. Working with this group has been a key deliverable for ZACRO where we have realized that projects done by ex-inmates are more viable than projects in prisons. However, it is still important for us to involve prisons when working with ex-inmates to ensure continuation from prison rehabilitation to reintegration. ZACRO provided 20 inmates with start-up capital and start-up packs to ex-inmates which we monitored during the course of the year to make sure the projects were well managed to earn a decent living upon release from prison. Projects for ex-inmates included poultry, welding, tailoring, to mention some of them.

We also involved communities in ex-offender reintegration as we realized that they could not fit into the society successfully without the support of the communities that they come from.

Learning and Exchange Visit in Zambia

The year ended on a high note with one of our own Officers going for an exchange visit to Zambia to learn and share best practices there as Zambia has one of the best reintegration strategies for ex-inmatess in the sub-region.







Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR)



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About the Organisation

The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR) was formed in 2002 in response to the rising levels of politically motivated violence and torture between 2000 and 2002 and the reluctance of the medical profession to formulate an appropriate response. At that time some 50 doctors at all levels had become members of ZADHR and their feedback confirmed the need for training in the management of the sequel of violence and for more education, information and support for the application of medical ethics, health and human rights in the medical profession.

Aims of the Organisation

ZADHR aims to ensure the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health by all Zimbabweans through a health service delivery system promotes the right to health. This shall be done recognising the position of doctors and other health professionals as frontline witnesses of progress in the achievement of the right to health and recognising the power of the voices of health care workers to influence policy and its implementation.

Objectives of the Organisation

- Educating and empowering health professionals to be knowledgeable, be able to investigate and document and be competent to analyse health rights violations in Zimbabwe.
- Lobbying Government(s) to respect, protect and fulfil the right to health.
- Promoting and protecting the rights of members of the medical profession who are persecuted in their furtherance of human rights or their adherence to medical ethics as defined by the World Medical Association.



- To build the capacity of network partners and organizations in their understanding of the right to health.
- Monitoring, investigating and documenting the conduct of members, and other members of the medical profession, in relation to human rights issues, including cases of violations of rights, such as torture, by members of the medical profession.
- To liaise and build strong networks with domestic, regional and international medical organisations concerned with human rights.
- To do all other things necessary to promote and protect the right to health, including protection from torture, and good medical ethics in Zimbabwe and the region.

Highlights

In 2019, ZADHR provided emergency support to victims of military and police brutality. These included victims of the January 2019 Fuel Riots. ZADHR went on to support the Forum's secretariat in compiling the affidavits that were used for court processes against the perpetrators.

Building on the medical support that had been given to victims of August 1 shooting, ZADHR published the special report Zimbabwe: A New Era/Error? The report documents 72 cases of politically motivated violence emanating from the period 1 August 2018 - 5 September 2018. ZADHR had attended to 72 cases of politically motivated violence, involving 102 victims. The report gives a summary of the physical and mental findings after the victims were interviewed and examined by trained health professionals. The report concludes by giving recommendations to the government of Zimbabwe and Civic Society Organizations on the way forward to prevent further cases of politically motivated election violence.

Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET)

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About the Organisation

ZIMCET is a grounded civic education organisation with structures across Zimbabwe since inception in 2001. The organisation has a vision of *"An informed, peaceful, tolerant and engaging Zimbabwean society"*. The mission is *"to build an empowered peaceful society through civic education and advocacy towards meaningful citizen participation and oversight."*

Over the years, ZIMCET has provided leadership in civic education towards enhancing citizen participation, citizen engagement, and grounded dialogue in communities, constitutional awareness and human rights, aimed at promoting peace in Zimbabwe. ZIMCET works through provincial and district volunteers and peace committees whose presence has reached sustainable levels amidst resource constraints and shrinking of democratic space. Through its new strategic plan, ZIMCET intends to program around five strategic pillars:
i. effective citizen participation,
ii. civic, constitutional and peace education,
iii. citizen oversight and accountability,
iv. policy engagement and advocacy
v. information provision. ZIMCET has a strong collaboration with community-based organisations with a vision to promote program sustainability and ownership.

In recent years, upon introduction of institutions supporting democracy through Chapter 12 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, ZIMCET established a strong working relationship with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), Gender Commission and the

Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) towards meaningful citizen and policy engagement. ZIMCET has a staff complement including experts in civic education, voter education, research, ICT and community capacity building.

Highlights

In June 2019, ZIMCET conducted a research study on barriers hindering effective citizen participation with a bias towards understanding effects of recent violence post the 2018 harmonized elections. A study report was produced and disseminated to key stakeholders. The violence that occurred post the 2018 harmonized elections following anxiety about election results and the January 2019 protests against economic hardships in general and fuel price increases, in particular, had an impact on civic participation by a majority of citizens. The research study conducted by ZIMCET in June 2019 revealed a declining culture of citizen participation in governance affairs owing largely to the fear of violence.

Citizens singled out security forces and political parties at 61% as major perpetrators of the violence. Fundamentally the study established that women and youth do not feel safe to participate in political affairs alluding to the fact that space is no longer safe nor safe for their effective participation. ZIMCET established evidence on violence as a major barrier to effective participation in governance processes in Zimbabwe post-2018 harmonized elections. The findings of the study were disseminated to citizens and policymakers who included councillors, Minister of Justice Hon Ziyambi Ziyambi, Department of Constitutional Affairs, civics and CSOs in order to inform their various interventions going forward.

Between June and November 2019 ZIMCET embarked on a project to raise awareness on the Constitution of Zimbabwe among youths in high schools and tertiary institutions around Zimbabwe. The campaign was dubbed *"We the People of Zimbabwe; Constitution of Zimbabwe Lecture Series"*. Students are a harbinger of knowledge and share it with ease once deposited. The lecture series, therefore, was successful as it empowered 1052 students with in-depth knowledge of the constitution of Zimbabwe. A total of ten constitutional awareness public lectures were conducted in secondary and tertiary institutions in Masvingo, Mutare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Bindura, Goromonzi and Harare in a bid to raise awareness on

on the Zimbabwean Constitution. The institutions that were directly targeted were Great Zimbabwe University, Masvingo Polytechnic, Mutare Polytechnic, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Midlands State University (MSU), Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE), Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University (ZEGU), Harare Polytechnic, Morgan Zintech College, Brelion College in Mufakose, Cavedale College in Domboshava and Beverly Hills College in Chitungwiza. ZIMCET directly reached one thousand and fifty-two students through constitutional lecture series providing for in-depth knowledge of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and laying a foundation for further peer to peer awareness and education which indirectly was targeted to reach about five thousand more citizens on the assumption that one student would further disseminate information to five more people.

Additionally, ZIMCET potentially reached 500 000 Zimbabweans through radio awareness programs on Star FM, Capitalk, Nyami Nyami and Radio Zimbabwe. ZIMCET held talk shows during prime times when more listeners were expected to be tuning in to the radio stations. ZIMCET received calls and messages from people that listened in to the radio shows requesting that it comes to their communities with more information. Some citizens called in volunteering to organize groups and activities in their communities for ZIMCET constitutional awareness activities. ZIMCET reached to 70 000 Zimbabweans with constitutional awareness messages via social media, particularly on Facebook and Twitter. ZIMCET also developed an application, The Constitutional Chatbot to provide in-depth information on the constitution of Zimbabwe targeting young people, particularly on social media. Conversations from WhatsApp groups that were developed to directly share constitutional information as well as messages received on Facebook show that citizens are keen to participate and learn more provided that safe and secure platforms are availed. Citizens have been suggesting ideas on how to better improve the campaign. Suggestions include establishing civic and constitutional clubs in schools, providing materials for school libraries, essay and public speaking competitions for schools, creating linkages with large corporates to ensure that awareness on the constitution is raised within their corporate activities, engaging traditional leaders to ensure they talk about the constitution within the various platforms that they oversee in their communities.

Furthermore, ZIMCET introduced innovative ways of attracting youthful citizens to understand the constitution by introducing playing cards which have different sections of the constitution, distractive banners displayed at public institutions and small booklets summarizing the constitution of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)



W/O 3/93
Campaigners for Human Rights

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About the Organisation

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) is Zimbabwe's biggest grassroots movement of ordinary people for human rights. Formed in 1992, ZimRights main focus of work is empowering ordinary people and communities with knowledge and tools for effective participation in the protection and promotion of human rights as well as the search for effective remedies to past and ongoing violations. For the past 27 years, ZimRights has empowered communities through civic education, legal aid support, psycho-social support and community advocacy strategies to ensure the realisation of basic rights, especially for the most marginalised communities. In this process, ZimRights membership has increased to over 225 000 individual members equipped and empowered to claim their rights. ZimRights is registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation under Zimbabwe's Private Voluntary Organisations Act. ZimRights operates four regional offices in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and Masvingo. The Head Office is in Harare.

Vision

To be the leader in developing and sustaining a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe

Mission

To use a grassroots-based approach in promoting, protecting and defending Human Rights in Zimbabwe through education, information, legal aid, counselling, lobbying, advocacy and networking. This is done through the following:

a. Grassroots Organising - Grassroots organizing is powerful because it allows us to bring large numbers of people to the table. These

numbers impact decision-makers, and the bigger our numbers the greater our impact.

b. Community Agenda Setting - In the age of big businesses, powerful political parties and elite civil society, the organic agenda of the ordinary people in communities is in danger of getting swallowed and overshadowed by powerful players. Enabling communities to identify and champion their own causes means the human rights discourse remains in tandem with the needs of the ordinary people.

c. Pyramid Engagement - The key concept is that cultivating an activist is a process, not a one-time conversation. People move up the Pyramid of Engagement by first becoming aware of an issue, then coming to understand its importance and relevance to their lives, then deciding to participate in a campaign and, only over time, developing leadership status within that movement.

Highlights

(a) ZimRights was able to assist more than 200 ZimRights members at Muzero farm in Masvingo who had been saved with eviction notices by Masvingo District Administrator. The District Administrator alleged that the community was wrongly resettled hence the need to be evicted. ZimRights engaged Ministry of Local Government and Masvingo Minister of State Honourable Chadzamira and the eviction letters were withdrawn. This was a major milestone considering the fact that more than 200 families were going to be affected.

b. Provision of Non Food Items to Sitovhoro farm settlers in Marondera. Zimrights through its community journalist received information to the effect that more than 23 families were evicted from Stovhoro farm in Marondera and were currently living in the open and had reportedly lost most of their valuable property. Stovhoro farm is in Marondera district just north of the town of Marondera. The farm is 4 kilometres from the old Cold Storage Company abattoir. ZimRights in partnership with IOM sourced a total of 64 tents and the tents were delivered to the affected families. The organisation was also able to provide food handouts, blankets and sanitary wear to the affected individuals.

c. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association carried out a number of human rights violations assessment visits. The most outstanding human rights violation assessment visit was done in Gokwe Chemagora and Mapfungautsi from the 3rd to the 5th of April 2019. The ZimRights team discovered that 1 855 families have been served with eviction notices in Chemagora while 786 have been served in Mapfungautsi and a Sizeable number in Zanda. The evections were then instituted on the morning of 12th of April 2019.

ZimRights was then able to source a total of 1000 tents and 1000 non-food items which included, mosquito nets, water buckets, soap, medical aid kits and sanitary wear. The goods were delivered to the affected communities in Gokwe. It is key to indicate that the issue is too complex and political. ZimRights was, however, able to engage various government ministries including the Member of Parliament for the area Deputy Minister of Justice Honourable Victor Matemadanda but unfortunately, the issue was not resolved.

d. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) successfully organised Africa Human Rights Day Commemorations in Gokwe at Gokwe Centre. The commemorations were held on the 21st of October 2019. As part of the celebrations, and in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Civic Forum on Human Development (CFHD), convened a public gathering with the community of Gokwe at Gokwe Centre. All government departments in Gokwe were actively involved in the preparation of the day.

The Local Government Department helped a lot in the coordination of the event including the provision of tents and invitation of traditional leaders. The gathering served as a platform to reflect locally and on how Zimbabwe fare against the declaration by the African leaders to respect, promote and protect human rights on the continent. The commemorations were held under the theme of Fighting Corruption and Promoting Human Rights Together. The main objectives of the commemoration were to educate and inform communities in Gokwe on how to access justice and their fundamental freedoms, to strengthen the capacity to identify, document and report any related human rights abuses in communities and to improve bring independent commissions to the people in Gokwe. This was in line with the overall goal to bring on the fore African human rights values and principles promulgated by African Commission on Human and People's Rights and reflect on their impact to the Zimbabwean human rights environment.

e. On the 2nd of November 2019, ZimRights successfully organized belated Africa Human Rights Day Commemorations in Chiredzi. The event was attended by more than 300 participants drawn from different

communities. Key stakeholders such as political party representatives, government departments including the police and the judiciary were also represented. The Mayor of Chiredzi, Mr Gibson Hwede gave out a keynote address. All wards in Chiredzi were represented by their counsellors. The organisation was also able to exhibit and offer free legal advice to participants. The idea behind exhibition activities also sought to increase the visibility of the organisation beyond the single day commemoration.

f. Strengthening of ZimRights Structures. A total of 45 new structures were formed in 2019. Most of the new structures were established in the rural and marginalized communities. The thrust of the established structures is to market the activities of the organization as well as to coordinate ZimRights activities and programs. The structures were also trained to be able to identify human rights violations and report such cases. The establishment of new structures vindicates the ZimRights membership drive programme which started in 2018.

g. Regional and International Advocacy. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) participated at the 65th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which was held from 21 October to 10 November 2019 in Banjul, the Gambia. ZimRights successfully drafted and submitted a total of two statements. The first statement was on the Status of Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe and the second was on Freedom of expression and access to information.

h. Human Rights Training. ZimRights conducted human rights training targeting different demographic groups. The trainings were held in both rural and urban areas. Some of the trainings targeted journalist. The journalists were considered strategic in terms of cascading down human rights education to greater masses since their jobs involve the production and dissemination of information.



The trainings for journalists were aimed at equipping journalists with human rights knowledge so that they can report on human rights issues from an informed point of view. The discussions, therefore, revolved around the need for journalists to help in the protection of human rights by reporting human rights violations. The trainings were structured in interactive ways to allow journalists to share their experiences when writing on human rights-related stories. One of the prominent and shared pattern to emerge from the discussions was the idea that working on human rights issues is considered politically sensitive and risky.

i. Media Reports/Testimonials
http://www.radiovop.com/zimrights-puts-govt-under-pressure-over-national-ids/

https://www.263chat.com/civic-society-push-for-electoral-reforms-holding-leaders-accountable/

https://postonsunday.co.zw/index.php/2019/11/29/zimrights-erc-call-for-more-reforms/top-stories/news/

https://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimrights-launches-1-million-brick-campaign/

https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/zimbabwe-intimidation-of-okay-machisa-and-other-members-of-zimrights/

https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-175283.html

https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiZts_8wpnnAhUOyIUKHTimDcYQMwhOKAcwBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FDailyNewsZim%2Fposts%2F3099900773377262&psig=AOvVaw1PA94B5KrB80y1k67syUbr&ust=1579862069516745&ictx=3&uact=3

https://soundcloud.com/user-784428949

Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)

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About the Organisation

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) is a premier human rights monitoring institution founded in 2000 by Zimbabwean church-based and human rights organisations. The main objective of ZPP is building peace and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts in communities through, among many strategies, the monitoring and documentation of human rights abuses. As a network, ZPP carries its strength in the diversity, reach and spread of its members who include Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ) and Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) - renowned faith-based associations driving issues of social accountability and justice. Other members include the Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (Zimrights), Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ); also, Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) and the National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped (NASCOH who were recently added.

These members provide technical support on key matters such as litigation, psycho-social, medical support, gender and disability inclusion. ZPP also works with women and youth in Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) and more recently with organisations championing disability inclusion such as Deaf Zimbabwe Trust. Ms Mukoko has established ZPP as the lead institution for information on championing the discourse on human rights violations. ZPP has credible relations and partnerships and produces reliable information that is trusted by independent state institutions such as the ZHRC.

Goal

Advancing sustainable peace in Zimbabwe.

Objectives

1. To strengthen the respect for human rights at all levels in the country.
2. To enhance the observance of constitutional provisions

ZPP is registered as a Trust MA0000248/2017 and gets its funding from partners that identify with its values;

- Respect for Human Rights for all
- Justice and promoting public accountability
- Respect and tolerance of diversity

Vision

A Zimbabwe where there is Peace, Justice, Dignity and Development for all.

Mission

To work for sustainable peace through monitoring, documentation, advocacy and community peace building interventions with our members and partners

Highlights

In 2019 ZPP continued with its work of monitoring and documenting human rights violations, documenting in excess of 2700 violations for the year. 18 300 victims were documented, 54% men and 46% women. ZPP documented violations relating to the January shutdown violence; the various protests and demonstrations by public health care professionals, teachers, civil servants, opposition parties and unions; food and other aid distribution violations, including discrimination of donations to Cyclone Idai victims; abductions of civil society and opposition members; targeting and arrest of civil society activists; discrimination on the access to water and health; and the brutal murders, rape and assaults machetete-wielding terror gangs. Psychosocial, medical and legal support for victims of these violations was facilitated to assist them to cope and bring about justice.

The human rights violations documented were reported in the Monthly Monitoring Report (MMR) circulated to different stakeholders and posted on the ZPP website and social media pages.

ZPP also started including the documenting of human rights violations targeted at persons with disability to have a more inclusive and clear representation of rights violations in the country. As a result of the monitoring and documentation work, ZPP was cited 69 times by various media houses in 2019, giving Zimbabwean citizens and interested stakeholders alternative information on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe.



The natural disaster of Cyclone Idai ravaged communities in Chimanimani and Chipinge, and left a deep scar in the communities. In an effort to raise donations for the survivors of the cyclone, all the donations of clothing, food, kitchen utensils and cash were then handed over to survivors of the cyclone in Chimanimani by the National Director and Programmes Coordinator. ZPP also donated several desktop computers to Wadzanai Primary school in Lalapanzi.



ZPP in 2019 experienced growth and impact in peace building work and increased visibility in communities.

Following a series of community dialogues held in Chilonga, Chiredzi the community realised that the infringement of the rights of children was a potential threat to peace and was already causing conflict within the community as some girls were being taken away for marriage without their parents' consent. Following an initiation into adulthood, called khomba, most of the girls and even their families feel they are ripe for marriage resulting in child marriages. The communityt-led by ZPP community ambassadors committed to begin child



bride rescue missions. Between May and September 2019, the Community Ambassadors working with the local police rescued three girls aged 13, 14 and 16 from child marriages. One of the girls was reinstated into school, the other joined her mother in South Africa and the third one was referred to the Department of Social Welfare where she received psycho-social and medical support. The Community Ambassadors have travelled as far as Gutu to rescue girls and reunite girls them with their families.

The Mutoko community ambassadors have played an integral role in creating dialogue platforms for the communities to engage with the Rural District Council; to ascertain what they are benefiting through black granite and quarry mining. Black granite mining has been a major source of conflict in Mutoko as the community has very little benefit from the mineral. The community members in efforts to foster greater service delivery and accountability requested; and obtained reports from the council detailing gratuities received from mining companies and budgetary allocations of these funds. Council also shared community development plans that included resuscitation of various community projects. As a result of this engagement, the community is now more willing to participate in community development projects such as rehabilitation of school infrastructure that is initiated by council and mining companies.

In July ZPP underwent a strategic planning process where a new strategic plan for the next five years was drawn up. The process was successful where four strategic drivers were agreed on; and one of the take-aways was RISE, an acronym for the organisation's values: Respect, Integrity, Solidarity and Excellence. Disability mainstreaming was implemented at the governance level, where NASCOH was added to the ZPP board. WILSA was also added to the board, bringing in the gender and legal expertise components.

ZPP commemorated three key human rights days across the country in 2019. First being the International Women's day in Bulawayo on the 8th of March 2019. On 21 September 2019 International Day of Peace was commemorated in Binga district with community ambassadors initiating and leading the processes.

Local traditional leaders, including Chief Saba of Siyansundu community also attended the event. Sporting activities and speeches to promote peace in communities marked the commemoration which was attended by the community and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

ZPP held its flagship commemoration of victims of abductions and enforced disappearances on 3 December 2019 in Harare. The event was attended by victims of abductions as well as various organisations and the donor community. The event featured live performances by Chipawo, and a panel discussion on abductions where panellists included lawyers, a medical doctor and a trauma specialist. An *'In My Shoes'* exhibit showcased shoes belonging to victims of abductions; a help lane was also set up to assist victims with psycho-social support through counselling services offered by Tree of Life in collaboration with Counselling Services Unit (CSU); and legal advice offered by the Human Rights NGO Forum. Participants signed a petition calling on the Government of Zimbabwe to end abductions and enforced disappearances (#TotalEnd2EnforcedDisappearances #TE2ED).

To cap off the year, the National Director Ms Jestina Mukoko was awarded 1st runner up under the Corporate Director – Non-Governmental Organisations category of the Directors Excellence Award by the Institute of Corporate Directors Zimbabwe. This was in recognition of her stellar leadership in advancing and defending human rights in Zimbabwe. In an environment characterised by impunity she remains resolute in upholding the principles of democracy and good governance, of which the award is a reflection. Jestina embodies the values of ZPP which are Respect, Integrity, Solidarity and Excellence.

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ)

Email: info@tizim.org
Website: www.tizim.org

About Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ)

TI-Z's mission is to be a knowledge driven and evidence-based anti-corruption organisation that practices and promotes transparency, accountability and integrity in all sectors to achieve good governance.

Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA)

Facebook: woza.zimbabwe
Website: www.wozazimbabwe.org

About Women of Zimbabwe Arise

WOZA is a civic movement meant to provide women and men from all walks of life with a united voice to speak out on issues affecting their day-to-day lives; to encourage women to stand up for their rights and freedoms and lobby and advocate on those issues affecting women and their families. Based on the principles of strategic nonviolence, WOZA creates space to allow Zimbabweans to articulate issues they may be too fearful to raise alone.

VERITAS

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About VERITAS

Veritas provides information on the work of the Parliament of Zimbabwe and makes public domain information available.

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)



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About Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

ZLHR's mission is to protect and defend human rights through sustainable litigation, education and advocacy, which contribute positively to a culture of tolerance and adherence to democratic values and practices. The organization aims to foster a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe and to encourage the growth and strengthening of human rights at all levels of Zimbabwean society.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018



PARTNERS

FUNDING PARTNERS

In 2019, our work was made possible by the continued generous financial and moral support from our partners:

- Embassy of Switzerland
- WfD - CPS Programme
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Open Society for Southern Africa
- PACT Zimbabwe
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- The Royal Netherlands Embassy
- TRACE

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SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

TRACE

IOM International Organization for Migration

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Zimbabwe
HUMAN RIGHTS
NGO Forum

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