

Draft Report on Victims and Survivors Opinions on the NPRC and
Dealing with the past Issues in Zimbabwe

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1. Executive Summary

This report outlines the opinions and expectations of Victims and Survivors on what should be included in a Transitional Justice Framework for Zimbabwe commissioned by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum. The significance of these findings is that they clearly identify and communicate victims and survivors' opinions around the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), its mandate and Transitional Justice/Dealing with the Past (DwP) issues in Zimbabwe.

Survey Findings

This section highlights the most significant findings of these surveys for the inclusion in the research paper to be presented at the National Symposium.

Respondents

A total of 101 responses were received to a 10-question survey. 52% of respondents were female. 32% of respondents were aged between 16 - 35 years, while 11% were between 56+ Years. All the Respondents were victims or survivors of political violence residing in rural areas.

What do you think are the most important issues in Zimbabwe when dealing with past Human Rights violations?

This question explores respondents' opinions on what the critical issues really are, when dealing with past Human Rights violations. Over 70% Respondents indicated that truth, justice, compensation and institutional Reform were very important. 57.1% did not view memorialization as very important.

How far back should Dealing with the past human Rights Violations go in the History of Zimbabwe?

The NPRC is one of the five Independent Commissions established under Chapter 12 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act 2013 for the purpose of supporting and entrenching a culture of human rights and democracy. It is mandated by the Constitution of Zimbabwe to amongst other functions, "to ensure post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation"¹ and "to bring about national reconciliation by encouraging people to tell the truth about the past and facilitating the making of amends and the provision of justice;"². This question explores people's opinions on how far back the NPRC must look in to the past, as the CoZ is open ended in time frame considerations. 88.1% believe that the NPRC should go back to the Gukurahundi period just after Independence.

¹ (The Constitution of Zimbabwe, Chapter 12, section 252 (a), 2013,99)

² *ibid*, section 252 (c)

Are you satisfied with the current activities of the NPRC?

This question explores respondents' satisfaction with the current work of the NPRC. The majority of respondents were not aware that the NPRC was now operational.

Is the independent NPRC free of political influence and the government?

The concept of independence within the ambit of a national Human Rights Institution (NHRI) is one of strategic importance in that it adds to the citizens' perception of legitimacy and genuineness needed for the commission to be successful. It invokes within the public a confidence in its ability to protect its citizens from the excesses of government; the weak from the powerful as well as the minorities from the majority. Section 235³ of the CoZ specifically articulates the independence of the Chapter 12 commissions. Being a constitutionally mandated body, this question asks respondents to opine on whether they believe the NPRC is free from the influence of the state's governance structures as well as political parties. 72.3% believe that the NPRC is not independent and is beholden to government and political influence.

Do you think the NPRC has enough skilled staff and budget to successfully deal with past human rights abuses?

Considering the timeframe and the broadness of the NPRC's constitutional mandate, this question scrutinizes the capacity of the NPRC to fulfill that mandate. It asks respondents to evince whether they believe in the capacity of the NPRC. Respondents did not seem to realize that the NPRC was now operational and did not have enough information to answer the question. This was evidenced by 95% of respondents opining either 'no' or 'I don't know'.

Should the Zimbabwean society deal with past human rights violations by using traditional conflict resolving methods to bring healing, reconciliation and peace to the community?

Realising that, 60% of Zimbabwe's population resides within a rural setting that is subject to African Customary Law, the question asks participants to opine on whether traditional conflict resolving methods should be implemented solely, left out completely or included as part of dealing with the past human rights violations regimen. Over 90% of respondents believed that both the national processes and the traditional conflict resolution mechanism should be used in tandem

In which major capacity have you answered the above questions?

This question asks respondents to indicate in what capacity they are participating in the survey in. 63% of all respondents indicated that they were representing their communities, 14% indicated civil society and 23% indicated they were representing political establishments

Demographics

The last three questions in the survey measures the approximate age, gender marker, and province of Zimbabwe, participants are from. The total number of participants in the survey was 101 across the 5 provinces (Bulawayo - 20 participants, Manicaland - 11 participants, Mashonaland Central - 20 participants, Mashonaland West - 30

³ ibid, section 235

participants, Midlands - 20 participants). 52% of all participants were female, whilst those aged 16-35 comprised 32% of the total participants.

2. Background

One of the daunting tasks faced by a society left in ruin after a period of political unrest or crisis is the rebuilding of that society. In transitional societies, the outward signs of poverty and destitution often mask the importance of rebuilding those structural social institutions that form the basis of any stable society.

Importance and often scarce resources are allocated to the repair of physical infrastructure in its many forms to the exclusion of social and spiritual souls of the same community. Roads and bridges, for example, are given priority over issues of justice and national healing despite the fact that coming to terms with past injustices is an important foundation to sustainable peace, stability and development. Often leaders fail to recognise that in order for people to come to terms with a traumatic past, a process of acknowledgement, forgiveness, reconciliation and healing is required as stepping-stones that lead to the rebuilding of a viable, legitimate democracy. Accountable political systems, institutionally independent judicial systems and strong networks of civic engagement can ultimately lead to increased levels of social trust, reconciliation and collective national healing.

Since its inception, Zimbabwe has suffered from a culture of systematic violations of human Rights (HR), supported by impunity, disregard for the rule of law and an ineffective legal framework for greater HR accountability. Violence has manifested at every political event since Independence from colonial rule in 1980. Acknowledging Zimbabwe's history is one of the key preconditions for building a stable future. Facing the past and accepting divergent ideas around a systematic approach to redressing the legacies of gross human rights violations continue to strain the development of political will for national TJ processes and alienate generations of citizens of this country.

Acknowledging the complexity of Zimbabwean society addressing its recent past and also the need for approaching the past in a systematic and comprehensive way, the 2013 Constitution provides for the establishment of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission in sections 251-253 as one of the Independent Commissions supporting Democracy throughout the country. Its mandate is to address issues related to post conflict justice, healing and reconciliation and is mandated to deliver on its task over a period of ten years after the effective date. Five years after the effective date⁴, the NPRC has begun to work towards fulfilling its mandate.

Building on the relative success of the establishment of National Peace Architecture, and in contributing to the national efforts, the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

⁴ On the 'effective date', there is a debate on the meaning of "effective date". Civil society organisations and legal analysts have interpreted the effective date as meaning the date that the 2013 Constitution was promulgated. Whereas, statements by representatives of the Attorney General's Office have interpreted the effective date to mean, the date that the commission begins its work.

will be conducting a symposium with all stakeholders concerned to discuss and come up with a transitional justice framework for Zimbabwe. As part of the symposium, a research paper which includes stakeholders' expectations has been commissioned by the Forum. This Report presents the findings specific to victims and survivors of human rights violations in contribution to the overall process.

3. Methodology

The objective of the research was to seek the opinions and expectations of Victims and Survivors on what should be included in a Transitional Justice Framework for Zimbabwe. The research focused on two main areas; (i) Dealing with the Past and (ii) the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

Two teams comprised of experienced researchers with requisite fieldwork skills and experience with appropriate context specific language aptitude were utilised in conducting the research. The methodology was underpinned by a pragmatic approach to ensure that the assessment was undertaken in a manner that took into consideration, gender cognisance, the context and time available for the survey.

The primary method for undertaking the research as documented in this report was via a predetermined opinion survey. Further, a series of focus group discussions were conducted to buttress and qualify the findings of the survey. Data collection focused on eliciting the opinions and expectations of Victims and Survivors on DwP in the context of the National Peace Architecture. It utilised qualitative and quantitative analysis in assessing the data.

The target population was restricted to victims and survivors of politically motivated human rights violations geographically located within rural Zimbabwe. Time, along with other limitations dictated that the team survey individuals from a known database of victims/survivors and cover only 5 (five) provinces. It also impacted on the researcher's ability to sample participants and constituencies within the provinces effectively.

The safety of the research participants was of paramount importance, as such the researchers chose to use participants that had worked with the Forum before and as such knew the protection services offered by the Forum and their Member organisations. Voluntary participation was a requirement. There was no coercion to participate in the survey and each participant/group was fully informed on the nature of the research and the risks involved before commencement of the survey. Participants were also assured of the confidentiality and anonymity associated with their participation.

3.1 Limitations of Analysis

A number of setbacks limited the effectiveness of the snap survey exercise.

3.1.1 Timing/ Time

Given that the date of the National Symposium is slated for 23 November 2018, the timing of the exercise was not ideal. With resources readily available, the survey should take place with ample time (up to 6 months) before the due date. This allows for the necessary background/familiarisation work within the constituency to be surveyed. Time allotted for the research was extremely limited and did not allow for proper coverage of the victim and survivor constituency or cater for the sending out of questionnaires to multiple locations within a province. The lack of time was also a factor in the mobilization of victims and survivors in the various locales.

3.1.2 Funding

The funding for the exercise was extremely limited for the constituency population and its geographical coverage. Lack of funding also contributed to non-access to a number of victims and survivors populations across the country.

3.1.3 Geographical Scope

The assessment was confined to one rural locale per province and did not allow for travel across the provinces to access as many of the constituents as needed.

3.1.3 Fear

A modicum of fear of reprisals still prevails within a number of rural locales. On a number of occasions venues had to be changed due to fear of association and reprisals.

4.0 Victim and Survivor Opinion Survey Structure

The Questionnaire⁵ was constructed to elicit opinions and responses focusing on (i) dealing with past human rights violations, (ii) the NPRC, its mandate, focus area, and conflict resolving mechanisms to utilise. The survey also included questions pertaining to the demographics of the population. The survey consisted of 10 questions contained in a single section.

The Research was conducted in the provinces of Mashonaland West (Chinhoyi rural), Manicaland (Mutare rural & Nyanga South), Mashonaland Central (Guruve), and Midlands (Zvishavane). A total of 104 responses were received from 104 questionnaires sent out. Focus Group Discussions were done in Mashonaland West and Manicaland.

Table 1 Provincial representation of Total Number of Participants

Province	Locale	# of Participants
Bulawayo	Umguzo	20
Manicaland	Mutare Rural/ Nyanga South	11
Mashonaland Central	Guruve	20
Mashonaland West	Chinhoyi Rural	30
Midlands	Zvishavane	20
Total		101

⁵ Please note that the research tool (Questionnaire) was designed by the Forum and supplied to the consultant for use.

4.1 What do you think are the most important issues in Zimbabwe when dealing with past Human Rights violations?

Table 2 Most Important Issues in Zimbabwe when Dealing with Past Human Rights Violations

Province		i. Truth		ii. Justice		iii. Compensation	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo		20	100,0%	19	95,0%	20	100,0%
	Total	20	100,0%	20	100,0%	20	100,0%
Manicaland		-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mashonaland Central		20	100,0%	15	75,0%	20	100,0%
	Total	20	100,0%	20	100,0%	20	100,0%
Mashonaland West		21	70,0%	24	80,0%	19	63,3%
	Total	30	100,0%	30	100,0%	30	100,0%
Midlands		20	100,0%	20	100,0%	20	100,0%
	Total	20	100,0%	20	100,0%	20	100,0%

Province		iv. Memorialisation		v. Reform		vi. Attention	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo		13	65,0%	17	85,0%	14	70,0%
	Total	20	100,0%	20	100,0%	20	100,0%
Manicaland		-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mashonaland Central		11	55,0%	15	75,0%	8	40,0%
	Total	20	100,0%	20	100,0%	20	100,0%
Mashonaland West		8	26,7%	16	53,3%	16	53,3%
	Total	30	100,0%	30	100,0%	30	100,0%
Midlands		8	40,0%	17	85,0%	9	45,0%
	Total	20	100,0%	20	100,0%	20	100,0%

In measuring Participants opinions on what is important in dealing with Past human rights violations, respondents indicated that truth, justice, compensation and institutional Reform was very important. 88% indicated that compensating victims was the most important aspect of righting the wrongs of the past in line with comments coming out of the Focus Group Discussions.

Memorialisation was seen as not very important with 57.4% of all respondents indicating that it was not very important. *“Todya izvozvo? Ndipei zvipfuyo zvangu zvandakabirwa pamaindi ponda. Ndozvina basa. We want compensation!”* A participant in

the Manicaland FGD clarifies that memorialization does not put food on the table, rather give me back my livestock that you stole when you were beating me. That is what is important. Respondents in Mashonaland West between the ages of 16 – 35 did not see compensation as very important. Those aged 65+ in the same province echoed their younger colleagues opinions with 57.1% saying that compensation was not important.

Interestingly 50% of respondents between the ages of 46 – 55 in Mashonaland Central and 36 - 45 in Mash west responded that reform of security and judicial sector was not very important.

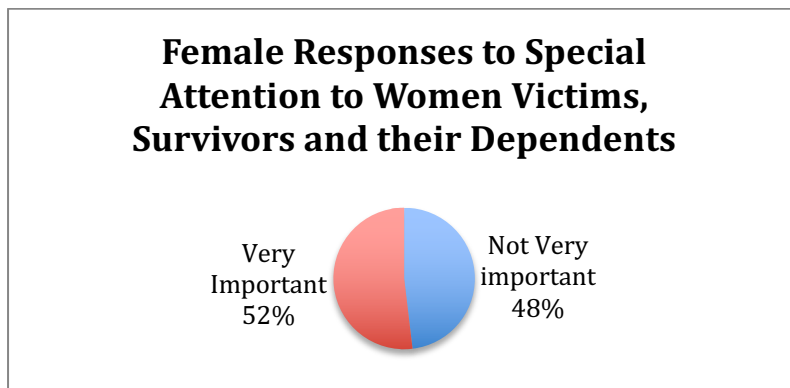


Figure 1 Female response to Special Attention to Women during & after Human Rights Violations

Despite being an established fact that women are exposed to more violence than men during major conflicts, 48% of female respondents deemed it not very important to pay special attention to women during and after human rights violations.

4.2 How far back should Dealing with the past human Rights Violations go in the History of Zimbabwe?

Table 3 How Far Back in History Should Dealing With the past Human rights Violations go?

Question 2 (How far back in history should HR Violations be dealt with)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	Back When Zimbabwe was a British Colony	0	0%
	After Unilateral Declaration under Ian Smith	0	0%
	Gukurahundi era after independence	20	100%
	year 2000	0	0%
Manicaland	Back When Zimbabwe was a British Colony	0	0%
	After Unilateral Declaration under Ian Smith	0	0%
	Gukurahundi era after independence	5	45.5%
	year 2000	6	54.5%
Mashonaland Central	Back When Zimbabwe was a British Colony	0	0%
	After Unilateral Declaration under Ian Smith	0	0%
	Gukurahundi era after independence	18	90%
	year 2000	2	10%
Mashonaland West	Back When Zimbabwe was a British Colony	0	0%
	After Unilateral Declaration under Ian Smith	2	7%
	Gukurahundi era after independence	26	87%
	year 2000	2	7%
Midlands	Back When Zimbabwe was a British Colony	0	0%
	After Unilateral Declaration under Ian Smith	0	0%
	Gukurahundi era after independence	20	100%
	year 2000	0	0%

In this section, respondents were asked on how far back the NPRC must look in to the past, as the Constitution of Zimbabwe is open ended in time frame considerations for the commission. In past surveys by the NGO Forum⁶, the time frame preferable to participants has differed according to the province and their experience of Human Rights Violations.

⁶ Please see the *Taking Transitional Justice to the People* outreach project, which commenced in 2009. See also 'The Transitional Justice National Survey: A report on the People's perceptions and Recommendations, 2011'

93% of all participants across all the age groups wanted the process to cover the Gukurahundi period just after independence. Echoing the trend in selection by all respondents, 93% of participants aged between 16 – 35 want the process to begin interrogating from the Gukurahundi period. Knowing that participants were taken from a database that has had contact with civil society around Transitional Justice (TJ), it can then be assumed that knowledge of TJ and the Zimbabwean context has influenced the opinion of survey participants. The focus groups discussion in Mashonaland West backs this assertion with participants mentioning the need for national reconciliation between the Shona and Ndebele and that the only way for this to happen would be to start the conversation (interrogate) around the Gukurahundi atrocities.

4.3 Are you satisfied with the current activities of the NPRC?

Table 4 Satisfaction with Current Activities of the NPRC

Question 3 (Are you satisfied with NPRC current activities)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	Yes	0	0,0%
	no	20	100,0%
	I don't know	0	0,0%
Manicaland	Yes	2	18,2%
	no	6	54,5%
	I don't know	3	27,3%
Mashonaland Central	Yes	0	0,0%
	no	9	45,0%
	I don't know	11	55,0%
Mashonaland West	Yes	5	16,7%
	no	21	70,0%
	I don't know	4	13,3%
Midlands	Yes	0	0,0%
	no	15	75,0%
	I don't know	5	25,0%

Victims and Survivors were not aware that the NPRC had begun its work. The FGDs in Manicaland and Mashonaland West were not familiar with the work of the NPRC. “Are they working? What are they doing? Have they come to the rural areas or are they staying in Harare like all these people always do?” These were the responses from the participants in the FGDs.

72% of participants are not satisfied with the work of the NPRC. Regional trends indicate that 55% of Mashonaland Central participants selected “I don’t know” as their answer to the question. This can be construed to mean that they did not know about the NPRC and its mandate or that they professed a lack of knowledge on the workings

of the NPRC. 16% of participants from Mashonaland West were satisfied with the work of the NPRC.

4.4 Is the independent NPRC free of political influence and the government?

Whilst the majority (72%) of participants across the surveyed provinces believe that the NPRC is not free of political influence, Mashonaland West had the greatest dichotomy in answers. 66.7% of respondents in Mashonaland West believe the NPRC is at least partially free of government and political influence. 44% of those aged between 46-55 and 56+ in Mashonaland West answered yes to the NPRC being free of government and political influence. 72% of all respondents aged between 16-35 were more inclined to believe that the NPRC was subject to undue influence from political parties and government.

Table 5 Independence of the NPRC

Question 4 (Is the NPRC Free of Governmental & Political Influence?)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	yes, absolutely	0	0,0%
	yes, partially	2	10,0%
	No	18	90,0%
Manicaland	yes, absolutely	0	0%
	yes, partially	3	27,3%
	No	8	72.7%
Mashonaland Central	yes, absolutely	0	0,0%
	yes, partially	0	0,0%
	No	20	100,0%
Mashonaland West	yes, absolutely	8	26,7%
	yes, partially	12	40,0%
	No	10	33,3%
Midlands	yes, absolutely	0	0,0%
	yes, partially	3	15,0%
	No	17	85,0%

4.5 Do you think the NPRC has enough skilled staff and budget to successfully deal with past human rights abuses?

Table 6 NPRC Staffing & Resourcing

Question 5 (Is the NPRC Adequately Staffed)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	Yes	0	0,0%
	no	20	100,0%

	I don't know	0	0,0%
Manicaland	Yes	1	9,1%
	no	7	63,6%
	I don't know	3	27,3%
Mashonaland Central	Yes	0	0,0%
	no	10	50,0%
	I don't know	10	50,0%
Mashonaland West	Yes	4	13,3%
	no	13	43,3%
	I don't know	13	43,3%
Midlands	Yes	0	0,0%
	no	17	85,0%
	I don't know	3	15,0%

The responses to this question were influenced by the aforementioned factor that respondents were not aware that the NPRC had been operationalised as evidenced by the comments emanating from the FGDs. 96% of responses ranged between 'no' and 'I don't know'. 73% of all females believe that the NPRC are not staffed adequately to investigate and deal with the past.

Responses coming out of the FGD in Manicaland highlight the above contentions; *"Kana wasingagone kuuya kunotiwona kuno kumaruzevha, isu tiri mavictim e2008, ko kuzoti kumashure uko ku Gukurahundi? Munonyepa imi!! Vanayo here mhari yacho, yabvepi?"* These responses indicate a level of scepticism at the enormity of the NPRC's mandate and pragmatism at the economic landscape where funding is scarce.

⁷ When translated, it reads "if they [NPRC] can not come and visit us here in the rural areas, when we are victims of 2008, how do you expect them to investigate the Gukurahundi atrocities? You are lying! Do they have the funds? Where will it come from"

4.6 Should the Zimbabwean society deal with past human rights violations by using traditional conflict resolving methods to bring healing, reconciliation and peace to the community?

Table 7 Methodology of Dealing with the Past

Question 6 (Method of dealing with HR violations)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	Yes, traditional conflict resolutions must be used only	0	0,0%
	No, exclusively NPRC	0	0,0%
	Yes, Both tradition and non traditional like NPRC and judicial systems must be used	20	100,0%
Manicaland	Yes, traditional conflict resolutions must be used only	0	0%
	No, exclusively NPRC	0	0%
	Yes, Both tradition and non traditional like NPRC and judicial systems must be used	11	100%
Mashonaland Central	Yes, traditional conflict resolutions must be used only	0	0,0%
	No, exclusively NPRC	0	0,0%
	Yes, Both tradition and non traditional like NPRC and judicial systems must be used	20	100,0%
Mashonaland West	Yes, traditional conflict resolutions must be used only	0	0,0%
	No, exclusively NPRC	9	30,0%
	Yes, Both tradition and non traditional like NPRC and judicial systems must be used	21	70,0%
Midlands	Yes, traditional conflict resolutions must be used only	0	0,0%
	No, exclusively NPRC	0	0,0%
	Yes, Both tradition and non traditional like NPRC and judicial systems must be used	20	100,0%

Across the 5 provinces, the respondents wanted both traditional and -non-traditional systems to work in tandem in dealing with the past human Rights Violations. With considerations to the, at least 60% of the Zimbabwean population that reside in the rural areas and the survey being conducted with a target group that is based in a rural setting, it stands to reason that respondents would not completely ignore the traditional system with which they live with. The traditional system has been prone to political manipulation in times to major conflict, which could be reason why respondents did not select the 'traditional conflict resolutions only' answer.

90% of all women polled indicated that both traditional and non traditional (NPRC & judicial systems) conflict resolution systems should be used echoing the general trends .

Interestingly in Mashonaland West, across the age groups, between 29%-43%⁸ believe that the NPRC should be the only mechanism allowed to deal with past human rights violations.

4.7 In which major capacity have you answered the above questions?

Table 8 Respondent Capacity

Question 7 (Capacity)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	Community	10	50,0%
	Civil society	5	25,0%
	Political establishment	5	25,0%
Manicaland	Community	10	90,9%
	Civil society	0	0%
	Political establishment	1	9.1%
Mashonaland Central	Community	15	75,0%
	Civil society	4	20,0%
	Political establishment	1	5,0%
Mashonaland West	Community	17	56,7%
	Civil society	1	3,3%
	Political establishment	12	40,0%
Midlands	Community	12	60,0%
	Civil society	4	20,0%
	Political establishment	4	20,0%

63% of all respondents identified themselves as community members. 40% of respondents in Mashonaland West identified themselves as representing a political party, while midlands and Mashonaland Central had 20% representation of civil society organisations.

⁸ Age group percentages that believe NPRC should be the only option.

16 -35, 29%

36-45, 32%

46-55, 20%

56+, 43%

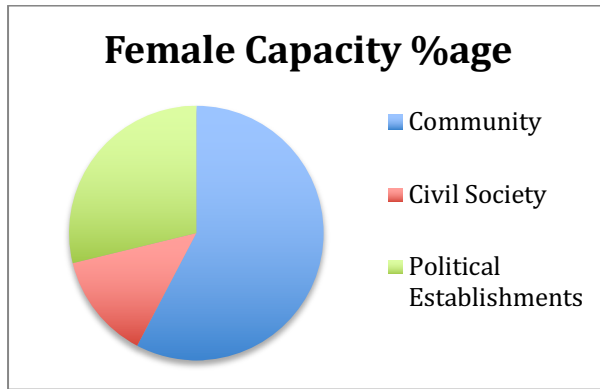


Figure 2 Isolated Female Capacity

29% of women identified themselves as members of political parties.

4.8 Age

Table 9 Respondent Age Range

Question 8 (age)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	16-35 years	6	30,0%
	36-45 years	8	40,0%
	46-55 years	6	30,0%
	56+ years	0	0,0%
Manicaland	16-35 years	3	27,3%
	36-45 years	1	9,1%
	46-55 years	2	18,2%
	56+ years	5	45,5%
Mashonaland Central	16-35 years	12	60,0%
	36-45 years	6	30,0%
	46-55 years	2	10,0%
	56+ years	0	0,0%
Mashonaland West	16-35 years	6	20,0%
	36-45 years	7	23,3%
	46-55 years	10	33,3%
	56+ years	7	23,3%
Midlands	16-35 years	5	25,0%
	36-45 years	13	65,0%
	46-55 years	2	10,0%
	56+ years	0	0,0%

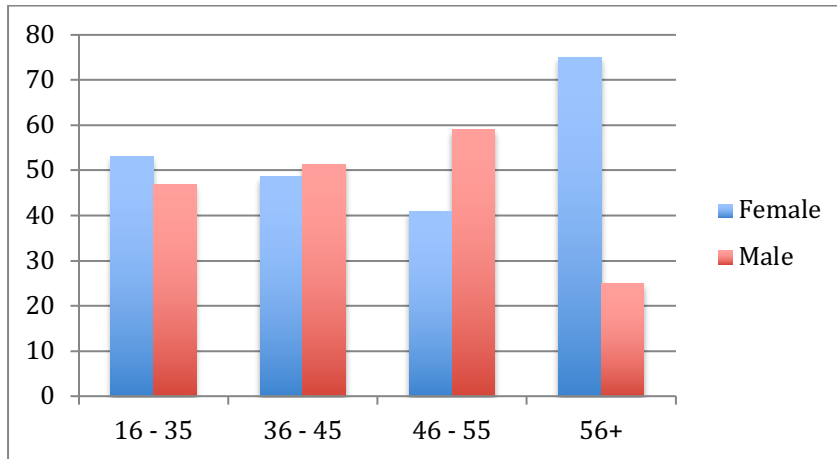


Figure 3 Respondent Age Groups by Gender

4.9 Gender

Table 10 Respondent Gender

Question 9 (gender)			
Province	Options	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	female	12	60,0%
	male	8	40,0%
	Other	0	0,0%
Manicaland	female	6	55,5%
	male	5	45,5%
	Other	0	0%
Mashonaland Central	female	10	50,0%
	male	10	50,0%
	Other	0	0,0%
Mashonaland West	female	14	46,7%
	male	16	53,3%
	Other	0	0,0%
Midlands	female	10	50,0%
	male	10	50,0%
	Other	0	0,0%

52% of all respondents were female. Gender statistics for the different Age groups can be seen in the table labeled 'Age groups by Gender' above. In the substantive questions there is no evidence of women responding according to gender groupings.

4.10 Province

Table 11 Provincial Representation

Question 10 (Province)		
	Frequency	Percent
Bulawayo	20	19,8
Manicaland	11	10,9
Mashonaland Central	20	19,8
Mashonaland West	30	29,7
Midlands	20	19,8
Total	101	100,0

Mashonaland West had 29.8% of the total respondents whilst Manicaland had the lowest at 10.9%.

5.0 Conclusion

This report highlights the recommendations from victims and survivors of political violence during major conflicts. While this survey produces a snapshot of victims and survivors' opinions and expectations, it is not comprehensive. If the intent is for the NPRC as well as the TJ framework to be victim-centred then a national, comprehensive research that is suitably resourced needs to be administered to elicit recent sentiment and expectations emanating from this constituency.

Participants' response to question 3 focused on 'How far back we should go', indicates that there should be a focus on dealing with the Gukurahundi atrocities and the resultant national silence on this period of our history. The process of operationalizing the NPRC and recent political events has opened up space for civil society and communities to begin the process of healing through truth-telling amongst other mechanism.

Speaking to question 6 which questions whether Zimbabwean society can deal with past human rights violations by using traditional conflict resolving methods to bring healing, reconciliation and peace to the community, A key point coming out of the focus group discussions was whether the churches and civil society could have a more prominent role other than the supportive role they have been foisted in. "*takabva kure ne*

NGO Forum *panyaya idzi dze transitional justice*⁹.” How does civil society ensure a satisfactory outcome for victims and survivors in these national processes? Indeed, over 90% of participants were open to both the NPRC and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms working in tandem. This signifies a willingness by the constituency to work with other actors over and above the national processes with considerations to the preparatory work done by civil society within the communities. It could also signify a lack of trust in national processes as responses to the question on the independence of the commission indicated.

Considering the dichotomy in participants’ agency (63.4% community, 22.8% political institutions and 13.9% civil society) the 72.3% response rate in the negative in regards to the independence of the commission from governmental and political influence, was interesting. This could indicate a belief that the NPRC will not change the plight of the victim or survivor for the better.

The operationalizing of the NPRC can be taken as a positive sign that Zimbabwe is attempting to move forward by breaking the cycle of violence and dealing with the past. What remains to be seen is that, is there enough political will considering the political connotations of revisiting the major conflicts. Nonetheless the recommendations of the respondents of this survey are important in establishing what the people of Zimbabwe want to see in a transitional justice process that could foster true national reconciliation.

⁹ The above sentence is translated as “we have come far on this journey with the NGO Forum”

6.0 Appendix

Dear Sir / Madame,

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum has been advocating for the implementation of transitional justice in Zimbabwe since 2010. The 2013 Zimbabwean Constitution has established the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) to deal with past systematic human rights violations like Gukurahundi. The NPRC has started its work in 2018.

This survey wants to capture the opinion of various stakeholders about the NPRC in general and specifically about dealing with the past issues in Zimbabwe. The Forum will include the results in a research paper, which will be discussed at a symposium organised by the Forum.

The questions will take only 5 minutes of your time. The survey is anonymous.

Thank you for your cooperation!

1. *What do you think are the most important issues in Zimbabwe when dealing with past human rights violations? Please indicate your opinion by checking only the items you deem very important*

- To know the truth of what has happened and why it has happened
- To bring the persons who have committed human rights violations to the court
- To compensate the victims, survivors and their dependants
- To enable memorialisation, e.g. via museums, a memorialisation day etc.
- To reform the police, the security, the army and the justice systems
- To pay special attention to women victims, survivors and their dependants

2. *How far back should dealing with past human rights violations go in the history of Zimbabwe?*

- Back to the time when Zimbabwe was a colony of Britain
- Back to the time after the Unilateral Declaration under Ian Smith
- Back to the time during the Gukurahundi era, after independence
- Back to 2000

3. *The NPRC has the mandate to bring healing, justice and reconciliation to the people of Zimbabwe regarding past human rights violations. Are you satisfied with the current activities of the NPRC?*

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

4. *What do you think: Is the independent NPRC free of political influence and the government?*

- Yes, absolutely
- Yes, partially
- No

5. *Do you think the NPRC has enough skilled staff and budget to successfully deal with past human rights abuses?*

- Yes

- No
- I don't know

6. Should the Zimbabwean society deal with past human rights violations by using traditional conflict resolving methods to bring healing, reconciliation and peace to the community?

- Yes, dealing with past violations should be done using traditional conflict resolution methods only
- No, that's the exclusive work of the NPRC only
- Yes, the society should use both traditional and non-traditional methods like the NPRC and judicial courts

7. In which major capacity have you answered the above questions? I answered as a member of the...

- Community (citizen, victim/ survivor of human rights violations, dependant of a survivor, media)
- Civil society (working groups or associations dealing with past human rights violation, NGOs)
- Political establishment (policy maker, member of a political party, member of a trade union, etc)

8. How old are you?

- 16 - 35 years
- 36 - 45 years
- 46 - 55 years
- 56 + years

9. What's your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Other

10. Which Province do you come from (where you call home)?

- Bulawayo
- Harare
- Masvingo
- Matabeleland North

- Matebeleland South
- Mashonaland Central
- Mashonaland West
- Mashonaland East
- Midlands
- Manicaland
- Diaspora