



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

A society which promotes and
protects all human rights of all
people.



Zimbabwe
HUMAN RIGHTS
NGO Forum

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Jestina Mukoko | Chairperson

As we look back, we see that it was not an easy journey. Along the way, the Forum has won so many friends who believe in the work that we are doing. We are grateful to our funding partners who support the work we do. //

Message from the Chairperson

This year we enter the second decade of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum's (the Forum) existence. In this report, while we highlight the things achieved in 2017, we also reflect on the long journey that began 20 years ago in 1998, when a few members began this journey. It was supposed to be a provisional arrangement to deal with an urgent crisis. But the more we looked deeper, the clearer it became that this was not going to be a quick fix. From 1998 to 2000, Zimbabwe would sink deeper into gross violation of human rights. Today, 20 years later, we look back and we see there is much more to be done.

But, we are not blind to some of the good things achieved. We have over the years become a much more coordinated Forum, expanding our work to areas previously ignored.

In 2017 we welcomed our 22nd member, Veritas. The more we are, the easier it is to push ahead the human rights agenda.

Some friends, we have lost. We pay tribute to our giants who have been with us and have gone to rest. We remember former Executive Director Eileen Sawyer whose work for human rights remains a big inspiration for the new generation of human rights activists.

As we present this report, we present the fruits of the efforts of thousands of human rights defenders across the country who wish to see our people living in human dignity. May you find in these little gestures the inspiration to continue the good work of defending human rights.

Jestina Mukoko
Chairperson

Message from the Executive Director

The human rights terrain in Zimbabwe has certainly shifted in the past 20 years. In some areas things have improved. We now have an expanded bill of rights and citizens have been empowered with knowledge of these rights and are claiming such rights with the help of many good people across the country. In other areas however, things have become worse. Our country finds itself sliding to worse economic times with the government showing total disregard for the rights of the people. Independent institutions have been created in the last few years with the mandate to advance human rights. Most of these institutions are a direct result of the Forum's lobby and advocacy efforts towards strengthening the framework for greater protection of human rights in the country. The emergency of the independent commissions supporting democracy under Chapter 12 of the Constitution, has created opportunities for civil society to have more impact in human rights advocacy. New international human rights platforms have allowed us to push to reforms domestically. The UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has been welcomed by many stakeholders as an effective tool for governments to hold each other accountable. Zimbabwe has been through the review twice starting off in 2011. The Forum's presence in these platforms has been of positive impact.

As we reflect on these milestones, we also plan on how best we can ensure to take full advantage of our new reality here in Zimbabwe following the departure of former president Robert Mugabe. We remain hopeful that better days will soon be with us and justice for victims of human rights violations will be achieved.



Blessing Gorejena
Executive Director



Blessing Gorejena | Executive Director

As the Forum embarks on the next decade, the hope is that many people will become more and more aware of their rights and raise their voices.

In this report, we have documented such similar initiatives that have led to victims to rise and confront their perpetrators and demanded justice. This has been done through litigation, petitions and research aimed at exposing perpetrators. Thousands of cases have passed through our lawyers and have been argued in our courts as well as in regional courts. //

THE ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM: 20 YEARS ON

Tony Reeler

Founding Chairperson of the Forum

Who would have guessed when Eileen Sawyer, Mike Auret, Tony Reeler and Rhoda Immerman sat down in 1997 to talk about setting up a “*human rights forum*” that this would eventually become an organisation still fighting for human rights 20 years later? The original idea proposed by the Amani Trust was to create a space where organisations and citizens could come together and talk about human rights. However, the idea had to be translated into direct action the following year with the Food Riots, and the violations that were taking place.



A hurried meeting at Synod House led to the establishment of an ad hoc group tackling the problems - killings, beatings, mass arrests, etc. The group finally called itself the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, and was composed of the:

- Amani Trust
- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)
- Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)
- Transparency International-Zimbabwe (TI-Z)
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)
- Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA)
- Legal Aid Unit of the University of Zimbabwe

The first actions were to characterise the work of the Forum: legal and psychosocial support to victims, careful documentation, preparation of reports, and both advocacy and lobbying. A preliminary report - *Human Rights in Troubled Times: An Initial Report on Human Rights Abuses During and After Food Riots in January 1998* - was prepared and taken to the New York meeting of the UN Human Rights Committee. The result was the first of many uncomplimentary resolutions about the Zimbabwe government’s human rights record.

This preliminary report was followed up by a more comprehensive investigation, and the filing of legal suits against the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) for unlawful killings, torture, assault, and

illegal arrests and detention. What were to eventually become the Legal Unit and the Research Unit were set up in the Amani Trust offices, and many young lawyers and activists cut their teeth working in these Units.

The next challenge for the Forum came with the 2000 elections and all the subsequent by-elections and national elections. The challenges were immense, difficult and dangerous, but the Forum and its members rose to the challenge in such a determined way that Zimbabwe is now the best-documented human rights crisis ever.

A small initiative by the Amani Trust, to document the 39 legal petitions arising from the 2000 elections, and undertaken by three very brave young American interns, led to the publication of the Monthly Political Violence Reports (MPVR). By the time that the Forum stopped publishing these in 2008, 108 monthly reports had been published. They became the standard reference across the world for determining the political and human rights climate of Zimbabwe.

The Legal Unit flourished and grew, and, complemented by the work of the ZLHR developed a unique approach to dealing with human rights violations and civil suits. If the state would take no criminal action, then the Forum would use the courts in another way. This highly innovative approach has led many eminent human rights lawyers and activists to hold the innovation in high regard.

Research became another important weapon in the struggle for human rights, and the embryonic Research Unit grew and expanded. From an initial

focus on documenting human rights, it developed analytical capacity, stretched into the field of transitional justice, and the reports just flowed. By 2009, the end of the first decade of the Forum, more than 40 detailed reports had emerged out of the Forum and more than 70% of the reports on human rights violations in Zimbabwe emanate from the Forum and its members.

And the membership grew too. From the initial eight organisations, more and more organisations joined, and now stand at 22 organisations. These members too have expanded the human rights work in many different and creative ways.

If the first decade was marked by documentation, legal and psychosocial support, and extensive international advocacy and lobbying, the second decade has been marked by the steady growth of the demand for transition justice, and the Forum has been a prime mover. Beginning with the groundbreaking international symposium in 2003, there has been steady progress in developing a strategy and understanding the needs and desires of the survivors.

This has probably had an influence on the constitution-making process and the establishment of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC). It has most certainly resulted in the setting up of the National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG), now supported by 95 organisations around the country.

Zimbabwe's history is replete with examples of how small beginnings lead to large outcomes. Think about the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), the Women's Movement, the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, and many more. The Forum is yet another example of this, and, looking back through its history, all those that have walked the journey, whenever they joined it, have justifiable reason to be proud of what it has achieved. We can only hope that the story will be told one day in greater detail than is possible here.

ABOUT THE FORUM

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (the Forum), was established 20 years ago in 1998. The Forum came into existence following the State's repressive response to the 1998 Food Riots. From an initial membership of eight (8) human rights organisations in Zimbabwe, the Forum has grown from strength to strength to 22 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.

In addition to its membership, the Forum liaises closely with partner organisations. Our partnerships are reaching beyond the borders of Zimbabwe. We have partners with institutions that range from citizen initiatives, informal traders, government entities, development partners, student movements, UN bodies and academic institutions. These are a testimony of our work beyond just us. Our products have received international recognition and been listed by credible academic institutions, including Stanford University, among many others.

The Forum also continues 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), where it is a focal point. The Forum has also ensured that the human rights situation in Zimbabwe remains on the local, regional and international agenda through participation at foras such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the UPR.

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.

Projects of the Forum are implemented through three main units namely the:

- Transitional Justice Unit (TJ)
- Public Interest Unit (PIU)
- Research and Documentation Unit (RU)

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

Its programming evolves around four major focus areas which are:

- Monitoring, Research & Documentation
- Litigation
- Transitional Justice Advocacy
- Lobby and Advocacy (at national, regional and international levels).

Working with and through its members, the Forum produces analytical and/or factual reports on political violence and topical human rights issues; documents incidences of political violence; litigates

on behalf of victims of organised violence and torture, conducts research and advocacy on transitional justice, peace building and conflict transformation trainings and carries out lobby and advocacy activities locally, regionally and internationally.

The Forum has a deep-rooted conviction in the inherent dignity, the equality and inalienable rights of all human beings as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace. As a result, the Forum continues to demonstrate its strong belief in social responsibility and consciousness in defending the rights, dignity and equality of all.

LEGAL STATUS, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Forum exists as a common law universitas, governed by the board of directors in terms of the Constitution of the Forum.

OUR VISION

A society which promotes and protects all human rights of all people.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership and coordination on the Human Rights Agenda in Zimbabwe.



CORE VALUES

- **Professionalism** - reflected in integrity, objectivity, accuracy, effective communication and trustworthiness.
- **Commitment** - reflected in our dedication to the promotion and protection of all human rights
- **Effectiveness** - reflected in excellence of service.

BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

The Executive Director of each of the twenty-two member organisations serve on the Board of the Forum with operational activities overseen by a Management Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair and three elected committee members. The Executive Director is an ex-officio member of the Board and the Management Committee.

BOARD MEMBERS AND MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Ms. R. Muzerengi <i>Amnesty International Zimbabwe</i>	Mr. Paul Muchena <i>Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe</i>	Mr. Wellington Mbofana <i>Civic Education Network Trust</i>
Dr. Frances Lovemore <i>Counselling Services Unit</i>	Mr. Chesterfield Samba <i>Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe</i>	Ms. Petronella Nyamapfene <i>Justice for Children</i>
Ms. Debraah Barron <i>Legal Resources Foundation</i>	Mr. Tabani Moyo <i>Media Institute of Southern Africa - Zimbabwe</i>	Mr. John Stuart <i>Non-violent Action and Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC)</i>
Ms. Patience Zirima <i>Media Monitors</i>	Kudakwashe Chitsike <i>Research and Advocacy Unit</i>	Mr. Simbarashe Moyo <i>Students Solidarity Trust</i>
Ms. Muchaneta Mundopa <i>Transparency International Zimbabwe</i>	Val Ingham-Thorpe <i>VERITAS</i>	Ms. Jenni Williams <i>Women of Zimbabwe Arise</i>
Chief Edson Chihota <i>Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender</i>	Mr. Calvin Fambirai <i>Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights</i>	Ms. Michell Duma <i>Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust</i>
Mr. Okay Machisa <i>Zimbabwe Human Rights Association</i>	Ms. Roselyn Hanzi <i>Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights</i>	Ms. Jestina Mukoko <i>Zimbabwe Peace Project</i>
	Ms. Abigail Matsvai <i>Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association</i>	

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following are members of the Management Committee:

- Jestina Mukoko: Chairperson
- Chesterfield Samba: Vice Chairperson
- Kudakwashe Chitsike: Committee Member
- Abigail Matsvai: Committee Member
- Cousin Zilala: Committee Member



INTRODUCTION

This report presents the work of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum for the period beginning January 2017 to December 2017. The report takes into account the strategic pathway which drove the organisation and the operational challenges it faced together with its members. In addition, the human rights challenges, key interventions and challenges will be outlined.

In March 2017, the Forum held its strategic review in light of the changing economic, social and political dynamics. The new strategy was comprehensive since it took into account important factors that brought the Forum together. Active membership and commitment to the Forum was strengthened. In addition, the relevance of engaging all state actors and government in the advocacy and lobbying for the promotion and protection of human rights for all citizens was emphasised. To this end, there was a consensus to ensure that the Forum continues to provide coordination and leadership of the human rights agenda in Zimbabwe.



PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2017

This section highlights the work and milestones of the Forum through the Secretariat.

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

The Forum, through the PIU, litigates on behalf of the victims of human rights violations. The aim of impact litigation is to challenge impunity, ensure greater accountability and influence behavioural change in the perpetrators as well as contributing to policy reform.



Litigation seeks to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To assert the rights of the most vulnerable members of the society who are often unable to stand up against the injustices on their own.
- To combat impunity and ensure accountability.

Over the past two decades, the Forum has stood side by side with over 16 000 victims of organized violence and torture, processed over 7 000 civil matters in the local courts, won over US\$160 000 as compensation for victims. The Forum has litigated against ordinary individual perpetrators, the police, the army, the Ministers of Home Affairs, Defence, state security and against anyone who has been implicated in human rights violations. Beyond the borders, The Forum has litigated at the now defunct SADC

Tribunal in Case No. SADC (T) 05/2008 (Gondo and 8 others vs. the Government of Zimbabwe). The Forum sued the Government of Zimbabwe for failing to comply with the High Court rulings in favour of victims of organized violence and torture.

The Forum has also litigated against the government of Zimbabwe at the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). In all these cases, the Forum has broken the myth that perpetrators of human rights violations are untouchable. The Forum has forced institutions to climb down and admit to their wrongs and given thousands of victims a sense of justice and dignity. The Forum has restored belief in justice even in the most unjust conditions. The Forum has reached-out to marginalized communities through mobile legal clinics, pushed for reform of institutions

and worked towards strong regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

Litigation in 2017

In pursuit of the objective of combating impunity and ensuring accountability the following were the interventions by the Forum lawyers in 2017.

THE FORUM'S LITIGATION EFFORTS



The table below shows some of the cases won by the Forum in 2017:

TABLE 3: Judgements obtained in 2017

Date	Parties	Details of the Case	Award
08/10/17	<p style="text-align: center;">State vs. Amos Kaliati and 2 Others CR507/8/10/17</p>	<p>Client is an MDC-T activist who was involved in civic education in Chitungwiza with other MDC-T supporters. They clashed with members of ZANU PF who abducted and assaulted client and his family; maliciously damaged his property and looted some. Client was abducted and taken to one Betty Dokora's home, the local ZANU PF Councillor, where he was subjected to further assault before he was handed over to the police. He was further tortured and subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment by the police before charging him with public violence. He was detained in hospital. The Forum intervened and secured his release on bail.</p>	<p>Granted Bail</p>
24/10/17	<p style="text-align: center;">Sihle Ncube vs. City of Harare and 2 Others HC 855/ 17</p>	<p>Client is a victim of negligence by the City Council after she fell in an uncovered and unmarked City of Harare storm drain. As a result of the fall she sustained numerous fractures on her legs. With the assistance from the Forum, she filed a claim against the city council claiming damages for the pain and suffering from the injuries she sustained. The City Council offered to pay before the matter could go for trial. Ms Ncube is an indigent member of society, who ordinarily could not have afforded the cost of issuing summons against the city council to get justice for the violation she suffered. The Forum was able to facilitate for that. (See picture next page of Ms. Ncube with her judgement award)</p>	<p>\$3,000.00</p>

Date	Parties	Details of the Case	Award
08/11/17	Paul Maunganidze vs. Solomon Makombe and 9 Others HC 2898/ 09	Client is a 2008 victim of organised violence by ZANU PF supporters. He was severely assaulted with whips resulting in him sustaining permanent injuries to his back. He is now unable to carry out heavy manual work, which is part of his daily routine as he is a farmer. With the assistants from the Forum, Mr. Maunganidze was able to successfully sue the perpetrators for damages.	\$2,500.00
13/12/17	Murambiwa Mudzamatira vs. Tellme Banda HC 6875/ 16	Client is a victims of organised violence by ZANU PF supporters resulting in him sustaining fractures to his facial bone and had to undergo surgery to rectify the damage. He successfully sued for damages against the perpetrators, with the assistance from the Forum.	\$6,650.00



Sihle Ncube in the middle with her judgement award flanked by her lawyer Mr. Kenias Shonai on the left and the Forum Executive Director Ms. Blessing Gorejena on the right

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY TO DEMAND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Pursuant to the objective of empowering the most vulnerable members of society to assert and claim their rights the Forum, carried out several initiatives, which include:

a. Conducting Mobile Legal Clinics

Mobile Legal Clinics (MLC) are aimed at improving access to justice to all by bringing lawyers close to the people, the long term goal being to equip individuals and communities to be able to demand for justice and hold the State and non-state actors accountable for their actions. The clinics also assisted in raising general awareness on the rights and freedoms citizens are entitled to and equip them with the relevant knowledge on how to assert and demand for those rights and freedoms. In addition, the program was able to bridge the gap between society and the Forum through talking the Forum to the communities resulting in the in the Forum

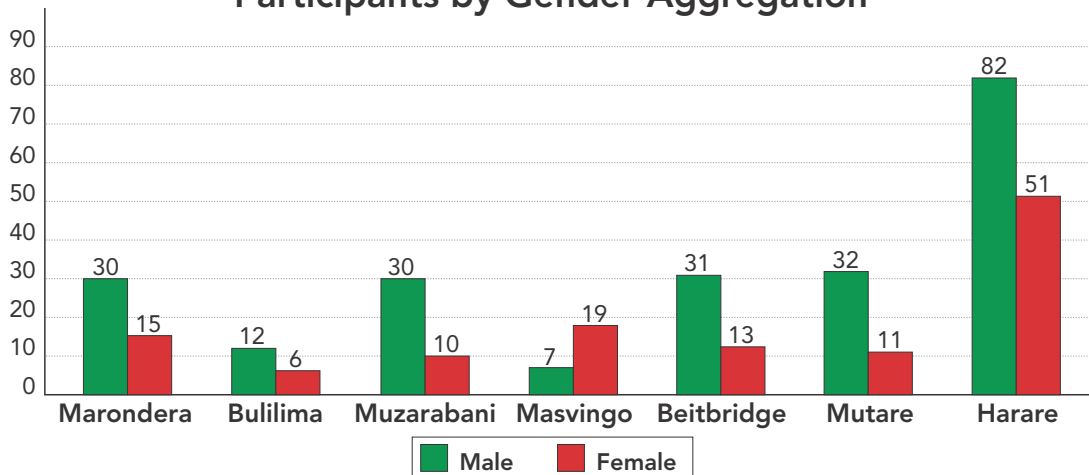
adopting a context specific approach to its interventions. In 2017:

- A total of seven (7) MLCs were conducted in Marondera, Bulilima, Muzarabani, Masvingo, Beitbridge, Mutare and Harare, respectively;
- The clinics were conducted in collaboration with member organisations that include: ZimRights, ZADHR, LRF, ZWLA, ZACRO, ZPP, AI (Z) and TI-Z;
- A total of 681 people (212 males and 119 females) visited the clinics for various legal advice.

Summary of Legal Clinics conducted in 2017

Geographical Area	Male	Female	18 years & below	19 - 30 years	31 - 64 years	65 years	Total
Marondera	30	15	1	8	36	-	90
Bulilima	-	-	-	9	4	5	18
Muzarabani	30	10	-	7	21	2	70
Masvingo	7	19	2	1	21	2	52
Beitbridge	31	13	1	17	26	-	88
Harare	82	51	8	31	81	13	266
Mutare	32	11	-	23	26	5	97
Total	212	119	12	96	215	27	681

Participants by Gender Aggregation



Advice was sought on the following issues:

- Family law in particular issues relating to domestic violence, divorce, custody, and maintenance, inheritance
- Application for peace orders in domestic matters
- Labour matters directly linked to the declining economy to which various employers were taking advantage of
- Selective application of law by police officers in politically motivated matters, where police actions were biased in favour of one political party namely ZANU PF perpetrators
- Partisan distribution of aid, be it from government and or donors. Such cases of denial of food aid were forwarded to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) for investigation
- Advice on issues of organised violence and torture that occurred in 2008. This was most prevalent in Muzarabani.

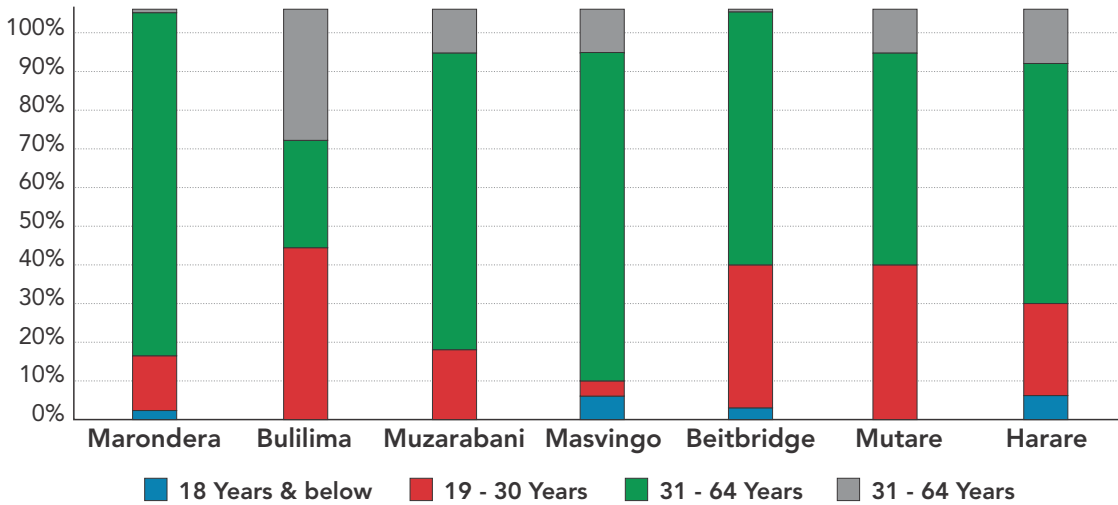
Muzarabani, situated in Mashonaland Central was one of the hot spot for violence in previous electoral cycles. Most of the people in Muzarabani were unable to report these cases to police for fear of retributive violence, such most of the cases prescribed.

The Forum also distributed information, educational and communication (IEC) materials on human rights produced by the Forum and its membership.



Beitbridge Mobile legal clinic

Participants by Age



b. Commemorating the Africa Human Rights day

One of the major highlights was the mobile human rights clinic held in the Epworth suburb of Harare in commemoration of the 25 October Africa Human Rights Day. The commemoration ran under the theme *“Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth.”* The main objective of the clinic was to enable members of the Forum to interact with communities particularly the youth. The human rights clinic also took opportunity to capitalize the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process that was taking place in all parts of Zimbabwe. Proof of residence forms (V.R. 9 Forms) were available for distribution on the day and a Commissioner of Oaths from the PIU was present to commission affidavits.



Participants getting human rights materials from the Forum desk at the Epworth Human Rights Clinic

c. A Service to the Community

Following the introduction of the BVR and the challenges that citizens faced regarding the proof of residence requirements, the Forum lawyers in partnership with organizations such as Zimbabwe Elections Support Network (ZESN) and the Election Resource Center (ERC) assisted in commissioning affidavits for proof of residents to enable citizens without the other forms of proof of residence register to vote.

HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

The Forum carries out extensive research on key thematic human rights issues, documents and publishes human rights violations, produces tools for human rights education and advocacy and empowers citizens with knowledge. Over the past two decades, over 240 reports have been published. Additionally, over 160 human rights bulletins have been published on various human rights themes with an average circulation of 5 000 copies every month and 6 000 downloads from the Forum website.

In 2017, the Forum partnered with Zimbabwe Citizen Initiative (ZCI) to create Ziso/Ililho, a digital tool that allows ordinary citizen to document and report human rights violation in real time via text messages, WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter. The Forum's advocacy initiatives have reached beyond the borders, influencing policy up to United Nations level through the Universal Periodic Review.

REPORTS

The Forum produced the following reports:

a. Transitional Justice in pre-transitional times: Are there any lessons for Zimbabwe

The report sought to answer the question *"What transitional justice processes and mechanisms are possible in a State where gross human rights violations continue to be perpetrated with no genuine political transformation and where the state is predatory, authoritarian and violent"*. However, there does not seem to be a single transitional justice mechanism that could have been possibly applied pre-transition that has not been applied. The report was launched on 23 March, 2017 at SAPES Trust where a public dialogue to interrogate transitional justice in Zimbabwe was conducted.



Participates at the SAPES Policy Dialogue on Transitional Justice in Zimbabwe



Book Launch of the TJ in Pre-transitional times: Are there any lessons for Zimbabwe

b. State of Human Rights Report 2016

The report detailed the human rights situation in Zimbabwe in 2016. The report was used as an advocacy tool during the Human Rights Council session in March 2017.

MONTHLY POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REPORTS

The Forum produced a total of 10 evidence based monthly political and human rights violations reports. The monthly human rights report is a monitoring tool that tracks and documents trends in human rights violations and developments on a monthly basis. The information used is derived from the PIU, the Ushahidi platform, member and partner organisations and verified press reports.

Press Releases

In 2017, the Forum released nine press statements and information alerts to either commemorate international human rights days or to respond to socio-economic and political developments with an implication on the promotion and protection of human rights in Zimbabwe.

The major highlight in this area was the statement released by the Forum on 15 November 2017 following the military coup wherein the Forum called for an urgent return to constitutionalism.

STATEMENTS AND ALERTS PRODUCED IN 2017

18 January

Statement on Violence in Bikita West

03 April

Statement on Torture in Gutu

08 - 22 May

Statement to the 60th Session of the ACHPR

26 June

Statement on UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture

27 August

Statement on International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances

21 October

Statement on Africa Human Rights Day

15 November

Statement Calling for Return to Constitutionalism Following the Military Coup

10 December

Statement on International Human Rights Day

12 December

Statement on human rights violations by members of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces

MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In 2017, the Forum launched the **Unified Digital Human Rights Violations Documentation System (UDHRVDS)** for systematic monitoring and documentation of human rights violations. The system incorporates the *Ushahidi* tool. The Forum partnered with the Zimbabwe Citizens' Initiatives (ZCI), a convergence of Zimbabweans all over the world.



The Forum Executive Director - Blessing Gorejena welcoming delegates present for the launch

A total of twenty-one voluntary human rights monitors drawn from the Forum membership are responsible for monitoring and feeding information into the system.

A human rights monitoring tool was developed to assist the monitors with the documentation process. The system operates under the code name Ziso/Ilihlo. It was also synchronized with WhatsApp and Facebook platforms and for admissibility of captured data, the system was tied to a GPRS system that verifies the actual location of the monitor and provides a map to enable determination of verified and unverified reports from the field. Since its inception in June, 145 reports were received via the system and 108 cases were verified.



The UDHRMRS System Unveiled

The system was configured on the 30th of April, 2017 and was launched on the 27th of June, 2017.

The event launch and the platform are available on

<https://www.voazimbabwe.com/a/3899482.html> through radio VOA-Shona and its facebook platform
<https://www.voashona.com/a/zimbabwe-human-rights-politics-ziso-ilihlosande/3919669.html>

The ZISO mobile number is: +263772232046

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN ZIMBABWE

The Forum has in the past 20 years, successfully stood with many victims and survivors of human rights violations as documented in this report. From 2003, the Forum led conversation on transitional justice leading to the Johannesburg Symposium on Civil Society and Justice in Zimbabwe, co-convened by the Forum and the Southern Africa Trauma Coalition. This was followed by the Options for Transitional Justice for Zimbabwe Workshop in 2008. Both meetings called for a comprehensive transitional justice policy that included a truth, justice and reconciliation commission.

In 2009, the Forum launched the taking transitional justice to the people programme which sensitised communities on available transitional justice options. This was followed by a major civil society campaign for a truth commission which led to the establishment of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) through the 2013 Constitution. In 2012 and 2013, the Forum convened two successive international conferences one of the outcomes, of which led to the establishment of the National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) in 2014 with the endorsement of 46 organisations. The Forum was tasked to coordinate the work of the NTJWG, which the Secretariat has done since 2014.



The Executive Director of the Forum, Ms. B Gorejena launching the Guide to understanding the NPRC in Masvingo

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY IN 2017

Through the NTJWG, the following were the
Milestones for 2017

Policy Analysis and Alternative Position Papers

Three publications were produced:

- An Analysis of the NPRC Bill
- Proposed Amendments to the NPRC Bill
- Factsheet on the NPRC Bill

Provision of Relevant and Timely Information for Stakeholders and Citizens

Three publications were produced:

- NPRC Watch - Third Edition
- How to kill a Commission at Birth - Op Ed in the Standard
- A Guide to Understanding the NPRC

Information Dissemination

- Two information kiosks
- Two stakeholder update meetings



*Hon Innocent Gonese addressing participants
at the Mutare NPRC Bill Information Kiosk*

Influencing Policy Dialogue

- Three high level policy dialogue meetings
- One on one meetings with key actors

CAPACITY-BUILDING

This section highlights the work and milestones of the Forum through the Secretariat.

TRAINING OF HRDS ON SECURITY AND PROTECTION

The Forum continued to collaborate with international partners such as Frontline Human Rights Defenders to strengthen the capacity of its membership and the broader civil society in responding to threats to their security and enhance their protection. One training workshop was conducted in Johannesburg, South Africa for 14 HRDs drawn from various organisations in Zimbabwe who were at risk of being targeted. The HRDs were equipped with the relevant tools and skills on how to respond and or deal with security issues.



Forum Executive Director, Blessing Gorejena conducting the training on HRDs security and protection

2

Training workshops with members of parliament

4

Training workshops on the NPRC Framework

LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Forum coordinated and participated at the 60th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) together with two of its members namely ZLHR and CSU. The session was held in Niamey, Niger. During the session, the Forum updated the Commission as well as other CSOs on the continent and beyond on the state of the human rights in Zimbabwe. The session was also an opportunity for the Forum to lobby for the enhancement of the normative framework for human rights regarding specific issues such as enforced disappearances and redress for torture victims as well as greater protection of human rights on the continent.

The specific interventions included:

- Participation in the 60th Ordinary Session of the African Commission (8th to 10th of May 2017);
- Presentation of a statement on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe during the public session of the Commission;
- Participation at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 60th Ordinary Session of the African Commission (4th to 6th of May 2017);
- Engagement with individual commissioners on key human rights issues in Zimbabwe in particular the issues of torture, enforced disappearance and the impending elections; shrinkage of civic space; persistent attacks on human rights defenders (HRDs);
- Participating at the various side events organised by other CSOs
- Participation at the litigants group meetings.



Participants and the litigants' General meeting, Soluxe Hotel, Niamey, Niger, 7 May 2017

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVOCACY

a. Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – Capacity Building for Stakeholders

In collaboration with the National Association for Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) and the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), the Forum provided training to 68 civil society organisations that participated in the UPR advocacy. The

organisations were training in the basic understanding of the UPR process, the reporting and monitoring framework. Several radio programmes were held through Radio VOP to raise awareness of the process and the outcomes of the 2017 review of Zimbabwe.

b. UPR Geneva Mission

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum successfully coordinated the 14 – 18 March 2017 UPR Advocacy Mission to Geneva. Five civil society organisations participated in the mission from Zimbabwe. These were Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights), Counseling Services Unit (CSU) and the National Association for Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO). The Forum in collaboration with CIVICUS organised a side meeting at the margins of the UPR session on Zimbabwe under the theme “*realising the impact of the UPR in the ground in Zimbabwe*”. The meeting was well attended by permanent missions in Geneva, representatives from the OHCHR, International civil society partners.



The Forum Executive Director, Blessing Gorejena, with Belinda Chinowawa, ZLHR Senior Project Lawyer; Teldah Mawarire from CIVICUS; Okay Machisa, Executive Director ZimRights; and Leonard Mandishare, Director NANGO addressing delegate at the UPR side meeting.

The UPR advocacy mission was largely successful in the following areas:

- Providing an update to the Human Rights Council on the general human rights situation in the country;
- Giving the alternative narrative on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe;
- Amplifying the voices of the victims in the Human Rights Council;
- Providing empirical data to inform debates by member states participating in the review of Zimbabwe;
- Exchanging knowledge and sharing information with international civil society working on Zimbabwean issues.

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION STATUS WITH NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

The Forum continue to work with key institutions and coalitions in the region, set to amplify human rights voices. At National level the Forum participates in the following platforms:

i. UPR Steering Committee

This is a platform hosted and coordinated by the Ministry of Justice. It brings together representatives of all stakeholders from government, parliament, independent commissions, police and civil society to monitor the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The Forum, ZLHR and NANGO represents civil society on this platform. During 2017 the Forum participated in the strategic planning, quarterly and feedback meetings of the steering committee, advancing the human rights agenda.

ii. Participation in the work of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission

The Forum continued to participate and in some instances collaborate with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) in its promotional mandate. Specifically initiatives that seek to raise awareness on the work and mandate of the ZHRC as well as publicising's its work and recommendation. As a demonstration of this valued collaboration, the Forum was nominated to sit in the ZHRC thematic working group on ratification and domestication of international treaties. It also sits on the Project Board of the ZHRC being coordinated by UNDP where it provides technical advice on project implementation.



Members of the UPR steering committee at a strategy meeting in Harare

iii. Regarding regional affiliations

The Forum continued its role as the Southern African Focal Point for the Coalition for an Effective African Court (African Court Coalition), spearheading advocacy work around strengthening of the African human rights system. It is also part of the Litigants Group which seeks to ensure greater compliance with the recommendations of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights by members states as well as advocating greater efficiency within the Commission in considering with communications.

Key institutions and coalitions in the region, set to amplify human rights voices.

iv. At Sub-regional Level

The Forum is part of the Southern African Human Rights Defenders' Network (Network) and coordinates the activities of the network as the national focal point. In 2017, the Forum participated in the strategic plan for the network where it contributed in the development of the priority areas for the Network.



Southern African Human Rights Defenders' Network steering committee and national focal point at a strategy meeting in Johannesburg

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

The following are highlights by some of the Forum membership:

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI)

AI-Z is a section of the Amnesty-International a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. The organisation campaigns for a world where all enjoys human rights.

CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE - ZIMBABWE (CCJP-Z)

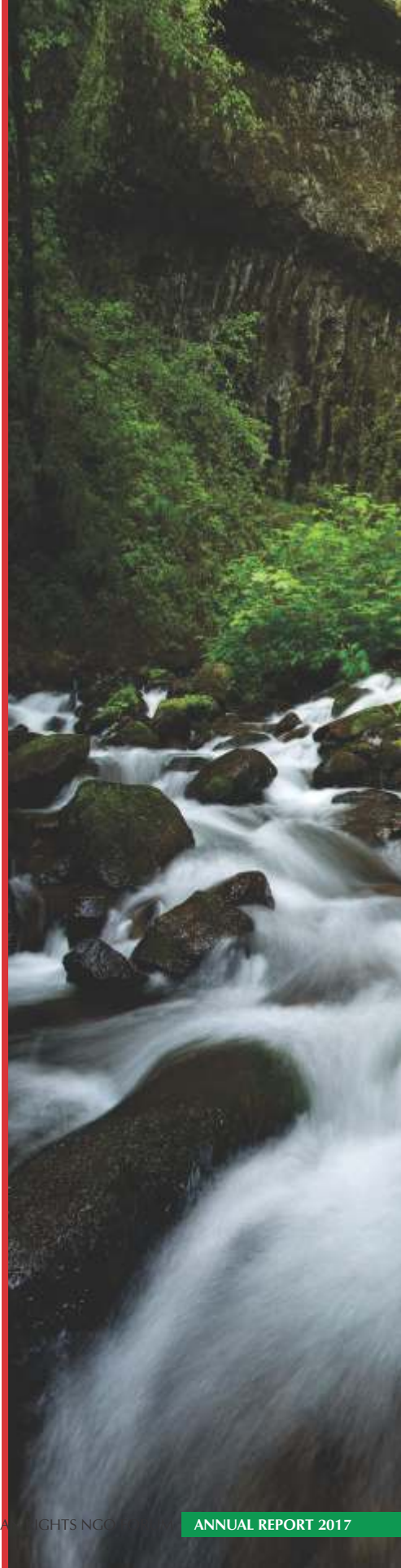
CCJP aims to inform people's consciences to make people aware of their rights and duties as citizens, to encourage love, promote the church's social teaching, to investigate allegations of injustice and to take appropriate action. It has offices in Harare, Bulawayo, Binga village and Mutare. It has also established a "Justice and Peace Committee" in each diocese.

CIVIC EDUCATION NETWORK TRUST (CIVNET)

CIVNET's main mission is to empower citizens and promote peace through participatory civic education and leadership development. Its main activities in 2014 included citizen participation, peace building where people divided by conflict were made to reach out to each other mending the broken relations and leadership development programme which builds on the leadership skills of leaders and those who show potential during the execution of community projects.

i. Main Highlights

CIVNET implemented leadership development programme where it trained 26 leaders of 12 youth organizations from Harare province. The year-long programme comprised of three residential modules of one week each, two home phases of three months each, field work and institutional development workshops and seminars. The course content includes human rights, conflict transformation and peace building.





COUNSELLING SERVICES UNIT (CSU)

CSU aims to provide the best possible medical and psychological care for victims of organised violence and torture, and to work for the complete elimination of torture in Zimbabwe. It also works to build awareness of chronic mental health disabilities and carry out forensic documentation of medical and forensic injuries. It also carries out research, prevention, training and advocacy activities. It operates through five programmatic sectors Counseling; Education/Training; Health; Human Rights and Victim Support.

GAYS AND LESBIANS OF ZIMBABWE (GALZ)

GALZ exists to promote, represent and protect the rights and interests of LGBT community through advocacy, lobbying, empowerment, education, research and provision of safe spaces in order to influence positive attitudes of the broader society.

Main highlights

- GALZ participated in the programmes for Men who have sex with Men (MSM) under the Global Fund in partnership with Ministry of Health and childcare, the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), National AIDS Council (NAC) and civil society. This culminated in issues affecting key populations such as sex workers and MSN being addressed in the new Global Fund grant.
- Participated and contributed in the COP16 by PEPFAR for MSM targets and programming in five sites around Zimbabwe namely Mutare, Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru and Masvingo.
- Partnered with Sexual Rights Centre and Population Service International to mobilize 1512 MSM for prevention and testing. A total of 926 MSM were tested of HIV nationwide. A total of 103 were put on Pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV infection.
- At least 8 safety and security trainings were carried out in 2017 in at least five sites namely Harare, Marondera, Chinhoyi, Kadoma and Kwekwe were combined, Masvingo and Bulawayo with the support of Zimbabwe lawyers for Human Rights.

- A total of 221 LGBTI persons went through personal safety as well as digital safety training.
- At least 40 of the cases reported on personal safety were from gay and bisexual men, followed by Lesbian and bisexual women on 33 and Transgender men and women at 22.
- Carried out 13 sensitization trainings with 347 participants in Harare, Marondera, Gweru and Bulawayo to understand LGBTI persons; their health needs and provide various service as well as psychosocial support. The groups comprised of Journalists, healthcare workers, Religious leaders and civil society organizations.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN (JC)

JC ensures access to justice and the enjoyment of human rights by all children below the age of 18 years through the provision of legal aid to children in difficult circumstances.

Main highlights

- JC provided legal services to a total of 10264 clients and females constituted the bulk of the clients with a total of 7519 females seeking legal services. Some of the clients were represented at court with others being empowered and to litigate as self-actors whilst 4650 and 1901 clients were provided legal advice by paralegals. The highest number of cases stemmed from child support cases with a total of 3008. Mutare Office had the highest number of child support cases at 1532. The high number of child support cases recorded can be attributed to referrals by the JSC civil courts.
- Child sexual abuse (CSA) cases amounted to 106 cases with rape,

constituting 37 of the cases. 187 children in conflict with the law (CICWL) cases were handled. It was noted that children end up on the wrong side of the law due to the urge to experiment, lack of parental supervision and guidance. 57 of the criminal offences committed by children were rape cases. Out of 187 cases 61 children were represented in court by JC lawyers.

- Diverted 80 cases out of 187 received of the total children in conflict with the law cases received to Pre Trial Diversion. The multi-sectoral approach in handling cases of children in conflict with the law has increasingly resulted in children being diverted from due process. The approach has seen children being rehabilitated and reintegrated back into communities as opposed to incarceration on petty issues like theft of a cell phone and minor assault thereby promoting restorative justice rather than punitive justice.
- Is implementing the Children's access to justice' project under the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children III (NAP for OVC III) with support from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and UNICEF.



Epworth ZRP Junior Corp marching for the rights of the girl child in Epworth on the Day of the African Child

LEGAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION (LRF)

LRF aspires to improve access to justice and promote human rights in Zimbabwe through the provision of legal and civic education/information; offering legal services; promoting law and policy reform and citizen participation in governance; monitoring human rights abuses and training service providers in the justice system and public sector.

Main Highlights

- 47,501 people reached through LRF's legal education activities (outreaches, community leaders' workshops, conversation cafés), 61% being female.
- 34% of people who visited LRF for legal assistance came after attending one of the LRF's educational events or being referred to a relative who had attended one.
- 6,651 people came to the LRF for legal assistance and 5,704 matters were resolved within the year.
- 2,652 self-actors were guided and 2,005 succeeded in having their cases resolved.
- LRF was the lead in the consortium providing services through Help Desks at 23 Courts around the country. On average, 1,100 people were assisted monthly.
- Created platforms for CBOs and the community to interface with elected officials in 3 provinces that is Masvingo, Midlands and Manicaland.
- Established 76 centres as community-based libraries for the distribution of IEC material.



The LRF facilitating dialogue between the community and the ZRP

- Produced 88,100 IEC materials for distribution through the education work. Amongst the results achieved was village heads using the pamphlets as reference material when discussing legal issues such as inheritance with their constituents and
- 159 prison officers were trained on UN minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners.

MISA-ZIMBABWE

MISA-Zimbabwe's mission is to lobby and advocate for an environment that fosters the enjoyment of and access to information by every person, through an independent, ethical, sustainable and diverse media.

Main Highlights

- *MISA convened a meeting between media organisations led by MISA Zimbabwe Trustee Cris Chinaka and the Zimbabwe Republic Police led by Police Spokesperson Senior Assistant Commissioner Charity Charamba in December, 2017.*
- Managed to sustain lobby and advocacy for media law and policy reforms, on the national agenda, resulting in government through the Ministry of Information, conceding that the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and Broadcasting Services Act (BSA), were not in sync with the Constitution and should be amended.

MEDIA MONITORS (MM)

- The mission of Media Monitors is to ensure citizens access quality information through media monitoring, research and knowledge management in a sustainable manner. The organisation conducts media monitoring and analyses trends in the Zimbabwean media.

Main Highlights

- Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe rebranded to Media Monitors.
- Launched an online digital library titled Newseum which provides access to historical media in Zimbabwe.
- Increased the availability of evidence-based data on the media that has been used to strengthen media capacity building and advocacy.
- Produced several reports on media performance including a ground-breaking baseline on how women in leadership are represented and a report on how the media reported the military intervention (Operation Restore Legacy), among other reports.

NON - VIOLENT ACTION AND STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

NOVASC provides technical and practical support for developing skills for negotiation, mediation and nonviolent action. It carries this through training activities and intervention/accompaniment in specific situations. Its vision of social change is of a process led by organisations representing people who are marginalised, poor, excluded, mistreated and the alienated. Its work is to strengthen such organisations and to input into their strategising the specific skills its espouses.

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY UNIT

RAU's mission is to conduct and share research on human rights and governance issues, particularly those pertaining to women, children and state institutions, that is used to achieve legal and policy changes to promote a democratic Zimbabwean culture.

Main Highlights

- Produced 21 reports, 32 blogs, 11 opinion pieces, and 3 policy briefs.
- Was closely involved with the campaign on proportional representation of women and the continuing campaign to end child marriage.
- Actively involved in the National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG).
- RAU maintained its role as a political commentator, producing a political economy analysis in August, and in collaboration with SAPES Trust, provided running overviews of the coup in November 2017.

STUDENTS SOLIDARITY TRUST

SST's mission is to be the centre of solidarity excellence for tertiary students in Zimbabwe through providing demand driven solidarity to the students movement. SST also undertakes research and policy analysis on students issues and advocates for national policy reforms.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ZIMBABWE (TI-Z)

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)

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

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

ZIMBABWE ASSOCIATION FOR CRIME PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION OF THE OFFENDER (ZACRO)

ZACRO's mission is to prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders in order to have peace in the society.

Main Highlights

- Trained HIV and AIDS Peer Educators.
- Trained and established HIV and AIDS Support Groups.
- Conducted awareness sessions on HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health, PMTCT, Paediatric Art Literacy, Gender based violence, Grooming and Basic primary health.
- Trained inmates and officers on various livelihoods projects.
- Provided livelihood input starter packs for ex-inmates.
- Facilitated family tracing and reunion for ex-inmates - reconciliation, relative identification and family relations strengthening.
- Coordinated advocacy workshops with the Zimbabwe Association of Organisations Working in Prison-identifying issues affecting inmates and

ex-inmates and brought them to the attention of Prison authorities, Parliamentarians, Civil Society and Communities.

ZIMBABWE DOCTORS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (ZDHR)

ZADHR exists to lobby and advocate for the right to health as a constitutional right, positively influence policy based on cutting edge research and analysis, hold the government accountable for issues on health and human rights, share knowledge and information on health issues and provide strategic services.

ZIMBABWE CIVIC EDUCATION TRUST (ZIMCET)

ZIMCET endeavours to build an empowered peaceful society through civic education, voter education, advocacy and lobby meetings and campaigns, drama, seminars, workshops, focus group discussions, radio and television programmes and other activities.

Main Highlights

- Mobilized its community based animators to attend some of the public hearings conducted by Parliament on the NPRC and gave feedback on these hearings at a breakfast meeting organized for Parliamentarians by the NTJWG.
- Was accredited by ZEC to conduct voter education on the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) and conducted voter education in Glen View and Mufakose residential suburbs.
- Participated in the development of a Civil Society Election Strategy document by

members of Zimbabwe Elections Support Network (ZESN). The main goal of the strategy is to contribute to the successful delivery of credible elections which are an important factor in the consolidation of participatory democracy in Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (ZIMRIGHTS)

ZimRights' mission is to use a grassroots based approach in promoting, protecting and defending people's rights through education, information, legal aid counseling, networking, lobbying and advocacy.

ZIMBABWE LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (ZLHR)

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.

ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT (ZPP)

ZPP's mission is to work for sustainable peace through monitoring, documentation, advocacy, and community peace building interventions with members and partners.

Main Highlights

- Appointed to sit on the ZHRC thematic working group on civil and political rights.
- Produced a policy brief on the use of food and other aid as a political weapon.

- Launched and published a report on the impact of political violence on persons with disabilities (PWDs).
- Facilitated peace building initiatives in Chiredzi, Mutoko and Binga where peace ambassadors are actively resolving conflict, ensuring peace and enabling community cohesion.



ZPP-Community engagement

ZIMBABWE WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (ZWLA)

ZWLA's mission is to develop, defend and pursue women's human rights at local, regional and international level through lobbying and advocacy, provision of legal aid services, legal education, professional and capacity development for the primary benefit of women as well as children and membership. ZWLA has offices in Harare, Bulawayo, Rusape, Murewa, Chinhoyi, Gwanda, Gweru, and Hwange.

Main Highlights

- Hosted a policy dialogue on gender-based violence in public places in collaboration with LRF and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission;
- Collaborated with the National Prosecution Authority to review the Termination of Pregnancy Act and advocated for its amendment;

- Partnered with Women and Land in Zimbabwe aiming to unpack the roles and duties of Traditional Leaders in the Traditional Leaders Act, Communal Land Act and the Constitution in regards to Women and Land;
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Parliament of Zimbabwe. This partnership will enable ZWLA to ensure gender mainstreaming and recognition of women's rights in the law making process;
- Participated in the women's march demanding equality and non-discrimination as provided in section 56 of the Zimbabwean Constitution;
- Launched an Action Research publication on Domestic Violence;
- Introduced the Goromonzi help desk;
- Hosted an Annual Women Lawyers Conference aimed at sharing experiences and learning the practical application of the law on deceased estates, legal drafting, court advocacy and legal writing.

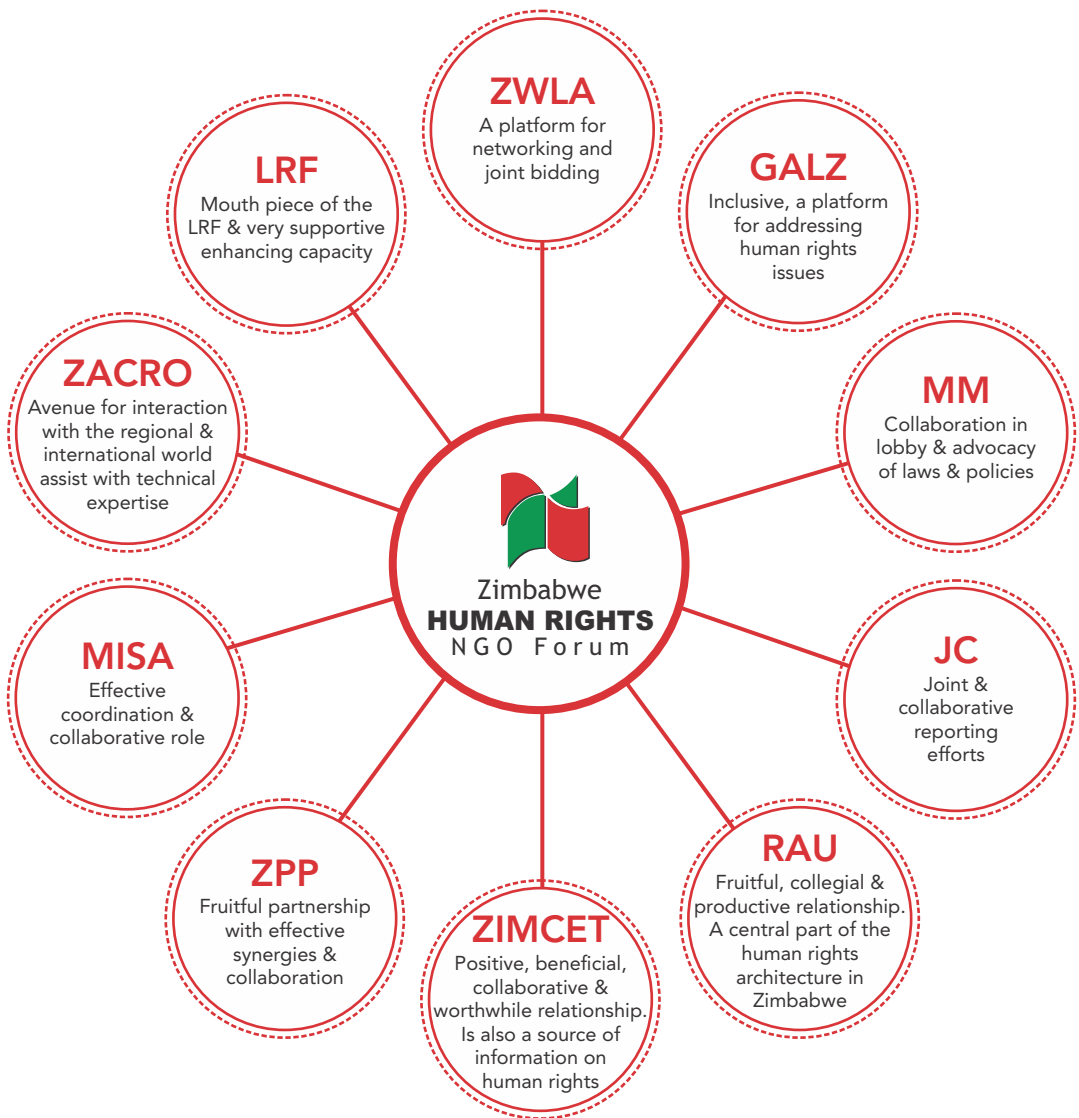
MEMBER ORGANISATIONS 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGES

The year 2017 proved to be a very difficult year for most member organisations due to dwindling donor support. However, as evidenced by the milestones enumerated above, financial challenges did not stop most organisations from executing their mandates. Most remained afloat and very productive.

MEMBERS' REFLECTIONS ON THE FORUM AT 20 YEARS

The members also reflected on their journey with the Forum. Below is a summary of the reflections by some of the Forum's membership.



FUNDING PARTNERS

The work by the Forum was made possible by the continued generous financial and moral support from its partners namely:

- Embassy of Switzerland
- GIZ CPS Programme
- PACT Zimbabwe.
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- The Royal Netherlands Embassy and
- TRACE

The Forum is greatly indebted to its partners, particularly for their understanding and unwavering support to the long term goal of its work amidst the challenges in the political, legal and economic environment the Forum was operating under. In spite of the changes in the leadership of the Forum, there was no interruption in the work of the Forum and the funding partners expressed confidence in the new leadership.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017



NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The main objective of the Forum is to provide legal and psycho/social assistance to the victims of organised violence and torture, and to document, research and report on human rights violations.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jestina Mukoko Chairperson
Chesterfield Samba Vice Chairperson
Abigail Matsvai
Kuda Chitsike
Couzin Zilala

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Blessing Gorejena

REGISTERED OFFICE

Suite 4, 1 Raleigh Street, Harare, Zimbabwe

MAIN BANKERS

Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe
Minerva Branch
Harare

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

BDO Zimbabwe Chartered Accountants
3 Baines Avenue
Harare

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Management Committee is responsible for the content and integrity of the financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is their responsibility to ensure that the financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the Forum as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended, in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The Management Committee acknowledges that it is ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the Forum and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the Committee to meet these responsibilities, the Management Committee set standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or loss in a cost effective manner. The accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the Forum and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the Forum's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach.

The focus of risk management in the Forum is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the Forum. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the Forum endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

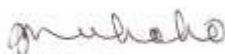
The financial statements are prepared in

accordance with appropriate accounting policies consistently applied. The Management Committee is of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

In preparing the financial statements, the Management Committee is responsible for assessing the Forum's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The Management Committee has assessed the ability of the Forum to continue operating as a going concern and believe that the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis is appropriate.

The external auditors are responsible for independently reviewing and reporting on the Forum's financial statements. The financial statements have been audited by the Forum's external auditors and their report is presented on pages 3 to 4.

The financial statements and notes there to set out on pages 43 to 54, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the Management Committee and were signed on their behalf by:



Jestina Mukoko
Chairperson



Blessing Gorejena
Executive Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the **ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM** set out on pages 43 to 54 which comprise the statement of financial position at 31 December 2017, the statement of income and expenditure, the statement of changes in reserves and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS NGO FORUM** as at 31 December 2017, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Forum in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Zimbabwe, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Committee Members

The committee members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as the committee members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the committee members are responsible for assessing the Forum's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Forum or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that included our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Forum's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Forum's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Forum to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



BDO Zimbabwe
Chartered Accountants
Registered Public Auditors

14 May 2018

Kudenga House
3 Baines Avenue
HARARE

BDO Zimbabwe, a Zimbabwean partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee and forms part of the International BDO Network of independent member firms.

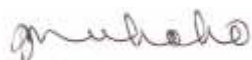
A list of partner names is available for inspection at our registered office, No. 3 Baines Avenue, Harare.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 US\$	2016 US\$
ASSETS			
Non Current Assets			
Vehicle and Equipment	4	27,216	4,493
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	5	3,444	2,352
Bank and Cash Balances		403,509	139,750
		406,953	142,102
Total Assets		434,169	146,595
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES			
Reserves			
Revaluation Reserves		31,000	-
Accumulated Fund		378,198	99,181
		409,198	99,181
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	6	24,971	47,414
Total Reserves and Liabilities		434,169	146,595

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors
on 14 May 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



JESTINA MUKOKO
Chairperson



BLESSING GOREJENA
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 US\$	2016 US\$
INCOME			
Grants received	7	733,605	856,514
Interest received		-	57
Other income		23,788	23,083
		757,393	879,653
EXPENDITURE			
Programme expenses - Research Unit		26,357	95,004
Programme expenses - Public Interest Unit		54,966	78,695
Transitional Justice expenses		50,102	175,560
Amnesty Netherlands International: Economic Social and Cultural Rights		23,028	18,964
National Peace and Reconciliation Commission		-	93,960
HIVOS		-	59,687
Transport costs		21,401	21,742
Salaries and staff costs	8	223,293	305,789
Operational costs		69,548	88,835
Consultancy, evaluation and auditing		9,681	31,876
Total Expenditure		478,376	970,112
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		279,017	(90,459)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Revaluation Reserves US\$	Accumulated Funds US\$	TOTAL US\$
Balance as at 31 December 2015	-	189,640	189,640
Deficit for the year	-	(90,459)	(90,459)
Balance as at 31 December 2016	-	99,181	99,181
Revaluation surplus	31,000	-	31,000
Surplus for the year	-	279,017	279,017
Balance as at 31 December 2017	31,000	378,198	409,198

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 US\$	2016 US\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating Cash Flows			
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		279,017	(90,459)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of vehicles and equipment		8,277	9,303
Profit on sale of equipment		-	(5,000)
Cash flows before changes in working capital		287,294	(86,156)
Working capital changes			
Increase in Accounts receivable		(1,092)	(1,661)
(Decrease)/ Increase in accounts payable		(22,443)	39,851
Net cash generated/ (utilised) from operating activities		263,759	(47,966)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of equipment		-	(322)
Proceeds from disposal of equipment		-	5,000
Net cash flows from investing activities		-	4,678
INCREASE/ (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		263,759	(43,288)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		139,750	183,038
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	9	403,509	139,750

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2017

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Nature of Operations

The main objective of the Forum is to provide legal and psycho/social assistance to the victims of organised violence and torture, and to document, research and report on human rights violations. The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum is a coalition of 21 human rights NGOs in Zimbabwe. It was formed 1998.

1.2 Programme Units

The Forum operates under three Programme Units, which are as follows:

- a). Research and Documentation Unit - Monitors human rights violations, carries out human rights research, documents human rights violations and disseminates human rights literature to citizens.
- b). Public Interest Unit - Advocates and lobbies for promotion and protection of human rights for all citizens through provision of legal advice and litigation assistance to citizens.
- c). Transitional Justice Unit - Advocates and lobbies for the promotion and protection of human rights for all citizens through promotion and awareness raising on Transitional Justice.

1.3 Currency

The Forum's functional and presentation currency is the United States of America dollar (US\$)

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of financial statements are set out below. The policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are entity specific and are not intended to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

2.2 Income Recognition

2.2.1 Grants Received

Income from grants is recognised on a receipt basis.

2.2.2 Interest Income

Interest Income is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and effective interest rate applicable.

2.3 Financial Instruments

2.3.1 Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are measured at amortised cost less provision for impairment loss.

2.3.2 Accounts Payable

Accounts payable are measured at amortised cost

2.4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise of bank balances and amounts due from and to other banks.

2.5 Vehicles and Equipment

Vehicles and Equipment are initially measured at cost. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amounts or recognised as separate assets, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the items will flow to the entity and the costs can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance costs are charged to the statement of income or expenditure during the period in which they are incurred.

Subsequent to initial measurement, vehicles and equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Their useful lives and residual values are assessed annually. Annual depreciation is charged proportionately over the remaining useful life of an asset where its carrying amount is higher than its residual value. If the carrying amount is lower than the residual value, no depreciation is charged. The Forum acquires its assets with the intention to use them for their entire useful lives. Hence their residual values were assessed as US\$ nil.

Subject to the above vehicles and equipment are depreciated on a straight line basis over the remaining useful lives as follows:

- Motor Vehicles 20%
- Office Equipment 20%
- Furniture and Fittings 20%
- Computers 33.33%

Impairment of Vehicles and Equipment

The carrying amount of vehicle and equipment is reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. Impairment loss is recognised directly through the statement of income or expenditure when the carrying amounts of the assets exceed the fair values of the respective assets.

Derecognition of Vehicles and Equipment

An item of vehicles and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from use or disposal.

2.6 Post Employment Benefits

Contributions to defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the statement of income and expenditure in the year to which they relate.

2.7 Income Tax

The Forum is not liable for corporate tax as it is exempt in terms of the Third Schedule to the Income Tax Act (Chapter 23:06)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Motor Vehicles US\$	Office Equipment US\$	Furniture & Fittings US\$	Computer Equipment US\$	TOTAL US\$
4. VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT					
Net carrying amount as at 31 December 2015	6,495	5,953	2,240	(1,214)	13,474
Gross carrying amount - cost	53,892	36,193	28,612	74,966	193,665
Accumulated depreciation	(47,399)	(30,240)	(26,372)	(76,180)	(180,191)
Additions	-	170	-	152	322
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Cost	(26,000)	-	-	-	(26,000)
Accumulated depreciation	26,000	-	-	-	26,000
Depreciation charge for the year	(5,498)	(2,414)	(615)	(776)	(9,303)
Net carrying amount as at 31 December 2016	997	3,709	(1,625)	(1,838)	4,493
Gross carrying amount - cost	27,894	36,363	28,612	75,118	167,987
Accumulated depreciation	(26,897)	(32,654)	(26,987)	(76,956)	(163,494)
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation surplus	31,000	-	-	-	31,000
Depreciation charge for the year	(2,945)	(3,708)	(1,624)	-	(8,277)
Net carry amount as at 31 December 2017	29,052	1	1	(1,838)	27,216
Gross carrying amount - cost	58,894	36,363	28,612	75,118	198,987
Accumulated depreciation	(29,842)	(36,362)	(28,611)	(76,956)	(171,771)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 US\$	2016 US\$
5. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		
Staff debtors	-	618
Prepayments	-	1,734
Netherlands Amnesty International reimbursement	3,444	-
	3,444	2,352
6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		
Salaries	17,219	-
Accruals	7,752	47,414
	24,971	47,414
7. GRANTS RECEIVED		
Norwegian Embassy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	-	232,694
German Institutions in Zimbabwe (formerly GTZ)	-	70,000
German Institutions in Zimbabwe (formerly DED)	61,707	56,450
Sigrid Rausing Trust (charitable donation)	213,630	203,755
Embassy of Switzerland	60,506	38,418
Pact	31,464	197,019
Amnesty Netherlands International	23,028	18,763
Trace	188,645	34,415
IOM	22,472	5,000
Royal Netherlands Embassy	132,153	-
	733,605	856,514
8. SALARIES AND STAFF COSTS		
Salaries	187,573	406,681
Administration interns	2,872	4,500
National Social Security Authority	10,753	16,848
Medical aid	20,567	32,225
Staff pension	-	45,969
Staff development	1,144	1,792
Staff expenses	384	602
	223,293	508,617
Salaries allocated to:		
Programme expenses - Research Unit	82,632	58,998
Programme expenses - Public Interest Unit	97,510	68,349
Transitional Justice expenses	43,151	75,481
	223,293	305,789

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 US\$	2016 US\$
9. BANK AND CASH BALANCES		
Oxfam Novib US\$	-	-
MFA US\$ Account	8,984	99,344
GIZ US\$ Account	-	-
Co-operative Bank US\$ Account	-	(985)
Co-operative Bank Norad Account	-	-
Co-operative Bank Novib Account	-	-
DFID Cn312	-	-
DFID 6A Bank	-	-
EU Bank Account	-	586
British US\$ Bank A-C	-	-
Stanbic US\$ Acc 9	41,368	34,419
Stanbic US\$ Acc 12 - HIVOS	-	32
Stanbic US\$ Acc 13 - TJN WG	127,560	332
Stanbic US\$ Acc 14 - GIZ CORE	9,656	258
Stanbic EU US\$ - 914 0001926305	348	5,719
Stanbic US\$ - 9060002912827 - AMNESTY	213,690	-
Stanbic US\$ - 9140001926305 - PACT	194	-
Petty cash account	1,709	45
	403,509	139,750

10. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

There were no significant events which occurred from the reporting date to the date of approval of these financial statements.

Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Management Committee on 14 May 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	US\$	€	Kroner	£
2017 GRANTS BREAKDOWN				
Norwegian Embassy				
14 December 2017	132,153	-	1,250,000	-
	132,153	-	1,250,000	-
German Institutions in Zimbabwe				
08 February 2017	11,240	-	-	-
23 March 2017	3,460	-	-	-
23 June 2017	18,610	-	-	-
08 September 2017	15,335	-	-	-
14 December 2017	13,062	-	-	-
	61,707	-	-	-
Pact				
03 March 2017	23,661	18,354	-	-
08 August 2017	7,803	2,828	-	-
	31,464	21,181	-	-
Sigrid Rausing Trust (Charitable donation)				
31 December 2017	213,630	-	-	165,000
	213,630	-	-	165,000
Amnesty Netherlands International				
09 May 2017	19,584	-	-	-
31 December 2017	3,444	-	-	-
	23,028	-	-	-
International Organisation for Migration				
22 May 2017	22,472	-	-	-
	22,472	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	US\$	€	Kroner	£
2017 GRANTS BREAKDOWN (continued)				
TRACE				
31 January 2017	17,207	-	-	-
16 March 2017	34,461	-	-	-
29 June 2017	35,954	-	-	-
09 September 2017	36,560	-	-	-
30 November	64,463	-	-	-
	188,645	-	-	-
The Swiss Confederation				
25 October 2017	60,506	-	-	-
	60,506	-	-	-



Zimbabwe
HUMAN RIGHTS
NGO Forum

FORUM INFORMATION

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Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe
Minerva Branch, Harare
Zimbabwe

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

BDO Zimbabwe Chartered Accountants
3 Baines Avenue, Harare
Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe
HUMAN RIGHTS
NGO Forum

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