



**NATIONAL
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
WORKING GROUP
ZIMBABWE**

**Archival Reference Group Meeting Report
Holiday Inn, Harare
28 October 2019**

Introduction

On the 28th of October 2019 the Archival Reference Group had a meeting at Holiday Inn Harare. The meeting was attended by a total of fifteen people representing Grace to Heal, CIVNET, Media Monitors, Zimbabwe Peace Project, CCJP, Gweru Residents Forum, Tell Zimbabwe, RAU and the Secretariat of the Working Group. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- a. Update members of the Archival Reference Group on the archival project;
- b. Give members of the Group an opportunity to access and explore the functional archive;
- c. Review the NTJWG strategy and identify gaps relating to archival.

Summary of Proceedings

The meeting was kicked off by a round of introductions facilitated by Tony Reeler. He made opening remarks in which he emphasized the importance of the human rights archive for purposes of documenting past human rights abuses. He also said that the archive will be a very important resource in telling the history of Zimbabwe as there will be documents, photos, audios and videos to buttress whatever will be said about our history as a nation to create memory and these are not as easy to manipulate as story handed down from one generation to the other. In the opening remarks Tony Reeler also pointed out how distorted history in Zimbabwe is in respect of the liberation war as an example which distorts memory.

The next session was led by Mr Dzikamai Bere who had the task of giving a presentation on the NTJWG Strategy. He began by acknowledging the death of Wilson Mangisi who was the Gweru Residents Forum representative and he will now be replaced by Charles Mazorodze. He also introduced Lorraine Chakuzira to the Group as the Archival Consultant who will be forming part of the Secretariat and will be responsible mainly for the archive. After the introduction Mr Bere unpacked the NTJWG Strategy for the group. He then explained that the Group would be required to elect a chairperson to head it. The chairperson will be responsible for giving strategic direction in the implementation of the Group's action plan in line with the NTJWG Strategy. Mr Bere then invited volunteers that were willing to take up that

mandate and Farisai Chaniwa and Thando Mahaja volunteered. They were asked to leave the room while other participants voted. In their absence the meeting resolved that voting seemed improper in light of their willingness to avail themselves showing by volunteering. It was then agreed that the leader of the group would be selected by giving them both the chance to draw straws and the one who drew the long straw would be the chairperson and the one with the short straw would be their deputy. Through this method Farisai Chaniwa became the leader of the Archival Reference Group.

Lorraine Chakuzira was then given the platform to update the group on the progress made in terms of the archival project since the last meeting. She gave the following update

- The archive is up but accounts for the members of the group have not been created yet thus far they can only access it as members of the public;
- The archive currently has eight hundred (800) documents in total;
- Thematic areas have been added as filters on the archive;
- Trainings on how to operate the archive have been done in all the provinces;
- The archive has been expanded to include videos, photos and audios

Ms Chakuzira trained the participants on how to use the archive showing them how to upload documents, delete documents and save documents without publishing them. Participants raise the following concerns about the archive:

- There is need to have checks and balances for the publication of articles on the archive to ensure the quality remains good;
- The documents uploaded in pdf form must be made searchable;

Outcomes of the meeting

The archival reference group meeting had the following outcomes:

- The members of the Archival Reference Group were given an update members on the archival project;
- The members of the Archival Reference Group were given an opportunity to access and explore the functional archive;
- The NTJWG strategy was reviewed and gaps relating to archival identified which lead to the formulation of an action plan for the group.