



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



NATIONAL  
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE  
WORKING GROUP  
ZIMBABWE

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### Published by

The National Transitional Justice Working Group of Zimbabwe

Suite 4, Number 1 Raleigh Street

P. O. Box 9077, Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: +263 4 770177/8, 772860

Email: [info@ntjwg.org.zw](mailto:info@ntjwg.org.zw)

[www.ntjwg.org.zw](http://www.ntjwg.org.zw)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



*“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, however, if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”*

These words by Maya Angelou adequately capture the task that NTJWG stakeholders have before them – to face history with courage.

NTJWG, during the reporting period, has made itself available to the call to coordinate the work on transitional justice in Zimbabwe. This is essentially a movement to encourage our nation to confront its past with courage. We are glad to note in this report that this work is gathering speed.

In the face of adversity, we have seen progress from both government and civil society. As we close the year 2017, we recall on the challenges that we defeated through various collaborative efforts among stakeholders. While the implementation of the constitutional provisions on transitional justice has been slow, stakeholders have stepped in to fill in the gaps and encourage policy makers to live up to their calling to

duty. The greatest challenge so far has been the slow pace of operationalising the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission. At the centre of the operationalisation of the NPRC is the legal framework that is set to get the wheels into motion.

The level of commitment and zeal demonstrated by the stakeholders in their various areas of expertise was encouraging for the group.

In November 2016, NTJWG, because of the work of stakeholders, was privileged to be invited by the Office of the President and Cabinet during the process of revising the NPRC Bill. True to our task, we reached out to stakeholders all over the country. Two meetings were organised in Harare and Bulawayo to analyse the revised Bill. Stakeholder travelled from Bulawayo and Manicaland to attend the government-led consultative meeting on the revised Bill. The discussions were candid, honest and fruitful. Most of the submissions from that meeting found themselves in the revised Bill.

February 2017 saw the re-entry of the NPRC Bill in Parliament and it was received with frank and honest analyses. Our Secretariat, with the help of our funding partners reached out to stakeholders who did justice to the Bill. Reflective meetings were organised with Parliament and NTJWG managed to raise the dialogue to transcend partisan politics.

Several parliamentarians invited NTJWG to come to their constituencies to continue the dialogue.

The content of the dialogue sessions facilitated by NTJWG greatly influenced the debate in Parliament.

As we close the year, there is a real possibility that the NPRC Bill, which has passed both houses, will now be signed by the President. We keep moving forward. Ground work for

the entry of the NPRC into communities has started with the launch of the NPRC Guide in Masvingo in October 2017 and a series of meetings with commissioners and stakeholders.

For all this progress, we thank the resolute support from our stakeholders and funding partners; your input remains priceless and important in achieving our mandate. The same can be said about the NTJWG Secretariat for their commitment to service.

**Mr. Alec Muchadehama**  
*NTJWG Chairperson*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The work of the NTJWG in the period 2016 to 2017 has seen stakeholders pushing back on the government, rejecting the initial NPRC Bill and mobilising communities to voice their concerns. In early 2017, NTJWG invited stakeholders to a planning workshop in Harare. 37 organisations responded to that call and a comprehensive strategy was produced.

We have seen in this year, a number of publications that have had significant impact on the process. Six publications were produced in the year 2016 to 2017. These were the Analysis of the NPRC Bill (February 2017), State of Transitional Justice in Zimbabwe Report (March 2017) NPRC Bill Factsheet (March 2017) NPRC Watch Third Edition (March 2017), NTJWG Statement on the NPRC Bill Public Hearings (March 2017) and the Guide to Understanding the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (October 2017).

NTJWG also launched the National Human Rights Archival Project. By the time of the compilation of this report, two meetings had been held with stakeholders and recruitment for the project team had started.

Work on influencing transitional justice

policy continued. Notable in this area are a series of publications that followed the second coming of the NPRC Bill, a number of dialogue sessions with Parliament and stakeholders and training workshops with the Parliamentarians.

We also worked on our digital platforms, revamping the NTJWG website, introducing the NTJWG Newsletter and expanding on our mailing list from 68 subscribers to 138 subscribers. Further, there was a rise in monthly website visits which averaged 1500 views. NTJWG through its various platforms, publications and face to face interaction has been able to interact with over 28 000 people.

Our stakeholder engagement saw a significant rise geographically and numerically. The number of active organisations increased from 37 organisations in January 2017 to 97 in October 2017. NTJWG increased its decentralisation with stakeholder engagement meetings in Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo, Mutare and Mutasa.

Press coverage of NTJWG increased with reports appearing in various media outlets such as the Zimbabwe Independent, the Southern Sun, The Standard, and Newsday and for the first time on the ZTV during News hour.

We end the year with the news that the NPRC Bill passed both houses necessitating the need for ground work ahead of the NPRC. This is why NTJWG has now launched the Guide to Understanding the NPRC on 20 October 2017 in Masvingo at a meeting attended by 26 organisations.

With this progress in mind, the year ahead has more action as we build on these achievements.

**Ms. Blessing Gorejena**  
*Head of Secretariat*

# ABOUT US



**NATIONAL  
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE  
WORKING GROUP  
ZIMBABWE**

The National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) is a platform established by 46 Zimbabwean organisations representing various transitional justice stakeholders to provide the interface between transitional justice stakeholders and the official transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe.

## VISION

A peaceful, just, accountable and democratic society.

## MISSION

To create inclusive space for the coordination of transitional justice stakeholders, share experiences; build synergies for comprehensive, accountable, victim-centred and participatory transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe.

## VALUES

In pursuit of this vision, the NTJWG will be guided by the following values:

### **Integrity:**

Professionalism, Commitment, Truth, Transparency, Diligence, Honesty, Confidentiality

### **Inclusivity:**

Involving everyone regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, age, sexuality, belief, ideology and geography

### **Impartiality:**

Non-partisanship, Independence, objectivity

## MEMBERS



**Mr. Alec Muchadehama**  
*Chairperson/Reparations*



**Mr. Paul Themba Nyathi**  
*Deputy Chairperson*



**Ms. Memory Kachambwa**  
*Gender*



**Rev. Dr. Fradereck Chiromba**  
*Promotion of Truth*



**Ms. Roselyn Hanzi**  
*Justice and Accountability*



**Rev. Dr. Ray Motsi**  
*Memorialization*



**Mr. Anthony Reeler**  
*Independent Expert /  
Institutional Reform*



**Mr. Otto Saki**  
*Independent Expert*



**Ms. Samukeliso Khumalo**  
*Independent Expert*

## **SECRETARIAT**



**Blessing Gorejena**  
*Head of Secretariat*



**Dzikamai Bere**  
*NTJWG Coordinator*



**Fortune Kuhudzehwe**  
*Research Consultant*

*“The NTJWG is a culmination of the efforts of many stakeholders dating back to the symposium on Civil Society and Justice in Zimbabwe.”*



# NTJWG AT A GLANCE

October 2016 - October 2017

The process of influencing transitional justice policy in Zimbabwe requires a multipronged approach. These include motivating for a suitable legislative framework, creating and promoting the best practices, coordination of

1

## Policy Analysis and Alternative Position Papers

### Three Publications:

- i. An Analysis of the NPRC Bill
- ii. Proposed Amendments to the NPRC Bill
- iii. Factsheet on the NPRC Bill

2

## Provision of Relevant and Timely Information for Stakeholders and Citizens

### Three Publications:

- i. NPRC Watch – third Edition
- ii. How to kill a Commission at Birth - Op Ed in the Standard
- iii. A Guide to Understanding the NPRC

### Three Publications:

- i. Two information kiosks
- ii. Two stakeholder update meetings
- iii. NTJWG Website, Facebook and Twitter

stakeholders, capacity building for key actors and provision of relevant timely information. In this report, we offer an impact driven analysis of NTJWG interventions for the year 2016 to 2017. At a glance, the following are the milestones.



3

### **Capacity Building**

- a. Two training workshops with members of parliament
- b. 4 training workshops on the NPRC Framework



4

### **Influencing Policy Dialogue**

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

*Influenced the content  
of the NPRC Bill*

**Influenced the  
substance of the debates  
on the NPRC Bill**

## **2017 MILESTONES**



**Built a non-partisan  
coalition of  
Parliamentarians ready  
to champion the  
cause of the NPRC**

**Provided tools for  
stakeholders to  
participate in policy  
formulation**

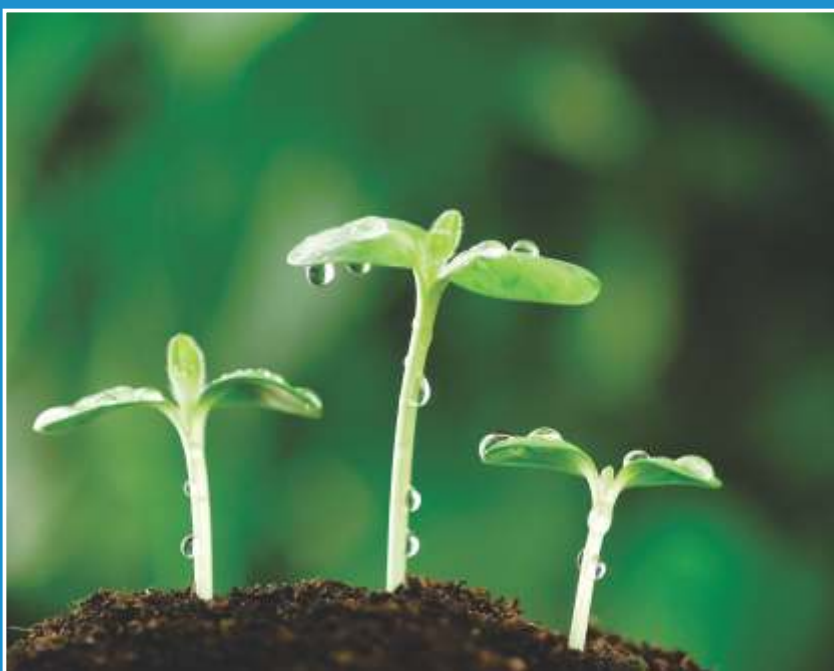
**Created dialogue  
platforms on transitional  
justice**

# NTJWG PARTICIPATION MATRIX

NTJWG reach has increased by 90% in the year 2016 to 2017.

Officially NTJWG was established in 2014 by 46 organisations. The number of organisations participating in NTJWG activities increased between 2015 and 2016 to 49. This year, the number has increased from 49 in October 2016 to 95 in October 2017.

This increase is a result of the strategy by NTJWG to decentralise its activities. This has seen NTJWG working with stakeholders to organise activities in Mutare, Mutasa, Masvingo, Gweru and Bulawayo.



PROVINCE	ORGS IN OCT 2016	NEWS ORGS	ORGS BY OCT 2017
Masvingo	5	23	28
Bulawayo	6	10	16
Harare	28	-15	13
Gweru	4	17	21
Manicaland	6	11	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>95</b>

## Key Observations

- NTJWG stakeholders are now represented in at least five provinces
- The highest increase was in Masvingo Province
- Participation of Harare organisations reduced from 28 organisation to 13 organisations
- 6 organisations that had been working with NTJWG have closed shop

## SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER

“Has participation affected processes?”

The NPRC Bill Public Hearings held by the Parliament of Zimbabwe from 10 March 2017 to 17 March 2017. Prior to the public hearings, NTJWG published the analysis of the NPRC Bill, and distributed 5 000 copies across the 10 provinces. Another 3 000 were distributed to 36 community based organisations who held meetings with communities analysing the Bill. NTJWG Coordinator, Dzikamai Bere published an opinion piece in the Standard of 19 March 2017. On 3 April 2017, NTJWG held a reflective meeting with three Parliamentary Committees that were driving the public

hearings. The meeting reviewed the public views, analysed the Bill and came to certain agreed positions on how the Bill must look like. When Parliament resumed sitting, NTJWG prepared the draft amendments to the Bill for Parliamentarians. These were presented by selected Parliamentarians during debate. An analysis of the public views as reported by Parliament, the debates in Parliament and recorded in the Hansard, and the Bill that passed the senate reveals that NTJWG interventions affected the process in the following ways:

1

Views of the public during the hearings were influenced by NTJWG information material

2

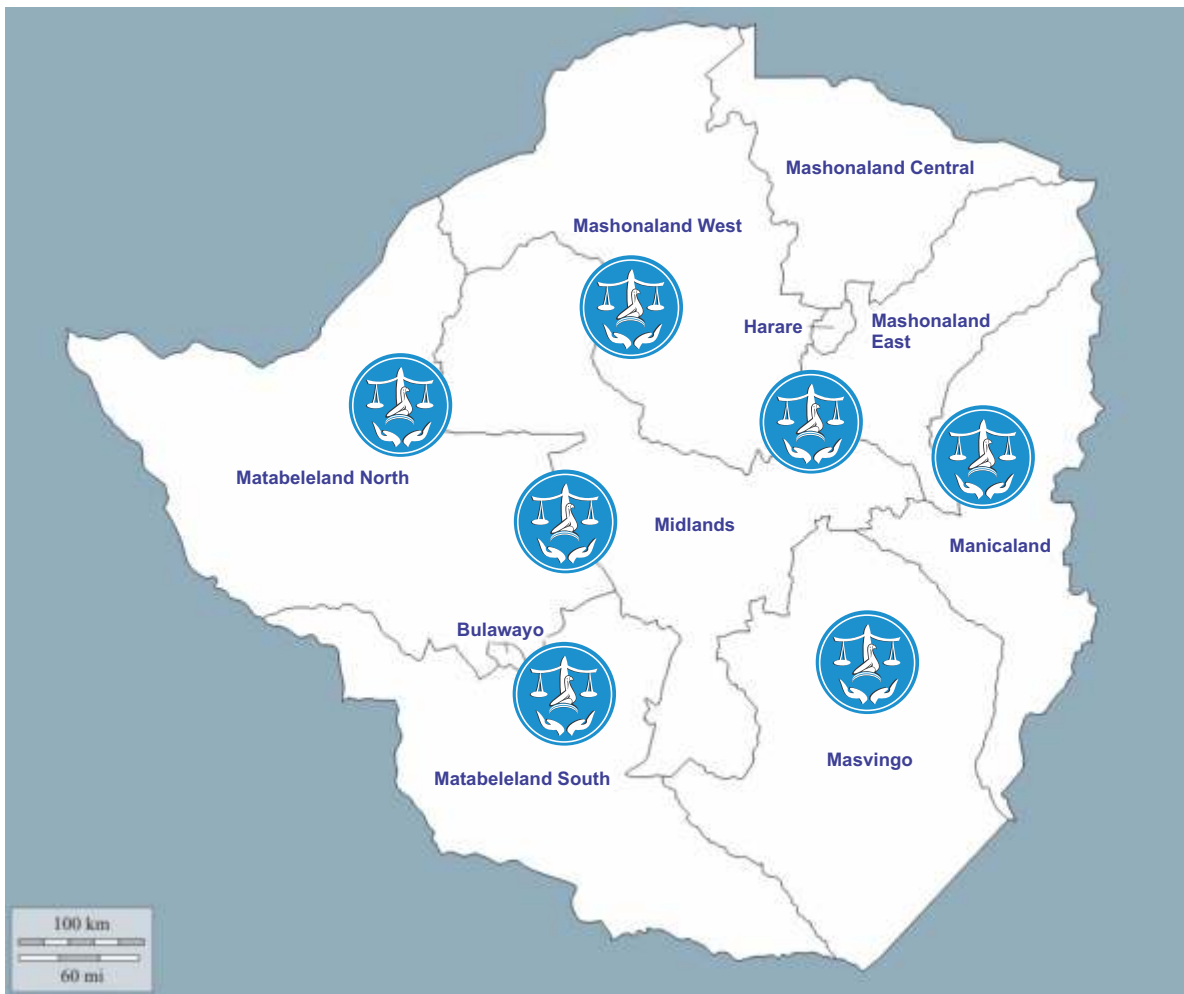
Parliamentarians had greater appreciation of transitional justice in their debates in Parliament

3

The Bill which passed on 3 October 2017 was significantly better than the previously rejected version

4

Most of the suggestions by NTJWG Stakeholders were taken on board in the Bill



# PUBLICATIONS

In this year, NTJWG has produced seven publications. This is in line with the group's thrust towards knowledge production and information sharing and management. These publications have had far reaching impact beyond what this report can capture.

*Below is an analysis showing the publications and their impact*

## i. NPRC Bill Public Hearings: The Process Enhances the Substance

Press Statement

### Summary

The report draws on the reports and recommendations forwarded by civil society organisations with regard to the public hearings conducted prior to the parliamentary debates of the NPRC Bill. The report also contains recommendations for future public hearings.



[http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NTJWG Press Statement.pdf](http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NTJWG%20Press%20Statement.pdf)

### Impact

The statement was shared via NTJWG's digital platforms. It had 696 organic hits. It was also shared via NTJWG mailing list with 300 recipients in the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe and the Diaspora. The statement was submitted to the Parliament and shared with all Parliamentarians. Following the release of the statement, Parliament agreed to hold a reflective meeting with NTJWG Partners on 3 April 2017.

## ii. Analysis of the NPRC Bill: February 2017

### Summary

This publication, is an analysis of the NPRC Bill HB.2. 2017 which sought to identify the major changes from its predecessor the National Peace and Reconciliation Bill H.B 13, 2015. Cutthroat issues discussed include the issue of amnesty, gender and the need for a victim centred approach. The possible weaknesses and strength of the bill are also discussed.



[http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Analysis of the 2017 NPRC Bill \[Final\].pdf](http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Analysis%20of%20the%202017%20NPRC%20Bill%20[Final].pdf)

### Impact

This analysis was the first to hit the headlines regarding the NPRC Bill. It became the point of reference for the media and stakeholders in reacting to the NPRC Bill.

### iii. NPRC Watch - Issue 3

#### Summary

The publication scrutinises the shortfalls and possible changes to the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission Bill, 4 key issues discussed include the lack of a victim centred approach, interference by the executive, silence on gender issues, and the power to grant amnesties.



[http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NPRC Watch III.pdf](http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NPRC%20Watch%20III.pdf)

#### Impact

3 000 copies of the publication were distributed physically in the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe. It was also distributed online with an excess of 4000 downloads. Every Member of Parliament received a copy of the issue. During the reflective meeting with Parliament held on 3 April 2017, Parliamentarians used the documents as a reference. The substance of the issue made its way into the debates in Parliament on the NPRC Bill.

### iv. State of Transitional Justice in Zimbabwe Report

#### Summary

This report captures the key developments in Zimbabwe's key transitional justice processes to date. It highlights those developments relevant to the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence. Building on the recommendations made by the United Nations Human Rights Council at the past Universal Periodic Review (UPR) sessions, the report highlights some action points in need of attention and opportunities for Zimbabwe to collaborate with UN mechanisms in ensuring that it meets its transitional justice obligations under both domestic and international law.



<http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NTJWG%20Report.pdf>

#### Impact

This report was released in March 2017 before the review of Zimbabwe at the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review. The report was presented to the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. The report further influenced member states' recommendations to the government of Zimbabwe regarding the operationalisation of the NPRC.



## v. The Guide to Understanding the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

### Summary

On 20 October 2017, NTJWG launched the Guide to Understanding the NPRC in Masvingo. The guide is a simple to read step by step book which helps stakeholders in reaching out to communities and educating them about the NPRC.



### Impact

The guide was well received at the meeting. The Mayor of Masvingo, Councillor Fidze encouraged NTJWG to hold training workshops with Councillors on the matter. Stakeholders who participated at the meeting requested that more training sessions be held in communities to introduce the guide. The guide will help communities to understand the NPRC. It carries biographies of Commissioners. It also carries a directory of 97 civil society organisations, giving the NPRC all the details it needs to interact with communities.

[http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Guide to the NPRC.pdf](http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Guide%20to%20the%20NPRC.pdf)



*Mayor of Masvingo Councillor Fidze (Centre) receives the first copy of the Guide to Understanding the NPRC from Dr. Motsi (right) and TellZim Director Golden Maunganidze (left) at the launch of the Guide in Masvingo*

# SUSTAINING THE CONVERSATION ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN ZIMBABWE

The world over, societies are talking. Top of those conversations is the question: how do we make our society more peaceful. Since its establishment in 2014, NTJWG has been bringing stakeholders together on different platforms to keep the conversation on transitional justice on the radar. This has helped demystify transitional justice in the eyes of many. This year, NTJWG continued the conversation through a number of policy dialogues and community meetings.



## Masvingo

### “How can State Institutions Work For the Promotion of Peace in Zimbabwe.”

A Public meeting was held at Charles Austin Theatre in Masvingo on 21 October 2016. The topic of the discussion was: “*How can State Institutions Work For the Promotion of Peace in Zimbabwe.*” The presenters were Dr. T. Zhou, Hon. D. Shumba, Hon. Chitando and Ms. Hilda Sibanda. 345 people who included civil society activists, the academia, students, church leaders and legislators. Dr. T. Zhou, who gave the main lecture noted that attempting to build peace without strong non-partisan institutions is like building a house on sand – it will not stand. It was noted that Zimbabwe has a long history of institutions that implicated in the violation of human rights. Reform of such institutions can only come with holding past perpetrators to account and vetting out all those implicated in the violations.

Further, it was noted that State institutions have a constitutional obligation to work for the peace, stability and development of the country therefore, reforming institutions that currently serve partisan interest was critical to ensure they serve justice and peace.



# Midlands

## Women and the Politics of Reconciliation in Zimbabwe

The NTJWG Public meeting on women and transitional justice was held in Gweru on 9 December 2016 to promote the Guiding Principles on Women and Transitional Justice. The meeting was attended by 80 people who included civil society activists, members of the academia, students, representatives of women's groups, commissioners from independent commission, officials from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and legislators. The topic of discussion was 'Women and the Politics of Reconciliation in Zimbabwe.' Presenters were Ms. Rumbidzai Dube from United Nations Women, Ms. Kudzi Matsika from

the Midlands State University, Commissioner O. Matshalaga from the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, and Mrs. S. Dube from the Ministry of Gender, Women's Affairs and Community Development. The meeting noted that it was unfortunate that women bear the brunt of violence. Recommendations were made for stakeholders conference on women and peacebuilding to fully interrogate and bring to the fore the concerns of women. It was also suggested that the NPRC must carry out a national audit into the effects of violence on women. That audit will then inform any interventions.



## Manicaland “Blood Money: Can Reparations Lead to Healing?”

On the 17th of February 2017, a meeting was held under the theme “*Blood Money: Can Reparations Lead to Healing?*” in Mutare. Various organisations and individuals reacting to an open invitation by the NTJWG attended

the meeting, with guest presentations from Dr Mungure, Rev Shirley DeWolf, Mr. Blessing Nyamaropa and Hon. Innocent Gonese. The discussion centred on reparations as a mechanism of addressing past injustices. Dr. Mungure who gave the main lecture noted that reparations are only effective as part of a comprehensive programme. The nation must be prepared to address a number of issues that arise when a reparations programme is to be implemented. These include the technical aspects of identifying possible beneficiaries, the cultural sensitivities associated with 'blood money', and the danger of ending up with an infinite number of victims. An important point raised was the idea that

reparations do not protect the victim from further violations; therefore it was recommended that upon establishment, the NPRC should come up with mechanisms to stop protracted violations. The meeting resolved that there is need to define who the victim is, define how to protect them and how we can ascertain that reparations lead to healing.

## Harare

### Can the NPRC Discharge its Justice Mandate Within the Current Political Context?

The Forth policy dialogue was held on the 29th of March 2017 in Harare under the topic “How can the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission Discharge its Justice Mandate in the Current political Context”. Presentations were made by Mr. Dzie Chimbga, Mr. Derek Matyszak, Hon. Jessie Majome and Mr. Brian Penduka. The

meeting interrogated the question of the feasibility of the NPRC actually pursuing issues of justice within the current political context. It was generally noted that this was a tall order but not impossible, requiring careful sequencing and strategy. The role of civil society in filling up the gaps will be critical, said the meeting.



## CONVERSATIONS ON RECONCILIATION NPRC Bill: Parliamentary Reflective Meeting (Harare)

On Monday April 3 2017, Legislators from the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security, Thematic Committee on Human Rights and the Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs met in Harare to reflect on the National Peace and Reconciliation Bill (NPRC Bill) following the conclusion of public hearings. The workshop was jointly convened by the Centre for Applied Legal Research (CALR), Southern

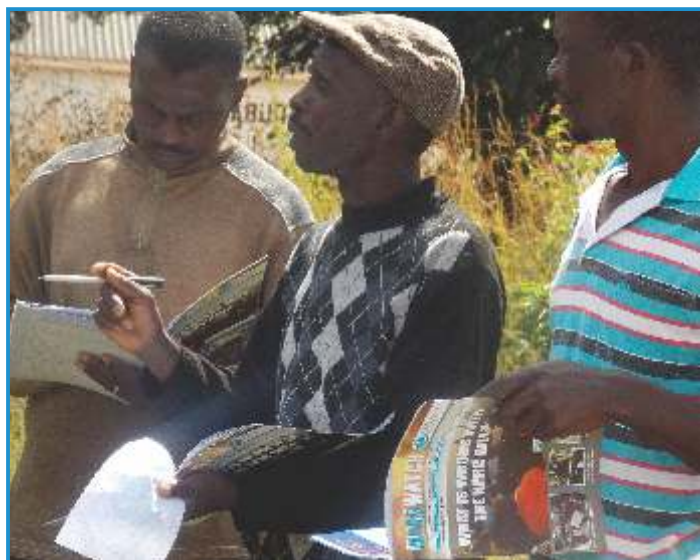


African Parliamentary Support Trust (SAPST) and the National Transitional Justice Working Group in Zimbabwe (NTJWG), who came to an understanding with the legislators representing the three committees that there was need to effect the suggestions by the public.. Among the core issues discussed were the weaknesses of the Bill chief among them being the failure of the Bill to recognise victims and survivors of past violations. In terms of public participation, it was noted that there

was insufficient public education pertaining the Bill prior to public hearings. Recommendations from civil society included the idea that Parliament would give effect to the public demand of more awareness campaigns and that there was no need for the Bill to be withdrawn again; rather, Parliamentarians can introduce amendments to remedy identified weaknesses.

## NPRC Bill, Information Kiosk 2017

Several information kiosks were held in Harare West, Mutasa District, Marondera, Plumtree, and Mutare between January to August 2017. The kiosks were a partnership between NTJWG and Parliamentarians who wanted to afford their communities time and space for an informed reflection on the NPRC Bill. NTJWG provided copies of the Bill and discussion points for the kiosks. Communities spoke openly to their representatives and compiled reports on their expectations. In all instances, the general public hinted on misinformation and confusion regarding the NPRC and its role. Major issues that were highlighted by citizens and civil society organisations throughout the



Information Kiosks included among others; the concern that the bill is silent about reparations; the need to ensure that there is no interference from the executive to guarantee the NPRC's independence; and the issue of amnesties which citizens expressed the concern over the disguised manner in which the Bill brings in the concept of amnesties as pardons. Furthermore they recommended that a committee should be set up regulate the granting of amnesties. The NPRC's truth seeking mandate must be clarified and strengthened to ensure that it identified not only the perpetrators but also the people and forces behind them.

A summary of the resolutions include:

- The NPRC must consider the role of local businesses in funding and fanning violence as a way of dealing with root causes.
- The role of women in violence as both victims and perpetrators must be addressed to ensure genuine healing and accountability.
- NPRC must engage local experts in such areas as statement taking and translation of material because some things, only the locals can understand and express.
- NPRC Bill must give the Commission power to set up a victims fund to assist with rehabilitation of victims.

These recommendations were taken over by the Parliamentarians and informed the debate on Parliament.



## NTJWG'S IN THE MEDIA

Newspaper Articles – NTJWG's media presence increased in the year 2017. Two analytical pieces were published.

- How to Kill a Commission at Birth, published in the Standard of March, 19 2017
- Mere Consultation Versus Authentic Participation, published in the ZimJuris, Law Society of Zimbabwe, March 2017

A number of media organisations covered the NTJWG activities in the media.

Social media and Internet resources: NTJWG is visible on popular platforms on social media to help the dissemination of information. Live updates of conferences and outreach programmes are usually available on Facebook and Twitter to allow a wider audience.





# Working Group Reflects on the Year 2017 and the Transitional Justice Questions of the Day

## **Taking Stock of Transitional Justice Progress**

On 15 December 2017, members of the National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) met in Bulawayo to reflect on the progress made in 2017 in pursuit of its mandate of creating an inclusive space for transitional justice dialogue in Zimbabwe. In the afternoon, the group met with stakeholders from 9 organisations operating on transitional justice matters in Bulawayo where the 2017 Annual Report was released.



*Participants follow proceedings during the stakeholders meeting in Bulawayo*

## **The Changing Political Context**

At an ordinary annual reflective session chaired by NTJWG Deputy Chairperson Mr Paul Themba Nyathi, the group noted that the events of November 15, 2017 and the 'new arrangement' which followed aroused new transitional justice questions for Zimbabwe, while the old issues remain unresolved.

"What do these new questions mean for our work?" asked Mr. Paul Themba Nyathi who chaired the meeting. Members noted that opinions and attitudes among stakeholders were deeply fractured raising the need for dialogue towards building consensus and ensuring that the transitional justice issues are not swept under the carpet but rather the dialogue is escalated to respond to the new questions.

## **The Need for Renewed Dialogue**

This is not the time to fold arms, members stated, but

rather for intensifying our engagement and demands. Whether one is content or not with the new arrangement, members emphasised that citizen engagement was critical. One member stated as follows:

"We need not fall into the same trap as in 1980 when everyone said, well, 'We have a new government. Now it will take us there.' Well, it did not. As it stands, both government and the people of Zimbabwe remain insecure and the future remains uncertain necessitating an inclusive dialogue on a clear path for our nation."

## **Fidelity to Transitional Justice Principles**

Members noted that as thematic leaders, they could not take a position on the current arrangement without the involvement of organisations that mandated them. It was agreed that NTJWG will consult with stakeholders and issue a statement as soon as possible, reflecting the attitudes of stakeholders. Members agreed that transitional justice principles must never be compromised and it was important for the group to remain faithful to the vision of a peaceful, just, accountable and democratic society. Transitional justice demands of Zimbabweans that were not addressed remain a talking point and a cause for concern.

Members noted that because of the long autocratic reign in Zimbabwe, many people had lost faith in leadership.

"37 years of Mugabe rule lowered the bar of what some people expect from their government," one member noted, "Such that for other people, anything that is not Mugabe goes. That is a dangerous attitude and history has proven that time and again."

This lack of faith in leadership can cause people to despair and get paralysed. The members agreed that it was essential to engage and facilitate more dialogue to ensure that the transitional justice dialogue takes

centre stage. Members noted that they will consult and issue a statement stating the position of the group.

### Strategic Reflection

Apart from the political context, the group took some time to review the NTJWG Strategy document compiled after the stakeholders strategic review meeting held earlier this year in Harare. It was recommended that the section on contextual analysis be revisited and updated taking into consideration the latest political developments. It was recommended that a global budget for all the activities of NTJWG be compiled and attached to the strategy document. To enable stakeholders to take ownership of the strategy, Secretariat was tasked with simplifying the strategy and making it available to stakeholders. The 2017 to 2019 strategy was unanimously adopted.

### A Growing Movement for Transitional Justice in Zimbabwe

The Secretariat presented the activity report which outlined the NTJWG interventions in 2017. The participation matrix in the report noted the increase in participating organisations from 49 in October 2016 to 95 in October 2017. The group noted that while this was positive, the increase created the need to work on NTJWG's engagement strategies with stakeholders to ensure that stakeholders own the process and that the transitional justice dialogue is mainstreamed into their programming. The group noted that the enthusiasm displayed by stakeholders in meetings held across country needs to be matched with adjustments in programming. Secretariat was tasked with putting in place a mobilisation plan with a clear timetable for the six thematic leaders.

The group noted that 2017 was a difficult funding year. Following a report by the Head of Secretariat, Ms. Blessing Gorejena on funding support, it was noted that the future looked bright with an increase in donor good will. Secretariat reported that the Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe had provided support for NTJWG's advocacy and archival projects. More opportunities were recommended as transitional justice work gathers traction.

The first session of the meeting closed with the Chairperson Mr. Paul Themba Nyathi giving a vote of thanks to Secretariat for the support.

### Meeting with Stakeholders

The afternoon saw NTJWG addressing Bulawayo stakeholders from nine organisations. NTJWG

Thematic Leader on Justice and Accountability Ms. Roselyn Hanzi who is also the Executive Director of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) presented the NTJWG 2017 Annual Report. She outlined a number of milestones achieved by NTJWG in 2017 and paid tribute to stakeholders who made the work of NTJWG easy. Stakeholders reflected on the year and noted the opportunities that were presented for increased advocacy for transitional justice.



*NTJWG Member Ms. Roselyn Hanzi presents the 2017 Annual Report*

Mr. Tony Reeler, NTJWG Thematic Leader on Institutional Reform presented the scope of the NTJWG Archival Project. He explained the background to the project, the objectives of the project and emphasised that this was a long term project. Funded by the Swiss Embassy, the project aims to strengthen the collective use of archival strategies, methodologies and best practices to inform and forward transitional justice efforts in Zimbabwe. He spoke about the role of stakeholders and the need for the Bulawayo group to constitute and nominate representative(s) in the Archival Reference Group (ARG). NTJWG Coordinator, Dzikamai Bere explained the mandate of the ARG.



*NTJWG Member Mr. Tony Reeler talks about the NTJWG Archival project.*



After a short reflection, stakeholders nominated Bishop Ambrose Moyo as the convener for the Bulawayo team. The team will in due course nominate the region's representative in the ARG.

As the meeting ended, stakeholders expressed hope and enthusiasm that while the task ahead was not easy, they will make sure that they give each other necessary support to ensure that the transitional justice needs of the country are addressed. The Chairperson noted that a similar process was supposed to be undertaken in all other provinces to make sure that all archival teams would be in place by the beginning of 2018.

## LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

A lot of work has been done, but more work still lies ahead.

At the time this report was compiled, the NPRC Bill had just passed both houses of the National Assembly and awaiting presidential assent.

This means the real work is about to commence and stakeholders have to increase the pace. NTJWG has activated critical dialogue with policymakers who today are ready to continue the discussion.

About 6 publications have been produced which are essential tools for the ground work.

NTJWG will soon commence on the archival work, and continue policy research and analysis. More pieces of legislation will come. The regulation will come. The NPRC Bill is not perfect. All these are areas that require stakeholders to continue with the engagement. NTJWG remains committed to facilitating these crucial interventions until our vision is realised. Meanwhile, together with our stakeholders, we celebrate the milestones of the passing year as we prepare to take advantage of the opportunities ahead.



**NATIONAL  
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE  
WORKING GROUP  
ZIMBABWE**

Address: Suite 4, Number 1 Raleigh Street, Harare  
P. O. Box 9077, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel: +263 4 770177/8, 772860  
Email: [info@ntjwg.org.zw](mailto:info@ntjwg.org.zw)  
[www.ntjwg.org.zw](http://www.ntjwg.org.zw)