



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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Our Mission is 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.



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ACRONYMS

EFZ	Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe
CITE	Centre for Innovation and Technology
CPIA	Centre for Peace Initiatives in Africa
CPMRT	Committee on Prevention and Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Transformation Department
CSVR	Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation
CSU	Counseling Services Unit
GALZ	Gays and Lesbians Association of Zimbabwe
HZT	Heal Zimbabwe Trust
ICC	International Criminal Court
LRF	Legal Resources Foundation
NANGO	National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
NPRC	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
NTJWG	National Transitional Justice Working Group
PPC	Provincial Peace Committee
RAU	Research and Advocacy Unit
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SSG	Survivor Support Group
TJ	Transitional Justice
VSGD	Victim Support Gender and Diversity Group
ZACRO	Zimbabwe Association of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender
ZCC	Zimbabwe Council of Churches
ZDI	Zimbabwe Democracy Institute
ZLHR	Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
ZPP	Zimbabwe Peace Project
ZWLA	Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association



Mr Alec Muchadehama
NTJWG Chairperson

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) turned five years in 2019. Building on from the trailblazing activities implemented in 2018, the NTJWG remained firmly on a growth trajectory as the leading institution in the cause for justice and reconciliation in Zimbabwe. During the course of 2019, several interventions were made, scoring impressive successes in building knowledge and critical skills in transitional justice right through to communities, expanding platforms of stakeholder interface and engagement with State, non-State, civil society and across the region. This was aptly augmented with both online and other publications including digital presence leading discussions and influencing debate and discourse on justice and reconciliation. Most significantly the use of radio and other online platforms to share information and shape interventions has contributed immensely to the growth and image of the NTJWG.

Stakeholders are an important facet of the NTJWG and their contribution in shaping both the new organisational strategy for 2019-2022 is immeasurable. They have been important in assisting the NTJWG think through processes and practicalities of intervention, broaden the scope of reach of the work of the NTJWG ensuring that the growth and successes are managed in a measurable way. Relationships with key players like the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) continue to grow and will continue to be nurtured and deepened to facilitate a coordinated and collaborative approach to the transitional justice agenda in Zimbabwe.

Designing and implementing victim-centric programmes and processes remain the unfinished business of transitional justice in Zimbabwe. In responding to this gap, the NTJWG has taken a deliberate focus to empower survivors through the development of platforms of engagement prioritising the needs and expectations of the survivors optimising dialogue, radio and other access to information programmes. This is a journey that has just begun and NTJWG is geared towards ensuring it remains prioritised.

The NTJWG is cognisant of the several outstanding issues that confront the tremendous initiatives geared towards institutional growth and sustainability and remains grateful for the incredible support of various implementing partners.

There is a deliberate move towards improved visibility of the institution and its cutting-edge work leveraging on its increasing role in shaping and re-framing the discourse on transitional justice in Zimbabwe. To meet these exciting challenges, we are firmly underscoring the construction of a fundraising strategy that is both diversified and long term to meet our enduring needs. With the unwavering assurance of the current members, the stakeholders, the funding partners and the commitment of the secretariat, 2020 can only be a fruitful adventure. This annual report is a huge reflection of our successes in 2019 as building blocks for the coming year.

Mr Alec Muchadehama

*Chairperson, National Transitional
Justice Working Group*

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Most significantly the use of radio and other online platforms to share information and shape interventions has contributed immensely to the growth and image of the NTJWG.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report highlights the activities undertaken by the National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) in 2019. During the course of the year, the NTJWG continued to engage with official transitional justice processes through strengthening its relationship with the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) 2019. On more than one occasion the NTJWG briefed the Government and the NPRC on the transitional justice landscape in the country highlighting areas of concern and providing recommendations for the Commission to consider in its roll out of its activities. While the NTJWG is excited about the efforts by the NPRC to establish a fully-fledged secretariat, supported by key departments, it continues to implore the Commission to adopt a robust and more nuanced victim-centric approach to its work.

Publications are important in magnifying the work of the NTJWG. A key output in 2019 was the publication and the launch of Code of Inclusion – a resource package that encapsulated principles for consultation and participation of victims in transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe. This was back-up with over eleven newsletters that captured the work of the NTJWG both in terms of strategic engagement with official processes as well as key stakeholders especially victims and survivors. These engagements were conducted both radio and other online platforms to share information and shape interventions has contributed immensely to the growth and image of the NTJWG.

Stakeholders continued to weigh in with important contributions, not only to the work of the NTJWG but to the cause of transitional justice in Zimbabwe. Most significantly, the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)'s application seeking an interpretation of the constitutional provision on the tenure of the NPRC that will see the NPRC's tenure expiring in 2028 was granted by the High Court in Masvingo. This was a landmark ruling and a major victory for the victims and survivors of past atrocities. *Ukuthula Trust* has continued to provide immeasurable expertise in the emotive area of exhumations of the victims of the *Gukurahundi massacres* through building capacity and ameliorating the tense

relationship between the bureaucratic and legal needs of forensic exhumations and the desires and expectations of victims.

An important component of the work of NTJWG was the community dialogue initiatives aimed at building the skills of the victims and survivors to, among other things, appreciate the mandate of the NPRC and the transitional justice processes as well as cascade such knowledge to their peers with communities. In 2019, over thirteen dialogue sessions were conducted throughout the country focused on the operationalisation of a victim-centric dynamic to transitional justice in Zimbabwe.

One of the major highlights of 2019 was the establishment of thematic committees mandated to facilitate an inclusive approach to transitional justice in Zimbabwe. During the year, three important committees were established: The Gender Thematic Committee, the Reparations and Rehabilitation and the Knowledge Management Committee. These committees met throughout the year interrogating the NTJWG strategy and developed action plans focusing on their areas of expertise in furtherance of the cause of transitional justice.



A key output in 2019 was the publication and the launch of Code of Inclusion – a resource package that encapsulated principles for consultation and participation of victims in transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe.

NTJWG AT A GLANCE

The National Transitional Justice Working Group NTJWG (NTJWG) is a platform established by forty-six Zimbabwean 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



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

i. ENGAGEMENT WITH OFFICIAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESSES

EXECUTIVE BRIEFINGS

Executive Briefing: January – March 2019



The NTJWG issued its first Executive Briefing for the year 2019 aimed at drawing the attention of the executive arm of the Government of Zimbabwe to the challenges facing the transitional justice processes in the country. Drawing from a broad array of stakeholder consultations and robust monitoring of the media, the briefing highlighted six broad areas of concern among them:

- Increased involvement of the security services in civilian spaces in violation of the Constitution following the deployment of the military to respond to protests in January 2019;
- Failure of the State to fully implement the recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry into the August 1 shooting chaired by former President of South Africa, Mr Kgalema Montlanthe;
- The need to ensure that the mandate of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) is respected and ensuring that the NPRC is to not subjected to undue interference by the Government particularly its work on Gukurahundi massacres;
- The need for full implementation of the Constitution in particular section 210 which obligates the State to establishing an independent complaints mechanism to investigate complaints by members of the public on the excesses of the security apparatus;
- The need for provision of sufficient budgetary support by the Treasury to capacitate the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) to implement programs in fulfilment of its mandate; and

- The primacy of adopting two transitional justice policy frameworks – the African Union Transitional Justice Policy and the draft National Transitional Justice Policy developed by the NTJWG.

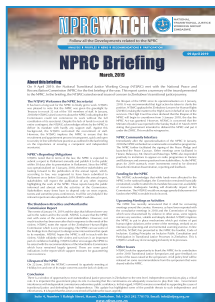
This briefing was instrumental in opening avenues of strategic engagement between the Office of the Vice President through the NPRC and the NTJWG.

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NPRC BRIEFINGS

NPRC Briefing April 2019



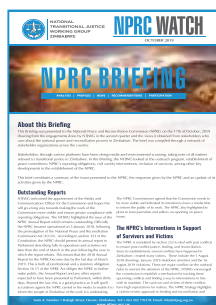
On 9 April 2019, the NTJWG presented its first Briefing of the year to the NPRC. The purpose of the Briefing was to highlight some of the concerns by the NTJWG on the transitional justice trajectory in the country and offer an opportunity for the NPRC to reflect and provide an update on its efforts towards a full roll-out of the Commission's activities. The Briefing focused on staff recruitment by the NPRC, the importance of adhering to

the reporting requirements as provided for in section 323 Constitution to ensure that the public is continuously informed of the progress being made by the Commission. The NTJWG recommended that the NPRC's annual reports be uploaded onto the Commission's website for ease of access by the stakeholders as well as members of the public. The Briefing also discussed the need for the NPRC to follow through the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the 1st of August 2018 disturbances and ensure that they are fully implemented. The NTJWG further commended the roll-out of the nationwide consultative programme as well as the promotional activities on digital platforms including radio by the NPRC. The Briefing served to underline the commitment of the NTJWG to continuously support the work of the NPRC and to ensure that transitional justice processes are amplified.

TO ACCESS THE BRIEFING CLICK HERE



NPRC Briefing October 2019



On 17 October 2019, the NTJWG presented its second Briefing to the NPRC focusing on the establishment of peace committees across the country, interventions by key stakeholders including, but not limited to, civil society and the role of victims in the work of the Commission. While the NTJWG applauded the Commission's drive to establish a secretariat to strengthen the operational, institutional and human capacities and to enhance greater visibility, it bemoaned the continued failure to submit its annual report to Parliament. The report was due in March 2019 and regrettably had not been presented to Parliament by October 2019. The meeting also discussed the establishment of Provincial Peace Committees and their presumed relevance on the transitional justice agenda. The NTJWG however pointed out that the lack of a defined *modus operandi* will likely impact on the work of these committees and the contentious issues of victim-perpetrator dichotomy particularly given the deep-seated nature of the conflicts in Zimbabwe. The NTJWG recommended that victims and survivors must be granted unfettered access to participate in the work of the Commission, not as invited guests but critical players in the design and implementation of the transitional justice processes and mechanisms in Zimbabwe.

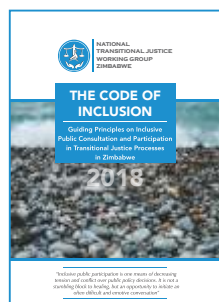


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ii. PUBLICATIONS

Code of Inclusion



In many transitional justice jurisdictions, participation and inclusion of victims are two concepts that lack conceptual clarity. Oftentimes, efforts to include victims are based on “*status equality*” using identifiers such as age, gender, ethnicity or their membership to groups. In reality, these identities connect with political positions to the extent that providing for group inclusion without awareness of the political complexity of allegiance and alliances can crystallise or reinforce existing power imbalances that inclusion efforts seek to address. Besides, any attempt to

undertake any process of inclusion entails entering webs of power dynamics between individuals and their communities who both have fluid social and political identities. In its efforts to grapple with this reality and drawing lessons from other contexts, the NTJWG developed a resource package that encapsulates principles for consultation and participation of victims in Zimbabwe. Drawing its life blood from the NPRC *“What’s Next?”* Conference in 2018, this framework provides a platform for inclusion for victims and other stakeholders across the country including the diaspora. In the designing phase of this framework, the NTJWG consulted far and wide including engaging with various stakeholders including civil society organisations in the diaspora like the Zimbabwe Solidarity Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa. Lessons were drawn from such engagements and these were infused with guidelines from international organisations working in the area of transitional justice to build this useful resource. The Code of Inclusion recognises the important work that the NPRC is seized with and implores it to spend a considerable amount of time and resources in designing standards, tools and mechanisms for ensuring effective and substantial participation of the public in its programme.

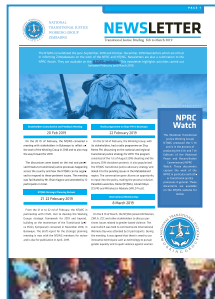
The Code emphasises the need for pre-planning, effective use of tools that empower the public before the consultation as well as planning with and not for the community. It highlights essential guidelines for paying attention to the needs and expectations of victims, their safety and security, working with the media to provide balanced information, reporting and feedback following community engagements. Overall the NTJWG underscore that inclusive public participation is a sure way of decreasing tension and conflict over public policy decisions. It is not a stumbling block to healing, but an opportunity to initiate an often difficult and emotive conversation.

FULL COPY OF THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE HERE



iii. NEWSLETTERS

NTJWG Newsletter: February – March 2019



This newsletter amplified the strategic growth trajectory of the NTJWG largely built around the momentum gained from the Transitional Justice Policy Symposium that was convened in Bulawayo in November 2018. It further highlighted the NTJWG's interface with key stakeholders among them Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV), UN Women, Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC). Through these engagements, the NTJWG managed to address pertinent issues around potential pitfalls that may confront transitional justice, victims-centric approaches, gender-based violence and national dialogue.

The update also annotates innovative approaches undertaken by the NTJWG, among them development of a digital human rights archive, radio programmes on national and regional transitional justice strategy, dialogue series with victims and the hosting of the Cinema of Truth event during which a documentary was screened chronicling the plight of women in situations of violent conflict who are often victims of sexual assault and rape. Important days on the International Human Rights calendar – International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Violation of Human Right, International Women's Day were commemorated by the NTJWG.



TO ACCESS THE NEWSLETTER CLICK HERE



NTJWG Newsletter: May 2019



This publication highlighted the NPRC's nation-wide consultative process focused on three key areas – strategic priorities for 2019, key thematic areas and structures earmarked for broad-based, inclusive participation by Zimbabweans in the work of the Commission. The outreach programme was rolled out in Harare, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Manicaland and Midlands. The newsletter further highlights the launch of two important documents – The Code of Inclusion: Guiding Principles

on Inclusive Public Consultation and Participation in Transitional Justice Processes in Zimbabwe and the State of Transitional Justice Report. The Code of Inclusion provides a framework for inclusion of victims of mass violence at the centre of the justice and reconciliation processes while the report captured the significant developments in the transitional justice work. Important work by various stakeholder Ukuthula Trust around the exhumation of victims of Gukurahundi massacres and their implication on healing and reconciliation.

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The Code of Inclusion provides a framework for inclusion of victims of mass violence at the centre of the justice and reconciliation processes.

NTJWG Newsletter: June 2019



In this newsletter, the NTJWG covered important developments in the transitional justice landscape in the country among them the conclusion of the NPRC Outreach Programme in Bulawayo, the establishment of Provincial Peace Committees, recruitment of NPRC staff as well as the anti-impunity update published by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum wherein the Forum highlighted that the Government of Zimbabwe demonstrated lack of political will to honour judgments vicariously incurred through state-sponsored violence. The newsletter also highlighted important work done by the NTJWG which included the production of survivors training manuals which are critical for building their capacities to engage in peace and reconciliation work. Two radio programmes were organised by the NTJWG and flighted on Skyz Metro on 7 and 16 June 2019. On 7 June, the radio programme focused on the implementation of a sustainable transitional justice process in Zimbabwe. The programme was attended by delegates from the City of Bulawayo, traditional leaders, civil society and faith-based organisations. The programme on 16 June was organised in partnership with CITE



interrogated the *Gukurahundi atrocities*, their effect on individuals, families, communities and their resolution through truth telling and reparations.

TO ACCESS THE NEWSLETTER CLICK HERE



NTJWG Newsletter: July 2019



In the July issue, the NTJWG highlighted three key events conducted by its stakeholders *Ukuthula Trust*, *Masakhaneni Trust* and the *NPRC*. On 9 July 2019, Ukuthula Trust held a workshop with Gukurahundi victims to discuss the ethical considerations for survivors of trauma associated with large scale violence. The workshop culminated in the development of a platform for victims to “tell their stories” and to co-create

their future. On 11 July, Masakhaneni Trust hosted an advocacy workshop geared towards amplifying the plight of the girl child in Matebeleland. The workshop was attended by civil society organisations, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), traditional leaders, government and local government officials. Effective advocacy tools were developed to respond to the vulnerability of the girl child particularly those of school going age. On 21 July Commissioner Chiradza of the NPRC was interviewed by the Herald where she reflected on the finalisation of the Commission’s strategy on public hearings, exhumations and reburial of victims. The newsletter further covered the radio programme carried out by the NTJWG on Star FM focusing on the role of traditional leadership in transitional justice drawing useful lessons from other jurisdictions how those could be extrapolated to the Zimbabwe process. The newsletter also captured global transitional justice processes in Sudan around the consummation of a three-year transitional mechanism, and the conviction of Congolese rebel leader Bosco Ntaganda by the International Criminal Court.

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NTJWG Newsletter: August 2019

This newsletter covered three key workshops convened by the NPRC among them, the Induction workshop to enhance skills of the secretariat



on the mandate and strategy of the Commission; a three-day workshop for the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and Thematic Committee on Human Rights on the mandate of the Commission; and the Complaints Handling and Investigation skills development workshop for the staff of the NPRC. The publication also showcased NTJWG activities undertaken during that

period. These included convening the Annual Stakeholders conference attended NTJWG stakeholders representing survivors of past human rights violations, the church and civil society; the production of the Survivors Training Manuals on the mandate of the Commission which included the Participants and Trainers Handbooks and the launch of the NTJWG 2017-18 Annual Report. The Survivors Training Manuals were used in cascading training of survivors on the mandate of the NPRC to local communities. They were also used as resource material for the community dialogues. The newsletter also highlighted the convening of faith-based platforms of engagement under the Church Convergence banner attended by Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Zimbabwe Christian Alliance, Zimbabwe Divine Destiny, Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) aimed at praying for peace as well as discuss the role of inclusive dialogue in addressing past and ongoing challenges like Gukurahundi, land and natural resource governance.

TO ACCESS THE NEWSLETTER CLICK HERE



NTJWG Newsletter: September 2019



During the month of September 2019, significant interventions undertaken by the NPRC in pursuit of transitional justice were highlighted by the NTJWG.

On 3 September 2019, the NPRC rolled out one of its flagship initiatives, the Women Safe Spaces Initiative aimed at the promotion of inclusive participation of women in healing reconciliation. A follow-up meeting to consolidate this initiative was held on 17 September with commitments being made to publicise this approach. Following the xenophobic attacks that had occurred in South Africa, the NPRC issued out a statement on 6 September 2019 to condemn these barbaric acts and implored the



Republic of South, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to intervene and address the acerbic violence. The NPRC also conducted two meetings on 21 and 23 September 2019 in Bindura following the violent clashes caused by small scale artisanal miners popularly known as MaShurugwi that had engulfed the mining town. The meeting elicited recommendations around mapping of the conflict in particular issues and actors as well as creating spaces for engagement and dialogue.

Through this meeting, the NPRC also recommended that the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) execute their mandate without fear or favour. On 27 September 2019, the NPRC commemorated the International Day of Peace at Charles Lwanga Seminary Secondary School in Chimanimani. During the month, the NTJWG carried out a number of activities including the holding the first ever Survivor Support Group (SSG), an important interface between the stakeholders and the survivors. Two community dialogues were held on 24 and 27 September in Ward 3 in Nyanga North and Mbowane Line, Tsholotsho respectively. These dialogue platforms were aimed at equipping survivor groups with tools and skills for effective participation in the peace and reconciliation process.

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NTJWG Newsletter: October 2019



The October 2019 newsletter premiered with the call by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) for a seven-year election hiatus to facilitate political and economic reforms. The call was received with mixed reactions by various stakeholders. It also covered the strategic planning workshop convened by the NPRC on 29 October 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to design approaches for effective healing and reconciliation in Zimbabwe.

The NPRC also took this opportunity to introduce two critical departments that would help facilitate its work, Committee on Prevention and Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Transformation Department (CPMRT) and the Complaints Handling and Investigations Thematic Department. The newsletter also highlighted community dialogues undertaken by the NTJWG between 24 September and 31 October across the country reaching a total of 190 survivors. The NTJWG hosted two programmes in Bulawayo on Skyz Metro and in Masvingo on Hevoi FM. The programme in Bulawayo focused on the promotion of a victim-centric approach in transitional justice while the one in Masvingo discussed the establishment of structures for non-recurrence. The newsletter further highlighted the meetings of two committees, the Knowledge Management and the Gender Thematic committees.

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NTJWG Newsletter: November 2019



In this newsletter the NTJWG covered some of the important work undertaken by the NPRC among them publicising key thematic departments like the Victim Support, Gender and Diversity (VSGD), Knowledge Management Thematic as well as building capacity of the Commissioners and staff on conflict sensitivity programming, early warning and early response. The NPRC also published complaints handling procedures to guide victims on how they could approach the Commission in the pursuit of justice. The Commission further reached out to the Chiefs and the Churches through a dialogue platform aimed at setting the agenda

for peace in the Midlands province. On 20 November 2019, the NPRC convened a Consensus Building/Capacity Enhancement Workshop for the Zimbabwe Republic Police. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the ZRP's appreciation of the mandate of the NPRC as well as extrapolate possible areas of convergence and synergy their respective mandates of promoting peace, law and order.

The newsletter also covered the interventions by the NTJWG. These included community dialogues in Zvishavane, Marange, Gwanda, Bikita and Nyanga, reaching out to a total of 250 victims of past atrocities. The NTJWG carried out regional process monitoring meetings in Mutare and Gweru on 5 and 15 November 2019, respectively to map out stakeholder involvement in transitional justice work and their areas of coverage. Two radio programs hosted by the NTJWG were also covered in the newsletter. On 1 November 2019 the NTJWG hosted a programme on Diamond FM in Mutare under the theme *"Sustainable Natural Resources Governance and Building Partnerships for Development"*. This radio programme provided a platform for the Marange community and Manicaland region to critically engage in natural resources management as a transitional justice issue. Another radio programme was implemented in the Midlands province on 13 November 2019 under the theme *"Affirmative Action against Organised Violence in the Midlands Province"*.

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The Commission further reached out to the Chiefs and the Churches through a dialogue platform aimed at setting the agenda for peace in the Midlands province.



NTJWG Newsletter: December 2019



The December newsletter packaged developments within the continental and international arena characterised by the adoption of the African Union Transitional Justice policy and the conviction of long time Congolese rebel leader Bosco Ntaganda by the International Criminal Court (ICC). It also reflected on the activities undertaken by the NPRC for instance the establishment of provincial peace committees, induction and orientation sessions of Deputy Chairpersons of the Committees, creation and subsequent launch of various departments to aid the work of the Commission, among them Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Transformation Department, Complaints Handling and Investigations Thematic Department, Research and Knowledge Management Thematic Department as well as the Victim Support, Gender, and Diversity Thematic Department. The newsletter also highlighted NTJWG's focus on building survivors capacities on the mandate of the NPRC through training, community dialogue platforms and radio programmes. The work of stakeholders like the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights particularly its court application seeking to bring finality to the question of when the NPRC's lifespan will end was also covered in this newsletter.

The various newsletters published by the NTJWG play a critical role in amplifying, not only the important work by the Group but the NPRC as well. They provide updates and useful links on the developments on the transitional justice landscape in the country. The newsletters aim to capacitate NTJWG stakeholders and provide regular updates concerning national and international transitional justice processes that affect domestic peace and reconciliation processes.

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In total, 11 newsletters were produced and published in the Standard newspaper and approximately 400,000 people were reached in Zimbabwe and South Africa. The publications disseminated information on the activities of the NPRC, NTJWG's activities and publications, the activities of the NTJWG's stakeholders and other global developments. The publications also educated and informed citizens of important developments around transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe so that they can participate in the process fully informed and knowledgeable about transitional justice. The demand and readership for the NTJWG newsletters, NPRC Watch Report and press statements increased as stakeholders called or visited the Secretariat's offices to request more publications attesting to the fact that the publications are informative.

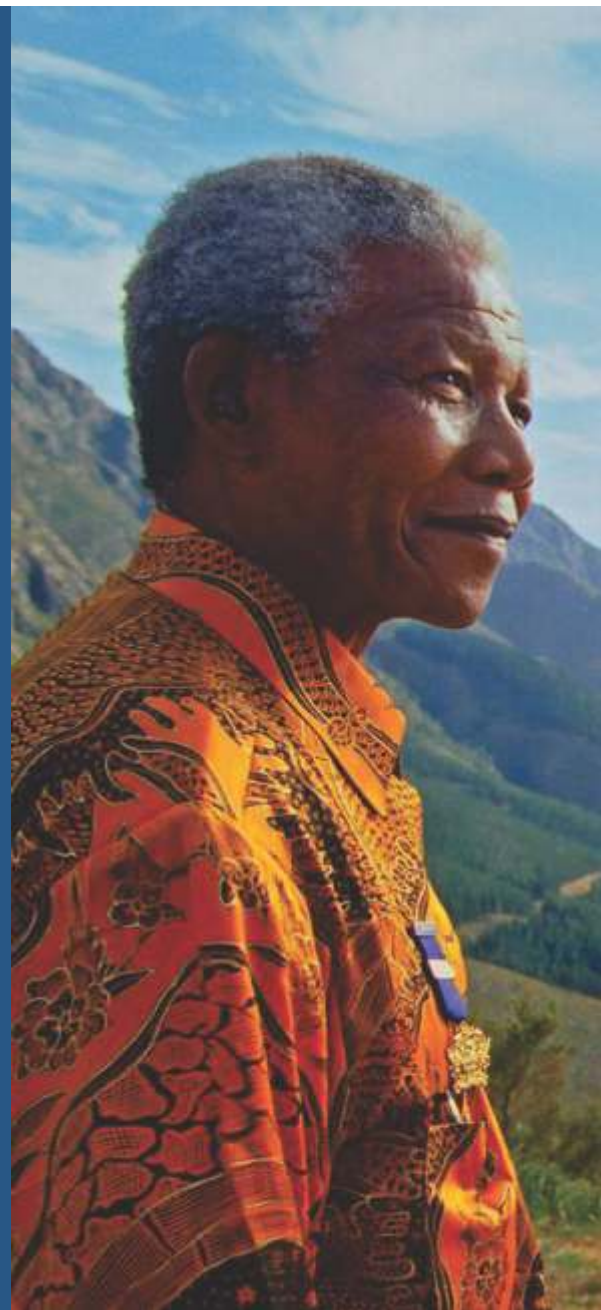
iv. PRESS STATEMENTS

Statement on Mandela Day



On 21 July 2019, the NTJWG published a statement titled *“Call for Inclusive, Transformative and Problem-Solving Dialogue”* in commemoration of the life of the late anti-apartheid icon and the first democratically elected President of independent South

Africa, Nelson Mandela. The statement resonated with Nelson Mandela's core principle and messaging around the optimisation of inclusive and participatory dialogue underpinned by the pre-eminence of active listening. In the statement the NTJWG implored the Government of Zimbabwe to build consensus across the political, social and cultural divides to confront the legacies of decades of human rights violations in furtherance of principles of national unity, peace and stability as espoused in Section 10 of the Constitution.



The statement further encouraged the Government to interrogate their role in the historical and on-going violations of human rights as contributory to heightened mistrust, toxicity and widening polarity between and among itself and the citizenry. The NTJWG recommended that the Government initiate broad-based, inclusive and transformative dialogue to extricate the country from its currently debilitating political and economic mess.

TO ACCESS THE STATEMENT CLICK HERE



Press Statement to Commemorate International Day of Peace



On 21 September 2019, the NTJWG issued a statement titled “New Barriers to Peace” in commemoration of the International Day of Peace. This is a day set aside by the United Nations General Assembly to strengthen the ideals of peace through observing 24-hours of non-violence and ceasefire. The statement cultured under the global theme “*Climate Action for Peace*” resonated with one of the biggest environmental challenges to Southern Africa caused by Cyclone Idai which devastated central Mozambique, Malawi and eastern parts of Zimbabwe.

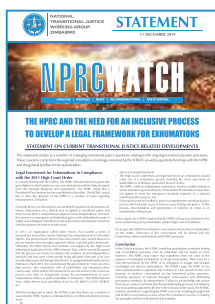
The theme’s call to combat climate change as new threats to peace reminded the world of the devastating impact of ecological conflicts caused by displacement, scarcity of land, food and water. The statement further noted that since natural disasters are an existential threat to human beings, better planning across all sectors was an inevitable reality which calls for robust and coordinated approaches to climate change.

TO ACCESS THE STATEMENT CLICK HERE



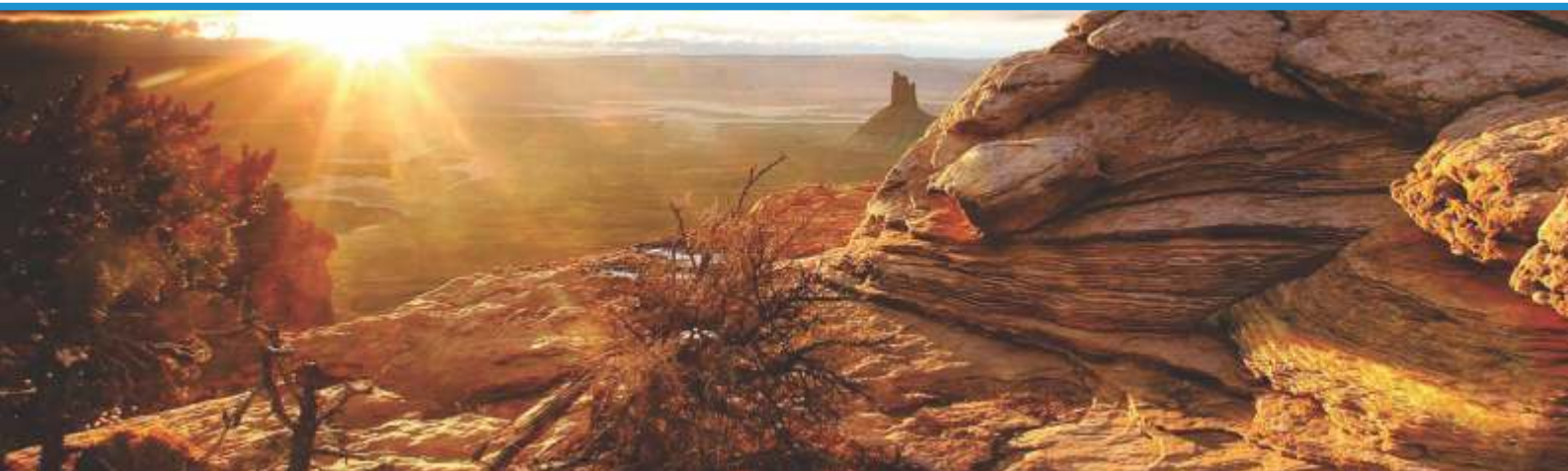
The NPRC and the Need for an Inclusive Process to Develop a Legal Framework for Exhumations Press Statement

In December 2019, the NTJWG issued a statement focused on the need for an inclusive process in the development of a legal framework for the exhumations. This followed a meeting between NTJWG and the NPRC



wherein the Commission had indicated that it had obtained permission from the President to contact exhumation of victims of Gukurahundi with expert support from the National Museums and Monuments.

TO ACCESS THE STATEMENT CLICK HERE



v. NPRO WATCH REPORTS

In 2019 the NTJWG continued to monitor official and non-official transitional justice developments within the country with a particular focus on the NPRO. This culminated in the production of the 7th, 8th and 9th NPRO Watch Reports which give an overview of the year 2019 from January to December.

In the 7th Edition of the report the NTJWG noted the shrinking democratic space in Zimbabwe and the human rights violations that were perpetrated in January 2019 and called for comprehensive national reforms highlighting that these were crucial to ensuring non-recurrence of human rights violations.

The NTJWG also celebrated the adoption of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy and advocated for its domestication. The 7th Edition also captured the activities of the NPRO and the NTJWG from January to March 2019.

The 8th edition the NTJWG captured transitional justice developments

emanating from April to June 2019. This edition tackled the issue of national dialogue and analysed the principles that must guide any national dialogue process to ensure that it is effective.

The NTJWG also reported on the NPRO's activities and zeroed in on the establishment of the PPCs analysing

their roles and responsibilities, constitution and the challenges they are likely to face. The report also captured some of the NTJWG's activities and those of its stakeholders.

The NTJWG also issued its 9th edition of the NPRC Watch Report covering the period between July and December 2019. The report chronicled activities undertaken by the NPRC, the NTJWG and its stakeholders.

The report also captures a statement that was published by the NTJWG in December 2019, imploring the NPRC to adhere to its reporting obligations as mandated by the Constitution. The statement requested the Commission to

review its role in the Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD) since it may compromise their independence and credibility.

Overall through the monitoring of the NPRC and the production of the NPRC Watch Report, the NTJWG noted the continued growth of the NPRC particularly its programming in terms of geographical coverage. However, the missing link was the impact of the work of the Commission on ordinary citizens. The NTJWG encouraged the Commission to do more work in the area of evidence-based intervention to ensure the needs and expectations of the victims are incorporated and prioritised.

[FOR MORE REPORTS, CLICK HERE](#)





— NTJWG'S DIGITAL PRESENCE

i. NTJWG ON THE AIRWAVES


On 22 February 2019, the NTJWG convened a radio programme on Skyz Metro FM in Bulawayo to discuss strategies for implementing transitional justice programmes at national and regional levels. Key to the programme was a review of the protests and subsequent shootings of 1 August 2018 and 14 -16 January 2019. A panel consisting of Reverend Motsi from the NTJWG, Ms Annah Moyo from CSVR and Mr Mthokozisi Ndebele from WILD Trust steered the discussions. The programme also provided an opportunity for NTJWG to popularise its advocacy strategy.



On 7 June, 2019 the NTJWG hosted a radio programme on Skyz-Fm in Bulawayo. The topic for discussion was entitled 'Implementation of Sustainable Transitional Justice Measures in Zimbabwe.' This discussion was a follow-up on the framework for transitional justice in Zimbabwe that was agreed upon in November 2018 at the National Transitional Justice Symposium in Bulawayo. The panelists were Ms Nkiwane-a survivor based in Bulawayo who was victimised during *Gukurahundi*, Ms Shari Eppel from Ukuthula Trust - an NTJWG stakeholder, and Mr P.T Nyathi - the NTJWG Vice Chairperson. During the program the NTJWG emphasised the fundamental principles and importance of a national transitional justice policy or framework.

The NTJWG also outlined the policy issues that the NTJWG thinks must guide implementation of transitional justice mechanisms and the practical steps that may be taken to ensure sure implementation.

On 19 July 2019 the NTJWG hosted another radio programme on Star-FM entitled *'The Role of Leadership in National Healing and Reconciliation Processes'*. The panelists for the programme were Mr. Dzikamai Bere (Zimbabwe), Dr. Fani Du Toit (South Africa), Ms. Paula Gaviria (Colombia) and the NPRC Commissioner Patience Chiradza (Zimbabwe). Central to the conversation was an exploration of how leadership can be leveraged in guiding healing and reconciliation processes in Zimbabwe drawing lessons from other jurisdictions like Colombia and South Africa. The lessons would be helpful in designing intervention and informing practice within the country's transitional justice process.

From 17 October to 10 December 2019, the NTJWG hosted six radio programmes in Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mutare and Zvishavane. The radio programmes were important in amplifying the discourse on transitional justice more specifically on the primacy of victim- centric approaches in confronting the legacies of past human rights violations. Most notably, the radio programmes were integral for the NPRC's own feedback in that the NPRC was able to get nuanced viewpoints from the victims and survivors themselves on their needs and expectations regarding such critical issues as reparations, rehabilitation, exhumations and memorialisation. Other issues discussed on this platform were on witness and victim, survivor protection as a guarantee for them to tell their stories. The radio conversations also opened-up discussions around policy development and implementation to address the needs and expectations of survivors such as the need to initiate exhumations, security sector reform and guarantees of non-recurrence. As a result of these rich conversations, the Commission made a commitment to engage various stakeholders to develop policies which respond to the needs and aspirations of the victims and survivors. To access any of the NTJWG radio programs, click 

“

The radio programmes were important in amplifying the discourse on transitional justice





Figure 1: Radio Program Panelists Marko Shoko (right) and Lawrence Zanga (left) on Hevoi-Fm discussing the 'Creating platforms for Engagement between Survivors and the NPRC' in Masvingo on 10 December 2019

This morning the NTJWG represented by Marko Shoko and Lawrence Zanga are on Hevoi-Fm to discuss the theme 'Creating platforms for Engagement between Survivors and the NPRC in Masvingo.' The NPRC will be represented by Ms. Rotina Mafume. (Dec 10 2019)

ii. CINEMA OF TRUTH

On 28 March 2019, the NTJWG screened a documentary at Ster Kinekor, Eastgate Mall in Harare in commemoration of the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. Sixty-four participants representing civil society organisations, churches, youth movements attended the screening of the documentary. The International Day of Truth is celebrated yearly as a tribute to victims' right to know the full and complete truth as to the circumstances of the gross human rights violations, actors, their motivation as well as the extent of the violations. A Rwandan documentary, *The Uncondemned* was screened at the Cinema of Truth event to provide comparative experiences on the challenges associated with the right to truth post conflict.



The documentary was chosen as a reflective visual in light of the reports of allegations of widespread rape and other sexual assaults committed by the security forces in Zimbabwe following the protests on 1 August 2018 and the subsequent one on 14–16 January 2019. At the tail end of the documentary the NTJWG convened a panel discussion to reflect on the right to truth within the Zimbabwean context. The panel comprised of three panelists, Ms Shari Eppel an anthropologist and clinical psychologist working on exhumations with families of the deceased victims of Gukurahundi, Dr Patson Dzamara, brother to the disappeared journalist Itai Dzamara and human rights activist, and Ms Roselyn Hanzi, NTJWG Thematic Leader on Justice and Accountability shared their experiences on the right to truth.


Emerging from the discussion was the importance of prioritising truth seeking as a pathway to healing and reconciliation process. To view the proceeding of this event follow this: 



Figure 2: Panelists of the discussion the Right to Truth during the Cinema of Truth Event at Ster Kinekor, Eastgate Mall in Harare. From left to right, Tatenda Makanza (Moderator), Shari Eppel (Ukhutula Trust), Patson Damara (Human Rights Activist) and Roselyn Hanzi (NTJWG Thematic Leader on Justice and Accountability)





iii. UPDATE ON THE NTJWG ARCHIVE

The development of the NTJWG human rights archive can be traced back to the International Conference on Transitional Justice in Zimbabwe convened in 2012. A critical outcome of that conference was the realisation that spaces for learning and sharing needed to be created and expanded within the transitional justice community of practice. This novel idea was further discerned upon and developed within the framework of the NTJWG strategic plan for 2017-2019 which cemented the importance of inclusive spaces for cross pollination of ideas, skills and knowledge among stakeholders. The plan further underscored that a central component of that space was the voice of victims in the design and implementation of transitional justice processes and mechanisms. Preserving victims' narratives, stories and experiences through archiving inevitably allows key players like the NPRC to access them for broadening official process as well as using them as a basis for further investigation.

Since 2018, the NTJWG has been developing a digital human rights archive which is composed of data on human rights, transitional justice and conflict in Zimbabwe since 1980. On 18 March 2019, the NTJWG conducted a training for the Archival Reference Group aimed at building skills on the use of the portal which will serve as a major resource of information stakeholders including the NPRC. The training was attended by 12 participants from Harare, Masvingo, Mutare, Bulawayo, Gweru and Chinhoyi. On 27 October 2019, the NTJWG archival reference group met in Harare to discuss the state of the human rights archive. The meeting was attended by 15 representatives of civil society organisations among them Grace to Heal, CIVNET, Media Monitors, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), Gweru Residents Forum, Tell Zimbabwe and Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU).

The objectives of the meeting were to provide an update to members of the Archival Reference Group on the archival project, grant members an opportunity to access and explore the functional archive and to review the NTJWG strategy and identify gaps relating to archival.

The meeting further provided a platform for NTJWG stakeholders in the archival reference group to get an update on the number of documents uploaded thus far, how to download and upload documents.

The importance of the archive in telling the history of Zimbabwe with the aid of documents, photos, audios and videos as key references for memory creation and preservation to avoid distortions of the historical narrative was also discussed at the meeting.

iv. BLOG

In 2019, the NTJWG provided a platform for the sharing of insights, views and opinions on transitional justice by a wide spectrum of experts in the field of transitional justice. The blogging is important because it opens avenues for connecting with transitional justice practitioners, academics around the world for potential cross pollination of ideas and experiences that can be tapped into to inform the Zimbabwean process. Some of the articles shared during the course of 2019:



6 October 2019

A 'Daughter of Apartheid' Reflects on Her Healing Journey

By Lindi Tardif

[Click to Read More](#)



19 July 2019

The Mandela Legacy: Leadership's Healing Mandate

By NTJWG

[Click to Read More](#)



7 May 2019

Bones have the Right to be Heard

By Shari Eppel

[Click to Read More](#)

DIALOGUE SERIES

To enhance and broaden the discourse on transitional justice, the NTJWG convened several dialogue sessions to interrogate the efficacy of national dialogue.

i. HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE SERIES: BULAWAYO AND HARARE

On 19 March 2019, a high-level dialogue session was convened in Harare. A total of sixty-one (61) participants from a cross-section of society, among them academia, faith-based organisations, civil society and youth attended the dialogue session. The dialogue was facilitated by two peace and conflict experts Dr David Kaulem and Dr Webster Zambara from the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town, South Africa. On 26 March 2019, a follow up dialogue session was convened in Bulawayo attended by sixty-two participants. These two high profile dialogue sessions were convened to reflect on the principles, processes and foundations for an effective and sustainable dialogue using the African lens.

The series was also intended to contribute to the shaping of the ongoing conversations in the country premised on national dialogue. A major outcome of the two high-level sessions was that a multi-track, inclusive and participatory framework, with a clearly defined mandate must be developed to champion the cause of national dialogue.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NTJWG HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUES IN PICTURES



ii. COUNTRYWIDE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

In order to build the capacity of survivors to be able to cascade training in their communities, the NTJWG convened a training for twenty-three survivors on 30 August. The training of trainers' workshop focused on building survivors awareness on the mandate of the NPRC and its mandate so that they will be able to disseminate at community levels. Another central aspect of the training was to enhance skills on monitoring the work of the NPRC. The NTJWG trained the survivors on how to use the Survivors' Training Manuals which they would use as resources for training other survivors in their communities on the mandate of the NPRC.



Following the training of trainers between 24 September and 5 December 2019, the NTJWG convened 11 community dialogues with victims based in Nyanga North, Murehwa, Bikita, Gwanda, Zvishavane, and Marange, bringing together 483 victims and survivors of past atrocities.

The community dialogues were mostly implemented by survivors which implies that the trained trainers led the community engagements, increasing the pace at which community dialogues were being implemented.

Table of community dialogues conducted

Location	Date	Male Participants	Female Participants	Total Number of Participants
Nyanga North, Avila Ward 3	24/09/2019	20	15	35
Tsholotsho, Mbowane Ward 15	27/09/2019	18	20	38
Binga Central, Kani Ward 25	16/10/2019	20	13	33
Bikita-Ngondyore, Ward 9	24/10/2019	21	19	40

Marange, Nyika Village, Ward 4	31/10/2019	20	24	44
Maglas, Zvishavane, Ward 8	14/11/2019	10	14	24
Gwindigwi BC-Musahru Village, Marange, Ward 9	26/11/2019	22	39	61
Thorn-wood Gwanda	27/11/2019	17	28	45
Nyika, Bikita Ward 13	28/11/2019	20	30	50
Nyamaropa, Nyanga Ward 12	29/11/2019	33	37	70
Murehwa Ward 1	5/12/2019	23	20	43



Figure 3: Participants attending an NTJWG community dialogue at Tusimpe Pastoral Center in Binga on 16 October 2019

Some of the results of convening of the community dialogues were:

1. There was visible willingness of survivors to gather and talk about their issues, past experiences and needs;
2. Survivors called for the inclusion of perpetrators in the discussions so that issues such as compensation, reparations and community healing are inclusive;
3. There was visible motivation by survivors to talk about national peace and reconciliation issues and more communities calling on the NTJWG to implement more community dialogues in their areas;
4. There were indications of improved understanding on issues such as conflict, human rights and the mandate of the NPRC. Further survivors appeared to be able to distinguish between the NPRC and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission mandates at the conclusion of each dialogue;
5. There is enhanced commitment and interest by survivors to engage the NPRC when the Commission visits their areas as they now understand the importance of transitional justice and engagement with the official transitional justice processes;
6. Interest was raised in young participants, to build their knowledge on transitional justice processes, and also in training others; and
7. Enhanced survivor coordination by bringing survivors together to discuss and in dealing with the past advocacy resulting in community interest in transitional justice issues.



iii. SURVIVORS INTERFACE MEETING WITH THE NPRC

On 9 December 2019, the NTJWG convened an interface meeting between survivors and the NPRC in Masvingo. The meeting was attended by twenty survivors, three Commissioners from the NPRC who included the Deputy Chairperson Lilian Chigwedere, Commissioner Netty Musanhu, and Commissioner Golden Chekenyere.

This interface was aimed at providing survivors of past violations with relevant information and knowledge on the national peace and reconciliation processes in the country to ensure and encourage their informed participation. Issues of concern raised by the survivors were regarding the visibility of the NPRC and the PPCs, reparations, and the interpretation of the Constitution on when the tenure of the NPRC began.



Figure 4. Mr Wellington Nkawu the NTJWG Thematic Leader for the Survivors' Group during the Survivors' Interface Meeting with the NPRC



Figure 5: NPRC Deputy Chairperson Lilian Chigwedere addressing survivors at the Interface meeting in Masvingo



2019 STATEHOLDERS CONFERENCE



We are now all in this together!

**29 AUGUST 2019
HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

— ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

On 29 August 2019, the NTJWG convened a stakeholders' conference. The conference was attended by 120 delegates from across the country. The conference began by drawing lessons from the NTJWG's five years of programme implementation as well as reflecting on the important work that had been undertaken the previous year mostly built around the outcomes of the Transitional Justice Symposium undertaken in November 2018. Issues such as the strategy, vacant positions and representation of survivors in the Working Group were discussed. Below are the main outcomes of the Conference:

1. The NTJWG Evaluation Report was presented to NTJWG stakeholders and during the plenary they:

- Emphasised the need for an effective communication strategy that includes translation of materials into local languages as well as braille and sign
- language. Further, the secretariat was asked to consider alternatives to web-based communication systems for stakeholders and geographic areas that face internet coverage and cost challenges;
- Highlighted the critical role of the NTJWG in equipping stakeholders to carry out transitional justice work; and
- Recommended the review of functions, set up and operationalisation of thematic committees so that they are more effective for transitional justice work. It was proposed that the committees be further devolved to district level.

2. The draft strategy for 2019 to 2022 was adopted by stakeholders pending the incorporation of suggested changes. During discussions about the strategy the stakeholders highlighted the following:

- The vision of NTJWG should be anchored in human rights.
- When working against the grain, NTJWG should be mindful of political, social, economic hindrances and be realistic about what can be achieved and what should be prioritised.
- The strategy should place emphasis on harnessing indigenous mechanisms on TJ and learning from local communities of practice.
- Emphasis should also be placed on strengthening internal coordination capacities. The TJ pillars should include mediation as part of dialogue and reparations.
- The strategy should consider methodologies of translating transitional justice to young people.
- Parliamentary briefings should be conducted on a bi-annual or quarterly basis.
- Additional briefings should be conducted for the media fraternity.





Figure 7: NTJWG Stakeholder, Members and Secretariat attending the NTJWG 2019 Annual Conference

3. A presentation was made on process of elections and the stakeholders resolved the following:

- The proposal to develop rules of procedures on office tenure was accepted;
- All NTJWG thematic committees meetings would be convened and leaders nominated to be part of the NTJWG membership as thematic committee representatives.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NTJWG STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE IN PICTURES





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NTJWG STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE



SEMI-ANNUAL REGIONAL PROCESS MONITORING



Between 1 October and 15 November 2019, the NTJWG convened four semi-annual regional process monitoring meetings in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and Gweru which brought together 63 individuals representing the NTJWG stakeholders. In these meetings, the NTJWG reflected on the opportunities and challenges being encountered in engaging the NPRC.

The meetings also sought and understood the needs and expectations by stakeholders from the NTJWG. Some of the issues that were discussed during the meeting related to the operating environment, the debilitating economic situation, shrinking space, residual fear, and power dynamics within communities, persistent persecution of human rights defenders and lack of information on the work of the NPRC.

The NTJWG stakeholders appreciated the scope for engagement with the NPRC and recognised the need to explore opportunities of developing linkages with specific Commissioners that are amenable to working closely with civil society.



Figure 7: Harare Regional process monitoring in Harare at Cresta Lodge on 1 October 2019. The meeting was attended by National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) stakeholders based in Harare. Meeting was facilitated by the Secretariat of the NTJWG.



THESE MEETINGS HAD THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

1. The relationship among NTJWG stakeholders (member organisations) was revived, with a clear picture of where each organisation is based, what they are doing and how stakeholders can become more active in project implementation in line with the NTJWG strategy;
2. The NTJWG got to have a better appreciation of the challenges stakeholders are facing in engaging the NPRC and adopted measures to address the challenges such as inviting the NPRC to their meetings and other events and to inform the Commission that they want to meet them and have an honest discussion on national peace and reconciliation processes. The main issues raised was the lack of visibility of the NPRC as stakeholders do not know exactly what the NPRC is doing at any given point in time;
3. Stakeholders implored the NTJWG to improve its communication strategy to improve on information dissemination, coordination and participation of stakeholders in the NTJWG programmes;
4. The interest by stakeholders to get more involved in the official transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe was revived. This is proposed as a new activity in 2020 which will aim to train stakeholders in transitional justice so that they mainstream transitional justice issues into their programming. This will enhance the NTJWG's coordination of advocacy activities aimed at the promotion of truth, healing and reconciliation at community level.

THEMATIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Within the NTJWG framework, thematic committees play a significant role in guiding the implementation of the overall organisational strategy. During the year, meetings of the Gender Thematic Committee tasked with the responsibility to ensure the optimisation of gender into the transitional justice process, the Reparations and Rehabilitation and the Knowledge Management committees were convened. The convening of these meetings was one of the key recommendations made by the NTJWG stakeholders during the Annual Stakeholders Conference in August 2019.

On the 20 of September, the NTJWG held a Survivor Support Group meeting. The meeting was attended by organisations from Harare and Bulawayo that work directly with survivors and their representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the NTJWG's framework for monitoring the work of the NPRC, the survivor mapping exercise as well as elect a thematic leader for the committee. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was a call by the stakeholders for the NTJWG to prioritise conflict sensitive programming to minimise re-traumatising the survivors. The meeting further nominated Dr Frances Lovemore, Director of Counselling Services Unit (CSU) as the Thematic Leader for Reparations and Rehabilitation.



Figure 8. Participants attending the NTJWG Gender Committee Meeting in Harare

The Knowledge Management Committee held its meeting on the 29th October 2019 aimed at, among other things, review the NTJWG strategy around knowledge management, designing an action plan to enhance sharing of expert knowledge on transitional justice as well as electing a leader to spearhead the functions of this committee. The meeting was attended by representatives from Africa University, Catholic University, Centre for Peace Initiatives in Africa (CPIA) Media Monitors, Solusi University, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) and University of Cape Town. Dr Rodgers Manungo was elected as the leader of the Knowledge Management Committee meeting.



The Gender Committee convened its inaugural meeting on 30 October 2019. The meeting was attended by five key stakeholders, among them Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ), Musasa Project, Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) and Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA). The purpose of the meeting was to review the NTJWG strategy as well as developing a work plan to facilitate the implementation of a gendered approach to transitional justice. The meeting also elected Ms Abigail Matsvayi from ZWLA as the leader of the Gender Thematic Committee.



The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the NTJWG's framework for monitoring the work of the NPRC, the survivor mapping exercise as well as elect a thematic leader for the committee.



STAKEHOLDERS IN ACTION

In 2019, NTJWG stakeholders made a range of contributions to the transitional justice agenda in the country using typologies that seek to develop and maintain a locally relevant vision for transitional justice that resonated with the needs and expectations of the victims of past atrocities.

i. LIFESPAN OF THE NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

On 13 March 2019, the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) represented Ms Concilia Chinanzvavana who approached the courts seeking clarity as to the interpretation of section 251 (1) of the Constitution which provides for the establishment of the NPRC and gives it a lifespan of ten years. The application specifically sought a ruling stating when the ten year lifespan of the NPRC had begun to run and when it would end.

The NPRC was established by the Constitution in 2013 but the enabling Act was only enacted in 2018 thus operationalising the NPRC. As such in the application it was argued that the NPRC's tenure started running in 2018. This interpretation was accepted by Justice Mafusire sitting in the High Court in Masvingo and he ruled that the tenure of the NPRC expires in 2028 as the Constitution gives it a ten year lifespan. This ruling was a big victory for transitional justice in Zimbabwe. This ruling was however appealed by the government and by the end of 2019 the case was still pending before the courts. If the appeal is granted the lifespan of the NPRC will come to an end in 2023. However, if the judgement by Justice Mafusire is upheld, the NPRC's lifespan will end in 2028.



ii. HORRORS OF GUKURAHUNDI RELIVED

Ukuthula Trust has been one of the leading institutions providing expertise on exhuming victims of past atrocities with a particular focus on Matabeleland. The organisation, not only provided awareness through the media, but has also gone further to build victim-focused capacities on the ethical approaches to confronting exhumations. On 4th of May 2019, the Director of *Ukuthula Trust*, Shari Eppel provided an interview under the title “*Horrors of Gukurahundi relived*” exploring the challenges and opportunities for healing and reconciliation through exhumations. On 9 July 2019 a workshop was convened by the Trust for Gukurahundi victims covering issues such as sexual violence in conflict, children of conflict and the need for post-conflict counselling and rehabilitation. These discussions on exhumations provide an opportunity for the NTJWG and its stakeholders to examine some of the tensions between the bureaucratic state-led models of transitional justice and the civil society reinterpretations that mark forensic practice in contemporary transitional justice debate.

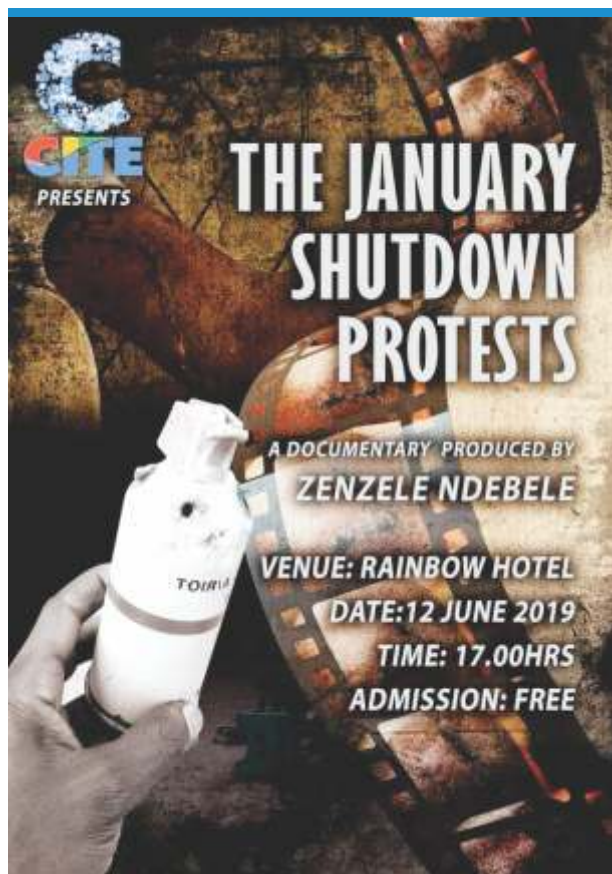


The intervention by *Ukuthula Trust* is critical in that it offers new avenues for understanding and ameliorating the tense relationship between the bureaucratic and legal needs of forensic exhumations and the desires and expectations of victims. It is also important in identifying challenges faced by the victims in exhuming their deceased relatives in order to create spaces for sharing and learning of best practices.

iii. PROMOTION OF TRUTH

The Centre for Innovation and Technology (CITE) weighed in with commendable work on the promotion of the right to truth. Various methodologies were employed by CITE to champion the cause for truth. On 12 June 2019 CITE launched the “*January Shutdown Protests*” documentary at Rainbow Hotel in Bulawayo. The documentary launch was attended by delegates from the City of Bulawayo, traditional leaders, civil society and faith-based organisations. CITE also expanded its platforms of engagement to include radio programmes. On 19 June 2019 CITE organised a radio programme on Skyz-Metro FM to discuss the Gukurahundi atrocities in Zimbabwe. The conversation was graced by panelists and experts Mr Dewa Mavhinga, Southern Africa Director at Human Rights Watch and Mr Zenzele Ndebele, Founder and Director of CITE. The discussion centred on how accountability, truth-telling,

truth-seeking and compensation of victims and survivors can be prioritised within the transitional justice process in Zimbabwe.



iv. GOVERNMENT URGED TO PAY DAMAGES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

On 30 June 2019, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum published its Anti-Impunity Update which comprised a list of 28 cases where the courts have awarded damages to victims of State violence. The awards range from three thousand dollars to about six million Zimbabwean dollars per individual. In the update, the Forum said the State Liabilities Act was an obstacle to justice for many victims. Speaking at the launch of the Anti-Impunity Report: 2018, Public Interest

Litigation Specialist at the Forum, Ms Michelle Matsvaire said: *“the lack of political will to honour judgements was perpetuating impunity.”* She urged the state to ensure that it meets its obligations. To read the Forum’s Anti-Impunity update follow this link: [!\[\]\(cbe80b694ebd74fcfe136a095b608235_img.jpg\)](#)

v. PROMOTING SAFE EDUCATION SPACES FOR RURAL GIRLS

On 11 July 2019, Masakhaneni Trust hosted an advocacy awareness conference on promoting safe education spaces for the rural girl child in light of the vulnerability of young school girls in Matabeleland. The event was attended by civil society organisations, the Church, traditional leaders, government and local government officials. The workshop interrogated the importance of advocacy in protecting the girl child, developed the capacity of participants in responding to challenges faced by the girl child in the Matabeleland region and provided useful tools for effective advocacy.


vi. CALL FOR THE NATIONAL SABBATICAL

The role of the Church in transitional justice cannot be overemphasised. One of the key processes which is also an outcome of transitional justice is reconciliation. Religions have the capacity to provide a cultural foundation for peace within societies

ravaged by conflict. Drawing on their intimate knowledge of the myths, beliefs, and deepest feelings of people shaped by religious cultures including people who may no longer practice the religion in question religious leaders are endowed with the capacity to promote peace-related values.

Under the banner of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations on 7 October 2019, the church called for a national sabbatical in all political contestation for a period of seven years to allow for the rebuilding of trust and confidence. The call was informed by the realisation that the failure of the nation to fully bring healing and mutually acceptable

closure to the past was resulting in hatred and the propensity for revenge was growing. The church highlighted that the sabbatical period would be for purposes of establishing an emergency recovery mechanism to address the dire national situation, especially for the most vulnerable communities; rebuilding trust and confidence by healing all the hurts of the past; developing a shared national reform agenda to deepen our democracy; and establishing a shared and inclusive national economic vision. To read the statement by the church on the call for the sabbatical follow this [Link](#).



The church called for a national sabbatical in all political contestation for a period of seven years to allow for the rebuilding of trust and confidence.



IMAGINING THE FUTURE

To broaden its mandate and amplify its work in order to serve the needs and aspirations of both victims and survivors of repression and human rights violations, a number of recommendations were made by the strategic stakeholders of the NTJWG. The NTJWG is a growing and learning institution whose growth must be calibration of a reflection of work over the years, building on its successes and objectively interrogating its gaps in order to more effectively design intervention. Some of the recommendations made to the NTJWG are as follows:



1. The NTJWG must develop resource capacities to ensure that it cascades skills and knowledge on transitional justice to its major stakeholders. These capacities could be developed through targeted in-depth training programmes to deepen understanding on truth, justice and reconciliation.
2. Although youth are key political and social stakeholders who have much to contribute to and gain from transitional justice processes, they often remain marginalised from such processes or are given only a limited and predetermined space in which to engage. In magnifying its work, the NTJWG must reflect on the benefits of meaningfully engaging youth both in institutions of higher learning and in communities and design a more nuanced framework that focuses on youth as agents of change. A more deliberate approach to working with youth as a central component of transitional justice must be developed.

It was further noted that if Zimbabwe intends to mark a radical shift in the way the country seeks to prevent and end violence there is a greater need to acknowledge the positive and constructive roles that youth play in building sustainable peace.

3. The NTJWG must also evaluate the role of films and documentaries in retaining memories of victims of mass atrocities and acknowledging the narratives and meanings of state violence in the post-dictatorship arena, as well as the tensions around the implementation of the transitional project and its fractures. Studies reveal that memory is not unambiguous but requires struggle to find meaning; it requires the commitment by social actors to interrogate that past for lessons that allow not only to live in the present, but to build a future for all. To that end the use of videos, documentaries and films is an integral component of aiding the country's official process of reckoning with the past. In most cases these official public platforms do not tell the whole story and hence documentaries become important in balancing the record. NTJWG stakeholder underscored the need to include videography in the institution's human rights archive. Videos can be critical in disseminating information around transitional justice processes and the needs of survivors with stakeholders such as the NPRC and government.

4. The centrality of stories in deepening transitional justice interventions can never be underestimated. Critical Narrative Theory affirms the importance of narrative agency in telling or withholding stories. Victims have varied and dissimilar stories to tell based on their individual encounters with violence as part of the memories of offence. Transitional Justice Scholars and practitioners concur that stories are fundamental in allowing for the *“democratisation of dreadful secrets, enabling combustible memories and buried knowledge to be excavated and shared in the public domain”*. While storytelling in truth commission work may allow victims, perpetrators and communities to construct collective memories of the past as a prelude to national repair, truth commissions in their focus on reconciliation have also been critiqued for fostering impunity, eroding human rights, trivialising violations, and failing to provide *“real”* justice to victims.





In that sense creating safe and all-encompassing spaces for victims to tell their stories becomes imperative as they inform the knowledge about post-conflict societies. To that end, the NTJWG must design a robust storytelling project to ensure that victims, survivors and communities are offered an opportunity to relive the past, reconstruct the future and find closure.

5. Research and field experience demonstrate that gender sensitivity in programming can be a catalytic component in the complex task of building sustainable peace and provides concrete examples of how to draw on women's untapped potential in transitional justice. Due to the unique experience of women both during conflict and in the period of reconciliation gender issues need to be given special emphasis during the transitional process.

Oftentimes women's issues are marginalised, and their stories remain untold in societies with enduring patriarchal inequities. Bringing them to joint platforms with their male counterparts may not bring the deeper issues that affect women during conflict and repression. The NTJWG must be alive to this challenge and should design programmes that respond to these challenges so that women do not choose silence over speaking out.

About The National Transitional Justice Working Group

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 centered and participatory transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe.

Values

- Integrity
- Inclusivity
- Impartiality

Members

Mr. Alec Muchadehama	Chairperson
Mr. Paul Themba Nyathi	Deputy Chairperson
Rev. Dr. Fradereck Chiromba	Promotion of Truth Thematic Leader
Ms. Roselyn Hanzi	Justice and Accountability Thematic Leader
Rev. Dr. Ray Motsi	Memorialization Thematic Leader
Ms. Abigail Matsvayi	Gender Thematic Leader
Mr. Wellington Nkawu	Survivors Thematic Group Leader
Dr. Frances Lovemore	Reparations and Rehabilitation Thematic Leader
Mr. Anthony Reeler	Institutional Reform Thematic Leader
Ms. Samukeliso Khumalo	Gender Independent Expert
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