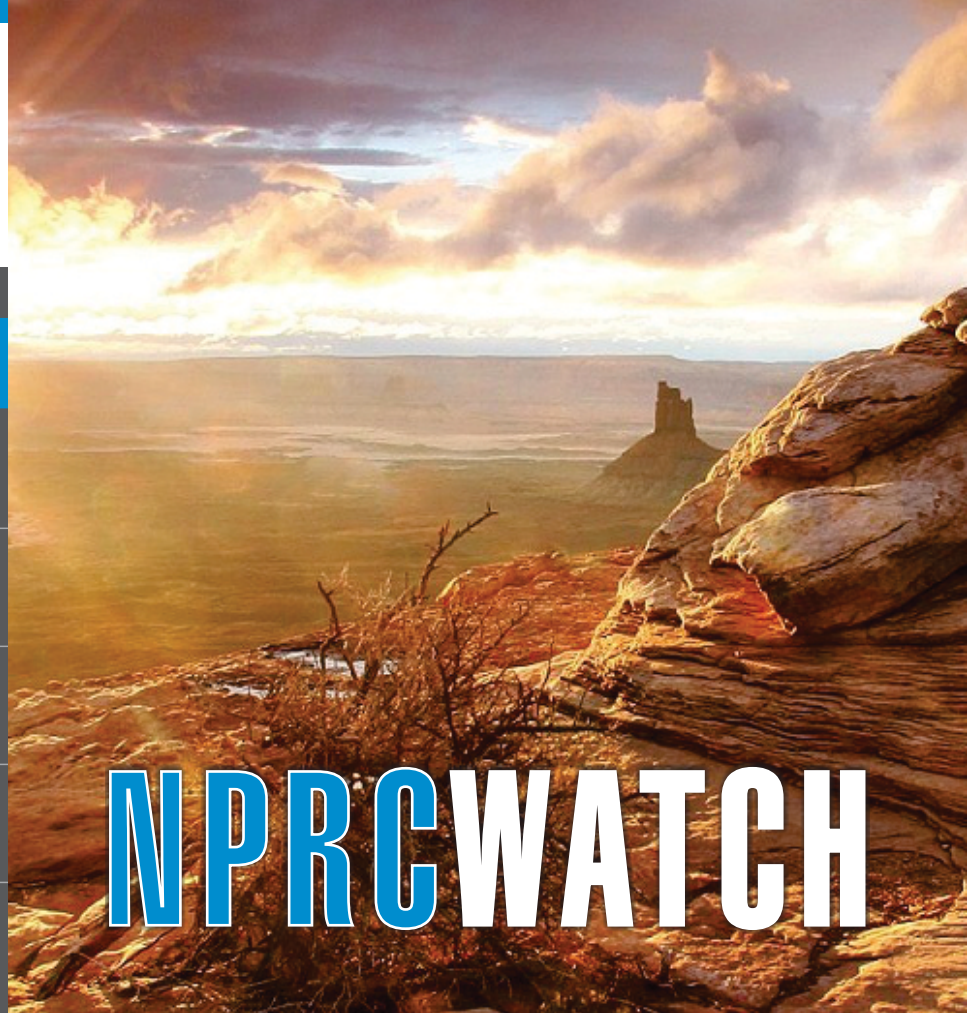




NATIONAL  
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE  
WORKING GROUP  
ZIMBABWE

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# NPRCWATCH

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020 | ISSUE 02

### STAKEHOLDERS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

#### In this Edition

In the past month, the National Transitional Justice Working Group and for the year and went into the full swing of program implementation to further the transitional justice agenda in our country. There have also been some exciting developments internationally in respect of transitional justice.

In this newsletter, we detail the developments in our country around transitional justice issues to give you a better view of the transitional justice landscape in Zimbabwe today. We cover the activities of the NPRC, our activities, and the international developments in the transitional justice sphere. As always we welcome your feedback.

## IN THE NEWS

### NPRC ACTIVITIES

The month of February saw the NPRC holding trainings for its *provincial peace committees (PPCs)* for Manicaland, Harare and Mashonaland East. The NPRC set up the PPCs in provinces and gave them the mandate of solve conflicts in their areas because a “one-size-fits all” approach had proved impractical. The PPCs were then set up to deal with past conflicts which are peculiar to their provinces and also facilitate peace-building processes.

#### Training for the Manicaland PPC

On the 18th of February, the NPRC held a three-day training program for the Manicaland PPC aimed at equipping members with skills on conflict analysis, approaches to conflict resolution, indigenous solutions to conflicts and peace education. The trainings emphasised the importance of a critical understanding of the actors, content, context, positions, interests, options, objectives and relationship building in preventing, managing, resolving and transforming conflict. The PPC also went through an exercise during which its strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities were discussed as part of the training program.

#### Training of the Harare Metropolitan PPC

On the 24th of February, the NPRC started the training for the Harare Metropolitan PPC. The PPC identified political conflicts, boundary disputes, polarization, and resource conflicts, social and economic conflicts as the major conflicts affecting Harare Metropolitan Province. When the PPC concluded its training it agreed to prioritize the establishment of district peace committees.

The NTJWG is encouraged to see the NPRC capacitating the PPCs so that they can start working in their respective provinces.

#### Training of the Mashonaland East PPC

On the 26th of February, the NPRC began training of the Mashonaland East PPC. One of the exercises the members of the PPC had to do was to share ideas on the attributes of a peace builder and they identified attributes such as impartiality, respectability, resilience, sincerity, self-discipline, and empathy.

The NTJWG reminds the NPRC to emphasize to the members of the PPCs the importance of being visible, approachable and having a victim-centered approach in their work.

#### NPRC Website Gets a Facelift

On the 22nd of February, the NPRC’s new website went live. This website can be accessed by visiting [www.nprc.org.zw](http://www.nprc.org.zw) and the NPRC asked members of the public to visit the new website and give feedback on their experience. The new website now allows those with complaints to formally lodge them via the ‘Contact Us’ link. The NTJWG congratulates the NPRC on its new website and asks that the website be kept up to date to make information on the NPRC’s activities easily accessible to all stakeholders.



*This website can be accessed by visiting [www.nprc.org.zw](http://www.nprc.org.zw)*





## NTJWG ACTIVITIES

### Policy Dialogue on Reparations and Rehabilitation

On 6 February 2020, the NTJWG convened a policy dialogue on reparations and rehabilitation at Holiday Inn in Harare. The purpose of the dialogue was to create a platform for stakeholders to make recommendations and adopt steps towards the adoption of a model reparations and rehabilitation policy for Zimbabwe. This policy dialogue was co-facilitated by Ms. Paula Gaviria, an international expert on reparations and rehabilitation and the former Director of the Special Administrative Unit for the Comprehensive Reparation of Victims in Colombia, and Dr. Frances Lovemore, a local expert on reparations and rehabilitation and the Executive Director of the Counselling Services Unit. Ms. Gaviria and Dr. Lovemore were specifically selected because of their vast expertise in dealing with survivors of past human rights violation particularly in respect of issues around reparations and rehabilitation.

Each of the two experts presented a research paper on their recommendations for a national reparations and rehabilitation policy framework for Zimbabwe before NTJWG stakeholders and members, Parliamentarians, Commissioners of the NPRC, government officials from the Attorney General's office and the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, the media, survivors of past human rights violations and members of the public. The policy dialogue provided a platform for informative discussions on reparations and rehabilitation among stakeholders in Zimbabwe and the NTJWG hopes that this policy dialogue sparked interest in reparations and rehabilitation in the public and will usher in greater discourse around this very important issue by the public which will be followed by more engagement with the policymakers and implementers in respect of issues to do with reparations and rehabilitation.

### Post-Dialogue Breakfast Meeting

Following the policy dialogue, the NTJWG hosted a post-dialogue breakfast meeting on 7 February 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Harare. The high-level meeting was attended by representatives from NPRC, the office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and survivors of past human rights violations and the NTJWG members. All the key stakeholders that attended this meeting agreed that there is a need to develop a model law on reparations and rehabilitation that will guide the process after the realization that there implementation of a

reparations and rehabilitation programme in Zimbabwe would be aided by a well-crafted and well-defined guiding policy. This meeting aimed at creating a platform for engagement among the key stakeholders who are critical to the development of any policies or laws relating to reparations and rehabilitation. The NTJWG is hopeful that this meeting will lead to collaboration among the key stakeholders themselves and with the NTJWG to further the transitional justice agenda, particularly concerning reparations and rehabilitation.

### Radio Programs

On the 7th of February, the NTJWG hosted a radio program in Harare on Capital 100.4 FM following the policy dialogue on reparations and rehabilitation. The program sensitized the public on critical reparations and rehabilitation issues by sparking conversations around individual, physical, emotional, economic and community-based compensation for survivors of past atrocities. The panelists were Ms. Paula Gaviria, an expert on reparations and rehabilitation from Colombia, Dr. Geoffrey Chada, NPRC Commissioner and Dr. Frances Lovemore, the NTJWG Thematic Leader on Reparations and Rehabilitation.

## Community Dialogues

In February, the NTJWG continued carrying out community dialogues at ward level. These dialogues are aimed at sensitising communities on the mandate of the NPRC, with a view to drive informed engagement between communities and survivors and the NPRC. The community dialogues were carried out by survivors of past human rights violations that have been trained by the NTJWG and are based within the communities they train. The NTJWG carried out three community dialogues in February, the first in Chinhoyi on the 12th, the second on Nkayi on the 14th and the final one in Hwange on the 17th. These dialogues were attended by a total of 153 people. The NTJWG is happy to report that these community dialogues were welcomed and appreciated by participants in the three communities as they gave much-needed information on the NPRC and its mandate which most participants were unaware of. These community dialogues also saw survivors and perpetrators in one room discussing transitional justice issues and this is a critical step in the healing and reconciliation process. The participants indicated a willingness to engage with the NPRC but and as such the NTJWG calls upon the NPRC to increase its visibility in these areas in fulfillment of its mandate. The NTJWG is also encouraged to note the increased participation of church leaders and traditional leaders, who we believe are critical stakeholders in the transitional justice processes at the community level.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Commemoration of International Day of Truth

Each year on 24 March, the NTJWG joins the rest of the world in observing the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and the Dignity of Victims. This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador. The right to the truth is often invoked in the context of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of humanitarian law. The relatives of victims of summary executions, enforced disappearance, missing persons, abducted children, torture, require to know what happened to them. The right to the truth implies knowing the complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

#### The Purpose of the Day is to:

- Honor the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice;
- Pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all;
- Recognize, in particular, the important work and values of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, of El Salvador, who was assassinated on 24 March 1980.

As part of its commemoration of this day, the NTJWG will be hosting a cinema of truth event during which a film that speaks to transitional justice and the right to the truth will be broadcasted. We invite members of the public and all interested stakeholders to watch the media and our social media handles for more information on this event which will be open to the public.



## AROUND THE WORLD

### United Nations Security Council Inaugural Debate on Transitional Justice

On the 13th of February, the UN Security Council held a six-hour-long open debate on transitional justice in Belgium. This debate was the first of its kind and indicates increased interest by the UN Security Council in transitional justice. The debate was attended by representatives and senior officials from Belgium, Niger, Estonia, United States, Indonesia, United Kingdom, France, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, Dominican Republic, Viet Nam, Guatemala, Spain, Japan, Norway (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Lebanon, Portugal, Kenya, El Salvador, Slovakia, Italy, Colombia, Armenia, Georgia, Qatar, Egypt, India, Ireland, Peru, Turkey, Fiji, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Bangladesh, Argentina, Romania, Syria, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Netherlands, Malta, Canada, Gambia, Iraq, Angola, Croatia, and Ukraine, as well as from the European Union. The delegates amid called for the Security Council to take decisive approaches to conflicts in concert with other United Nations bodies. They also said that transitional justice mechanisms that are locally owned and focused on the needs of victims have repeatedly helped to address grievances and pave the way for more peaceful societies to take root. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, said the recent overthrow of the regime in Sudan was driven by demands for justice across society and it is now necessary for suffering needs to be acknowledged, confidence in State institutions restored and justice to be served. South Africa's delegate similarly said transitional justice was vital to securing a peaceful transition for his country from apartheid to constitutional democracy. He encouraged countries to explore a range of measures, from criminal prosecutions, truth commissions and reparations, to exhumation of mass graves, apologies and institutional reforms to redress abuses. To read more about this debate that is so critical to transitional justice discourse you can visit: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14109.doc.htm>

### Feedback and this Newsletter

Please share with us your feedback on the content that we have just shared with you. To view or download the newsletter online click: <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/publications.html>



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