



NPRC WATCH

ANALYSIS | PROFILES | NEWS | RECOMMENDATIONS | PARTICIPATION

Stakeholders, Friends, and Partners

2019 has been an eventful year for Zimbabweans thus far and the month of September is no different. 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 publications, the activities of our stakeholders and other global developments. As always we welcome your feedback.

The Safe Spaces Initiative

On the 3rd of September, the NPRC held a debrief session following the rollout of its Safe Spaces Initiative. The initiative recognizes that there is a need to promote meaningful participation of women to ensure inclusive and transformative healing and reconciliation. The initiative also seeks to expand the scope for Women's meaningful participation peace and reconciliation efforts. On the 17th of September, the NPRC's VSGD Committee met to consolidate the outcomes of the de-brief session. The NTJWG now looks forward to the publication of these outcomes for the consumption of the NPRC stakeholders in the public domain.

Press Statement on Xenophobia

On the 6th of September, The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) published a press statement condemning the xenophobic attacks on foreigners in the Republic of South Africa. They called for urgent concerted efforts by the Government of South Africa, SADC leaders and other peace-loving bodies to address the attacks.

Mashonaland Central Peace Committee Meeting

On the 21st of September 2019 the NPRC Commissioner with oversight for Mashonaland Central Rev Charles Masunungure held meetings with key stakeholders in Bindura in response to the clashes between Bindura residents and a rogue group called MaShurugwi. The skirmishes had spread to Shamva, Glendale, Concession & Mazowe but the Zimbabwe Republic Police managed to restore order. Commissioner Rev Charles Masunungure called for an urgent meeting of the Mashonaland Central Peace Committee on the 23rd of September 2019 at 1400 hours in Bindura. The meeting was successfully held on the 23rd of September and was chaired by Commissioner Reverend Charles Masunungure. The resolutions of that meeting were:

- Mapping of actors;
- Engagement;
- Dialogue facilitation;
- Promote peaceful resolution of disputes instead of resorting to violence;
- Encourage ZRP to do their work without fear or favor and
- Investigation / research & establish the root causes.

On the 25th of September 2019, the NPRC carried out an induction and orientation exercise for the Provincial Peace Committees where the Deputy Chairpersons from the country's ten provinces are met with their Chairpersons who are the Commissioners responsible for each province. They were able to share experiences from across Zimbabwe. The process was facilitated by colleagues from Ghana and Kenya.

International Day of Peace Commemorations

On the 27th of September, 2019 the NPRC carried-out International Day of Peace Commemorations at St Charles Lwanga Seminary Secondary School in Chimanimani. The event was attended by Commissioners Masunungure and Chekenyere who also carried out a tree planting exercise as part of the commemoration activities.



NTJWG Activities

Survivor Support Group Meeting

On the 20th of September, the NTJWG held the first-ever Survivor Support Group (hereinafter referred to as "the SSG") meeting. The SSG was established to allow stakeholders to effectively deal with issues related to survivors and as such is made up of organizations that deal directly with survivors as well as representatives of survivors. The meeting was aimed at electing a thematic leader, unpacking the NTJWG's NPRC monitoring framework and make any necessary changes as well as to discuss the survivor mapping exercise the NTJWG intends to carry out. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the agreement by stakeholders that in whatever the NTJWG does when dealing with survivors it is important to remember not to do any harm. It was said that because of the trauma survivors were exposed to in the past it is crucial to deal with them with sensitivity and specialized skills to avoid traumatizing them again.

To know more about this meeting you can read the full report on <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NTJWG%20SSG%20Reflective%20Meeting%20Report%20Final.pdf>.

Radio Programme on the Principles of National Dialogue

On the 21st of September, the NTJWG joined the world in celebrating

Provincial Peace Committees Induction and Orientation



the International Day of Peace. This day was commemorated through the hosting of a radio program on Star FM to discuss the National Dialogue on the 26th of September. The discussion was centered on the values, principles and virtues of an inclusive national dialogue in Zimbabwe. The panelists were Mr. Alec Muchadehama, the Chairman of the NTJWG, and Reverend Sifelani of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches. To listen to the radio program you can visit <http://soundcloud.com/ntjwgzimbabwe/ntjwg-radio-programme-on-the-guiding-principles-virtues-and-values-of-national-dialogue-in-zimbabwe>.

Community Dialogues

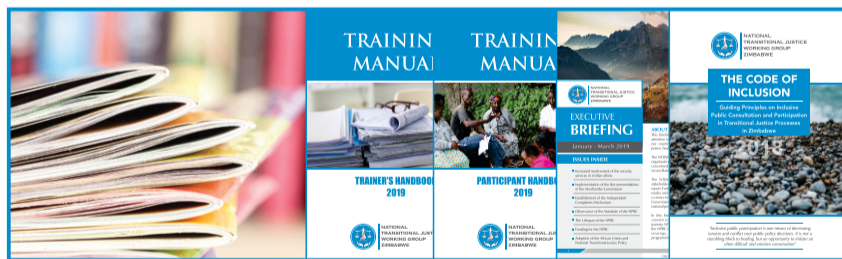
Following the training of trainers workshop carried out by the NTJWG on the 30th of August 2019 the NTJWG carried out community dialogues on the mandate of the NPRC in Nyanga North, Ward 3 and Mbowane Line, Tsholotsho, Ward 15. In line with the NTJWG's victim-centered approach, these community dialogues were facilitated by victims namely Mr. Sekai Gombe and Ms. Penina Moyo who have been trained by the NTJWG under the guidance of the NTJWG Secretariat. The community dialogues were aimed at discussing the mandate of the NPRC as a way of sensitizing the communities about the NPRC to allow for effective engagement with the NPRC when the opportunity is presented.

The first community dialogue was held on the 24th of September 2019 in Nyanga North, Ward 3 while the other was held 27th of September 2019 in Mbowane Line, Tsholotsho. The key outcomes for these community dialogues were Enhanced understanding by survivors' of the NPRC process, motivation of communities to participate in the NPRC and equipping of survivor groups with tools and skills for effective participation in the peace and reconciliation.

The report for the Tsholotsho Community Dialogue can be accessed on <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Tsholotsho%20Community%20Dialogue%20on%20the%20Mandate%20of%20the%20NPRC%20Report.pdf>

The report for the Nyanga Community Dialogue can be accessed on <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Nyanga%20North%20Community%20Dialogue%20Report.pdf>

NTJWG Publications



Report on the Establishment of Provincial Peace Committees

On 29 May 2019, the NPRC announced that it will be devolving its operations to Provinces through the establishment of Provincial Peace Committees (PPCs). These Committees were mandated to solve conflicts in their areas to avoid a "one-size-fits-all" approach which was proved impractical. As a follow up to the establishment of the Provincial Peace Committees the NTJWG on the 2nd of September published the NTJWG Report on the Establishment of Provincial Peace Committees. The report looks into the roles and responsibilities of the PPCs and the challenges the PPCs might face in the near future by the NPRC.

The report can be accessed at

<http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/news/NTJWG%20Report%20on%20the%20Establishment%20of%20Provincial%20Peace%20Committees%20by%20the%20NPRC.pdf>.

Report on the NPRC's outreach program

In July 2019, the NTJWG Secretariat attended the NPRC press conference during which the NPRC announced its intention to embark on a twenty-one day outreach program raise awareness on the approaches that will be used in handling national healing and reconciliation which include public hearings, mechanisms for early detection of conflict, national dialogue facilitation, and setting-up of peace committees. On the 2nd of September, the NTJWG published its report on the NPRC Outreach Programme following the conclusion of the program. The report highlights some of the issues of concern raised during the outreach meetings. The report can be accessed on <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/news/NTJWG%20Report%20on%20the%20NPRC%20Outreach%20Programme.pdf>.

Stakeholders in Action

Appeal to Extension of the Lifespan of the NPRC

Earlier this year in March, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights was granted an order by the High Court of Zimbabwe extending the lifespan of the NPRC. The judgment was set to see the lifespan of the NPRC lapsing in January 2028 and not August 2023 as it was initially supposed to. This landmark judgment marked a massive feat for transitional justice in Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, this decision was appealed by the government of Zimbabwe and the appeal was heard in the Supreme Court representing on the 30th of September. The NTJWG anxiously awaits the finalization of this matter.

International Day of Peace Commemorations

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) also joined the world in commemorating the International Day of Peace. ZPP held the commemorations at Manjolo Community Centre on the 21st of September. During the celebrations, community representatives signed a Peace Pledge to affirm their commitment to promoting a peaceful society.

Around the World

From the 9th to the 27th of September the 42nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council was convened at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. Among the reports that were presented at the Session was the report by the rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence which addressed concerns about issues that are at the heart of transitional justice.

This report can be accessed on

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/213/PDF/G1921303.pdf?OpenElement>.



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