

NEWSLETTER

May 2019



Stakeholders, Friends and Partners

This newsletter serves to keep you up to speed with transitional justice processes in the country. In the month of May 2019, the NPRC undertook a major outreach programme.

As the outreach begins, we share in this edition the Code of Inclusion as we encourage the NPRC to be inclusive. NTJWG released the first Executive Brief for 2019. The 2018 State of Transitional Justice Report is also contained in this newsletter.





The NPRC's Outreach Programme

In the month of May, 2019 the NPRC embarked on an outreach programme focusing on the following:

- i) Strategic priorities for 2019: public hearings for healing and reconciliation, mechanisms for early detection of conflict, national dialogue facilitation, setting-up of peace committees, evidence-based legislative and policy recommendations;
- ii) Key thematic areas including complaints handling mechanism, victim support mechanism, truthtelling and seeking mechanism, healing, reconciliation and rehabilitation strategy, research and knowledge movement strategy and
- iii) Highlighting structures in which Zimbabweans can participate for a broad-based and inclusive national healing, reconciliation and peace building process.



Schedule of the Outreach Programme:

- a) 2-4 May, 2019: Harare and Mashonaland West
- b) 6-7 May, 2019: Masvingo
- c) 8-10 May, 2019: Manicaland and
- d) 14-15 May, 2019: Gweru, Midlands.

Outcomes of the 21-day outreach programme include identifying strategic priorities for 2019 such as public hearings for healing and reconciliation, adoption of mechanisms for early detection of conflicts, national dialogue facilitation, agreements on dates to set-up and members of peace committees.

The NTJWG is now waiting for a full and detailed report of the outreach programmes so as to identify possible areas of collaboration and intervention with the NPRC.

NTJWG Publications

NTJWG NPRC Briefing

The 2019 briefing for the first quarter was presented to the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission on 10 April, 2019. The NTJWG chairperson also presented the Code of Inclusion to the NPRC. The briefing embodies a summary of the issues related to the appointment of the NPRC's secretariat, reporting obligations, the #shutdown atrocities, lifespan of the Commission, the NPRC's community interface meetings, funding of the Commission and upcoming meetings or activities of the Commission.

The NPRC Briefing is Available Here >

NTJWG Executive Briefing

NTJWG presents the first Executive Briefing of the Year. The briefing draws from the monitoring work done by NTJWG and the views obtained from stakeholders who are concerned with the national peace and reconciliation process in Zimbabwe. Of great significance is the increased involvement of the security forces in civilian affairs, implementation of the recommendations of the Montlanthe Commission, establishment of the Independent Complaints Mechanism, observance of the mandate of the NPRC, lifespan of the Commission, funding of the NPRC and advocacy for the adoption of the African Union transitional justice policy by Zimbabwe.

The Executive Briefing is Available Here >



The Code of Inclusion:

Guiding Principles on Inclusive Public Consultation and Participation in Transitional Justice Processes in Zimbabwe

In April, 2019 the NTJWG uploaded the 'Code of Inclusion: Guiding Principles on Inclusive Public Consultation and Participation in Transitional Justice Processes in Zimbabwe.' The Code of Inclusion is an answer to the questions such as inclusion of victims and survivors of past atrocities that the NTJWG has been grappling with for the past 5 years as a working group, but maybe for much longer for victims of past violence.

Upon the establishment of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), 36 organisations met on 7 March, 2018 at the 'NPRC What's Next Conference' and asked some critical questions about the upcoming work of the NPRC, including how the process can be put survivors and victims of past violence at the centre.

You Can Access the Full Document Here >

The State of Transitional Justice Report

In April, 2019 the NTJWG uploaded the 2018 State of Transitional Justice Report which captures the key developments in Zimbabwe's key transitional justice processes since the last report published in January 2018. It highlights developments relevant to the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence. The report documents the outstanding areas of implementation according to domestic law and international obligations.

You Can Access the Full Report Here >



Stakeholders in Action

On 4 May, 2019 Shari Eppel in her capacity as the Director of Ukuthula Trust was interviewed by the Standard's newspaper Senior Reporter Nqobani Ndlovu to discuss the emotive issue of exhumations. The interview and the article are entitled 'Horrors of Gukurahundi Relived'. Shari Eppel shared her expertise in exhuming victims of past atrocities in the context of Matebeleland, a task she and her team are passionate about and having been doing for a long time. They managed to interrogate the challenges and opportunities for healing and reconciliation through exhumations.



The discussion shed light on how the process should be done the right way to avoid 'victimising the victim'.

The Full Interview can be Accessed Here >