



2020

IMPACT REPORT



W/O 3/93

Campaigners for Human Rights

2020 IMPACT REPORT

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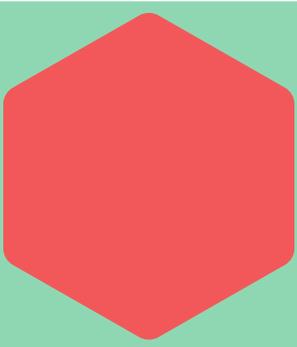
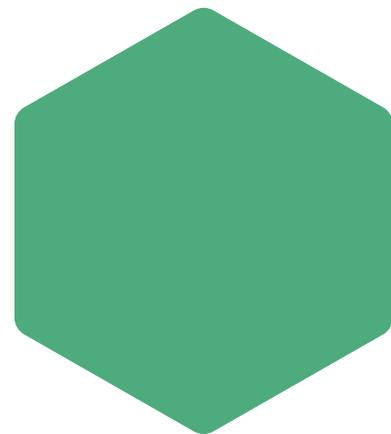
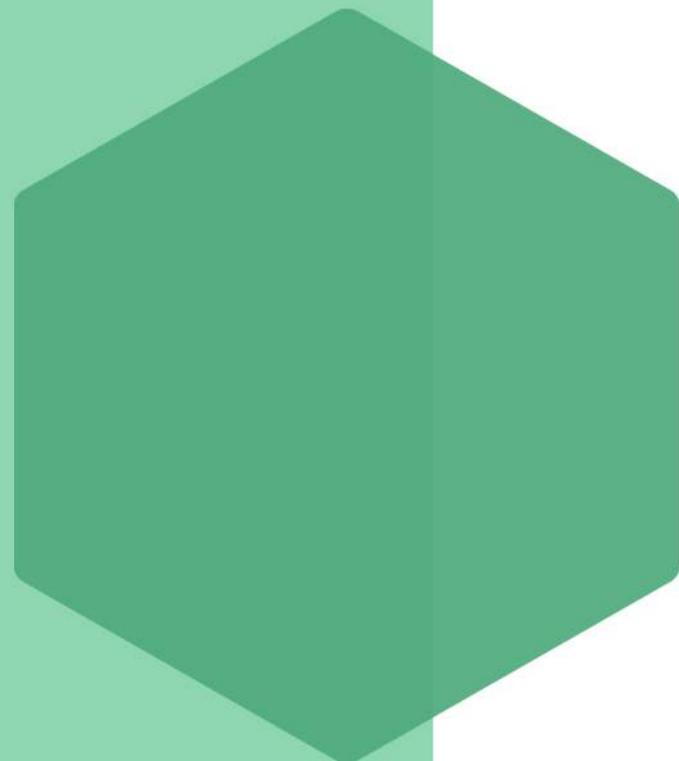


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2020: The Dark Night for Human Rights in Zimbabwe

LOOK AT OUR IMPACT

The ZimRights 2020 Impact Report

The year 2020 has been very difficult for many of us in many ways. COVID-19 took away from us over 1,7 million of our brothers and sisters. Under the cover of COVID-19, authoritarian governments went into overdrive on a wholesale violation of human rights. In Zimbabwe over 26 repressive laws were passed without the participation of Parliament, let alone the people affected by them.



Over 800 people suffered assaults of various kind at the hands of the state, its agents or actors acting with the blessing of the state. About 5 people were victims of alleged extra-judicial killings. The state was dragged 26 times to the courts for various human rights transgressions

. 13 judgments were passed against the state and the state ignored the majority of them. The invasion of the Morgan Tsvangirai House and the recall of legislators from Parliament marked the most significant democratic recession in the year. The suspension of elections by Vice President Constantino Chiwenga was the worst assault on the right to participation. The Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 2 was the worst assault on Constitutionalism.

Our Response & Impact

In this dark night, together with thousands of Zimbabweans across the country, we rose to the challenge in defense of human rights. See our impact at a glance.

2020 Projects

In the course of the year, we successfully implemented 7 projects covering 10 provinces of Zimbabwe and the 11th Virtual Province of Zimbabweans from all walks of life. Through these projects, we reached out to 200 000 people through online and physical interactions.

Our digital platforms made 3,9 million impressions at their peak in the month of August. We amplified the human rights discourse and unravelled human rights violations in communities. We brought communities to the centre of the policy conversations on proposed constitutional amendments. We rendered assistance to 1200 victims of human rights violations and supported 26 activists in distress. We believe we made a difference. The highlights



assistance
1200 victims
&
supported 26
activists



over 3.9 million impressions

Covid-19 Response

In the face of the worst crisis in our time, we put in place a three pillar COVID-19 response strategy:

- **Humanitarian Pillar** – We delivered urgent humanitarian support to 24 centres and institutions. These included 13 rural clinics, 7 prison facilities, 4 quarantine centres all in all reaching out to over 17 000 people in need.

- **Policy Advocacy** – We became the leading voice in pushing for a Human Rights-centred Approach to Fighting COVID 19, published 2 policy briefs on Human Rights and COVID 19, and probably the most comprehensive report on COVID 19 and Human Rights in Zimbabwe – the Rights in Crisis Report. Of these, the Rights in Crisis Report was the most downloaded from the Website with over 3 000 downloads while its launch was attended by 78 participants on Zoom, watched by over 5 000 people on ZimRights LIVE and 263 Chat Facebook Pages and making over 3 million impressions on our twitter. 5 Community dialogues were held, and 1 high level dialogue was held on Youth, COVID 19 and Human Rights Centred Recovery Plan with the participation of the National Youth Council, Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Social Welfare.

- **Human Rights Monitoring** – Our members were resident human rights monitors who contributed to the ‘Their Voices Matter Series of Reports’ on Community Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic. 7 reports were published while over 600 testimonies were documented on ZimRights Audible. We assisted 1200 victims who included 26 activists in distress.



Human Rights Campaigns

While COVID 19 seemed to bring the world to a halt, we refused to come to a halt. Instead, we raised the banner of participation through various innovative human rights campaigns.

- ZimRights Digital Activism** – As the COVID-19 placed restrictions on civic engagement, we introduced digital activism which came in various innovations. 11 Whats App groups were formed in all the provinces to enable citizens to engage in critical human rights conversations, deal with emerging issues, engage leaders and mobilise citizens to participate in important processes like the fight against Amendment Bill Number 2. About 2 200 people participated in community based-Whats App conversations, 23 initiatives emerged and 16 000 people benefitted from actions that emerged from the groups including 12 reports on hate speech made against Mr. Patrick Chinamasa for inciting violence, 1 petition against manipulation of COVID-19 aid and 2 legal suits against the government for violation of human rights

ZimRights LIVE, a multimedia platform for civic engagement, a brand new website with over 22 resources on civic engagement. We launched the ZimRights News, a monthly newsletter and ZimRights Audible for a monthly podcast covering the most important human rights issues in the country. As part of digital devolution, ZimRights 11 provinces joined the digital activism campaign by creating 11 human rights information regional hubs to bring out key human rights issues from local community perspective.



Over 2 000 participants in community-based WhatsApp conversations, 23 initiatives emerged with 16 000 beneficiaries.

Launched ZimRight LIVE

a brand new website with over 22 resources on civic engagement



created 11 human rights information regional hubs



- **The Right to Peace Campaign** – We launched the Right to Peace Campaign, aimed at increasing community engagement with the national peace architecture and engineering peaceful approaches defending human dignity. The campaign saw the birth of the ZimRights Right to Peace Action Zone with representation from 11 ZimRights Chapters. The Zone convened 13 community dialogues, produced the Rights to Peace Manual for Community Activists and 1 Report on Threats to Peace. All in all, 2300 people directly interacted with the Campaign.



- **The ZimRights YouthZone** – As part of building the next generation of active citizens, we launched the ZimRights Youth Zone. Through this initiative, we supported the establishment of Zimbabwe Constitution Association, an association of high school youth clubs from 8 high schools that work towards promoting the Constitution, Constitutional Values and Constitutionalism. Under the Zimbabwe Constitution Association, 1 Constitution Summit was convened in which 130 high school learners from 8 learning sites participated. The Summit brought in high level facilitators who included authors and drafters of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Dr. Alex Magaisa and Justice Moses Chinhengo as well as Ms. Anita Tshuma, Chief Registrar of the Superior Courts in Zimbabwe. The programme brought on average 15 learners from each of the 8 schools with a spill-over effect of about 600 young people at each of the three provinces that participated.



- **Resources and Publications** – All in all, we have produced 17 new publications in 2020. As part of empowering communities, we produced 5 resources in English, three of them translated into Shona and Ndebele. The publications were made available as hard copies, e-editions on the website and Whats App versions distribution through ZimRights Whats App groups. All of them were summarised in various editions of the ZimRights Audible, a monthly podcast.



Membership Engagement

3949
new members



Our family is growing. In 2020 we registered 3949 new members to the ZimRights family. 31% of these are young people below the age of 35. The highest number of members came from the Bulawayo Province (900 new members) followed by Midlands Province (667 new members).

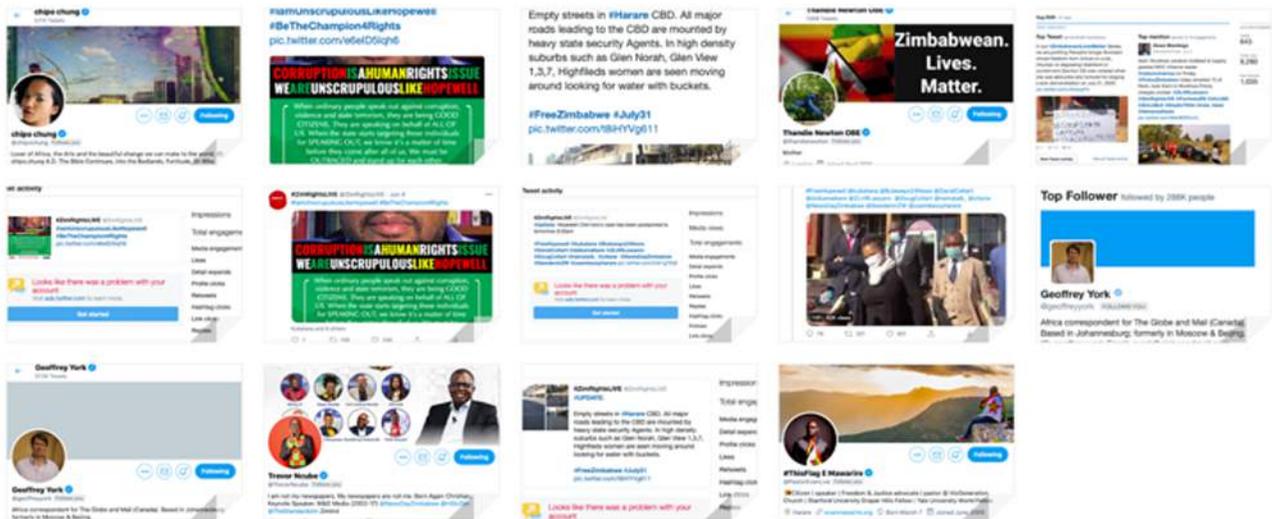


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Our Digital Impact

With the launch of ZimRights LIVE, we witnessed a significant growth of digital activism with our digital platforms averaging 3 million impressions every month. We brought the Zimbabwe human rights conversation on a global stage and got Zimbabweans talking. As we engaged the human rights agenda in Zimbabwe, we picked up some friends from the high places. See below some of our celebrity followers who gave wings to our work in 2020.



See below some highlights from our digital platforms. Our top 3 most responsive digital activists are below

Dewa Mavhinga 
14.9K Tweets



voices justice
CAREER CHANGING WHO SPEAK OUT
NICE

Dewa Mavhinga 
@dewamavhinga Follows you

Southern Africa Director, Human Rights Watch @hrw investigating human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, South Africa, eSwatini & Malawi. Essex University Alumnus.

London, United Kingdom [hrw.org/about/people/d...](https://www.hrw.org/about/people/dewa-mavhinga) Joined April 2009

3,367 Following 35.9K Followers

Yahwe Young
20.3K Tweets



Yahwe Young
@MateteYoung Follows you

Human rights activist

harare zimbabwe [youngmatete.com](https://www.youngmatete.com) Born January 28
Joined October 2011

4,065 Following 1,750 Followers

Followed by EDWARD FORICHI - MBILANGA, Clifford Hlatywayo MDCA Deputy Spokesperson, and 130 others you follow

With you, we will do more in 2021

We are thrilled that we have had this amazing journey under difficult circumstances. With you, we can do more in 2021. And there are many ways to do this.



Join ZimRights

First, you can join us as a member and start making a difference in your community.

Become a ZimRights Sponsor

if you want to donate to ZimRights visit our website www.zimrights.org.zw/donate. We wish you a blessed and successful 2021.



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