

RISING STILL

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN
ZIMBABWE



2024
Annual Report



W/O 3/93
Campaigners for Human Rights



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Campaigners for Human Rights

2024

Annual Report

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) expresses its sincere gratitude to its over 250,000 members, who constitute the cornerstone and foundation of all our human rights work. The community pulse is central to all ZimRights initiatives and our members empowered us to embody this spirit in every aspect of our work throughout 2024.

ZimRights is also grateful for the steadfast support from the people of Zimbabwe, who lead all our activities from the ground. We remain committed to support communities to lead in creating and sustaining a culture of human rights.

Our work would not be possible without the collaboration of human rights stakeholders. We extend our appreciation to the members of the human rights ecosystem globally, fellow civil society partners, and the constitutional commissions for their continued positive partnership in advancing human rights in Zimbabwe. As a registered PVO, we also appreciate the support we received throughout the year from the Ministry of Social Welfare who have helped us strengthen our relationship with various state entities that are essential for the realisation of human rights.

We wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of ZimRights' members, the National Council, members of various committees, staff, funding partners and other stakeholders, who were crucial to our high impact work in 2024. The impact highlighted in this report reflects the dedication, excellence, resilience, and teamwork that characterise ZimRights as a movement of the people for the people.

We are fortunate to benefit from the strategic guidance of the ZimRights Leadership, which helped steer our impactful execution of the Shifting Power to the People Strategy (SP2P) in 2024. The journey continues in 2025.

Lastly, ZimRights extends its heartfelt thanks to all its Secretariat. Special mention to Gillian Chinzete, Phillip Fungurai and Farirai Sibanda for leading and coordinating the compilation of this report. To all ZimRights secretariat members, your dedication, excellence, and passion keeps the movement alive and inspires the movement to persist in its pursuit of a just and peaceful Zimbabwe.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2024 was rich. It was a witness to ZimRights' **resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment** to advancing human rights in Zimbabwe. Operating in a restrictive and often hostile environment, we remained steadfast in our mission to campaign for human rights through innovative, grassroots-based, and community-driven approaches.

Through **122 targeted human rights interventions**, we strengthened grassroots activism, forged strategic partnerships, and amplified the voices of marginalised communities, ensuring that the fight for justice remains at the forefront of the national discourse.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS





Community Empowerment and Growth

We welcomed 2,057 new members into the movement, expanding our reach and strengthening grassroots networks. Additionally, we established 96 Human Rights Action Committees to drive localised advocacy and community-led interventions.



Innovative Capacity Building

The successful launch of the Movement Builders Academy (MBA) provided human rights defenders with essential advocacy skills, while the pilot of CollectiVibe, a digital engagement platform, enhanced collaboration and mobilisation.



Documenting & Responding to Human Rights Violations

We recorded 274 cases of human rights violations, affecting 8279 individuals, ensuring that abuses were brought to light and victims received necessary support and redress.



Recognition & Leadership Excellence

Our commitment to excellence was recognised when ZimRights' National Director, Dzikamai Bere, won the Director of the Year Award at the NANGO Annual NGO Awards, underscoring our leadership in Zimbabwe's civic space.



Knowledge factory

We published 30 research products including policy briefs, as well as a flagship State of Civic Space report and State of Peace report which increased human rights consciousness of the masses and were used for evidence-based advocacy by CSOs across the country.

//

**More than
33 years
of Promoting
and Protecting
Human Rights
in Zimbabwe**

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON



In the face of the ongoing threats to human rights, we continue to champion the voices of the marginalised.

Takesure Masiwa
National Chairperson



As we look back to 2024, it is with immense gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose that we celebrate the unwavering resilience and achievements of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights). This year presented significant challenges, including a restrictive civic space, increased human rights violations, and systemic barriers against civil society organisations. Yet, through it all, ZimRights has demonstrated the enduring strength of human rights activism that is deeply woven within our communities.

In line with our vision of a Zimbabwean society where communities actively lead in creating and sustaining a culture of human rights, the Shifting Power to the People (SP2P) strategy has been pivotal in our initiatives this year. By focusing on building a critical mass of grassroots members,

delivering high-impact campaigns, transforming governance frameworks, and leveraging innovation, we have made substantial strides in empowering communities across the country.

In 2024, we undertook 122 human rights interventions, which not only advanced the rights of marginalised communities but also laid down foundations for legislative reforms that enhance civil and political liberties.

Our grassroots organising is proving powerful, as evident with the establishment of new human rights action committees who actively engaged with local governance structures. From advocating for health care reform in Chitungwiza to addressing issues of water access and sanitation, ZimRights members have

exemplified the principle of community agenda-setting, demonstrating that ordinary people can create extraordinary change.

The convening of our Annual General Meeting in Masvingo allowed us to solidify our commitment to inclusive representation with the establishment of councils for Persons with Disabilities, Youth, Women, and the Diaspora. The launch of the Movement Building Academy and the Community Leadership Academy stand as testament to our commitment to educating and empowering future leaders in the human rights movement.

In the face of the ongoing threats to human rights, we continue to champion the voices of the marginalised. Our advocacy efforts have resonated strongly at the national level, culminating in significant policy conversations with government representatives. The people's sentiments regarding existing laws, particularly the Vagrancy Act, have not gone unheard, and we look towards mobilising communities to demand change and accountability in 2025.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated members, funding partners, and fellow human rights defenders. Your unwavering support and commitment are the driving forces that make it possible for ZimRights to push forward in this challenging landscape. Together, we stand at the forefront of a movement that empowers communities to reclaim their rights and ensures that the voices of all Zimbabweans are amplified.

As we look toward 2025, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing human rights. Our collective efforts are crucial in turning the tide towards a society that truly embraces and upholds the dignity and rights of every individual. Thank you for standing with ZimRights on this critical journey.

Takesure Masiwa

National Chairperson,
ZimRights

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Our vision is a community in which communities actively lead in creating and sustaining a culture of human rights.

Dzikamai Bere
National Director



The year 2024 was a difficult year for the human rights movement as the operating space remained restrictive and the hostility in the environment increased. The Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill returned ferociously to the scene, and obstacles to civic organising made life difficult for many activists. And yet, as the country's largest grassroots human rights movement, we remained committed to our shifting power to the people approach, allowing communities to innovate and advance human rights, even in a very difficult context. 2024 became a living testament to the power of communities working together for human rights, holding duty-bearers accountable, and safeguarding fundamental freedoms.

Our approach has been very clear. Our vision is a society in which communities

actively lead in creating and sustaining a culture of human rights. It does make sense in a context where organisations are threatened by law and violence that the future belongs to communities that will actively take charge of their human rights situation. You will see in this report that we have pursued that vision voraciously. Through 122 targeted human rights interventions, we strengthened grassroots activism, forged strategic partnerships, and amplified the voices of marginalised communities, ensuring that the fight for human dignity and justice remained central to national discourse.

Our journey in 2024 was guided by the belief that real change starts at the community level and that human rights must be led by those most affected. This philosophy shaped our approach, whether

it was expanding the Knowledge Factory, launching the Movement Builders Academy, or establishing 96 Human Rights Action Committees. A key victory this year was securing an audience in Parliament to present our petition for the repeal of the Vagrancy Act, underscoring the power of grassroots mobilisation and the vital role local communities play in driving legal reforms.

This success aligned with our broader mission to protect civic freedoms. Our inaugural State of Civic Space in Zimbabwe Report, released in partnership with the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, became a vital advocacy tool. It documented the shrinking civic space in Zimbabwe and the mounting challenges faced by human rights defenders, providing insights for both national policymakers and international bodies.

In 2024, ZimRights made significant strides in strengthening its grassroots movement, recruiting 2,057 new members and expanding to 101 active local chapters nationwide. This growth was made possible through the tireless efforts of our Regional Council members and local structures, whose dedication to mobilising communities and championing human rights has been instrumental in expanding our reach. The membership audit highlighted the steady growth and increasing organisation of our structures, reflecting the commitment of our members to human rights advocacy.

Our community engagement in 2024 empowered thousands to assert their rights. Initiatives like the Manifesto Dance Challenge sparked youth activism, while the Voices Fora created a space for women and youth to discuss the challenges they face in their lived realities when exercising their civil and political rights. The Mwenezi Peace Garden became a symbol of community-led peacebuilding, fostering dialogue and social cohesion. These efforts demonstrate that when communities lead, lasting change is possible.

We were also honoured to co-organise a symposium on Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance at the SADC People's Summit in August 2024. Despite the climate of repression, the resilience of the organising team and the 200 participants who gathered to discuss regional issues and propose solutions was nothing short of inspiring.



A key victory this year was securing an audience in Parliament to present our petition to repeal the Vagrancy Act, underscoring the power of grassroots mobilisation and the vital role local communities play in driving legal reforms.

The critical resolutions from the Summit reminded all of us that we are the people who make up the SADC. The voices of young organisers like Takaedza, who said that our environment is afflicted by a spirit of death. If we do nothing, we die from the unresolved situation. If we organise, we are threatened with death. Better that we die trying to remind our SADC leaders that they have an obligation under the SADC Treaty to advance human rights.

At the international level, we expanded our horizons, partnering with the International Federation for Human Rights to engage the international community on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. We coordinated Zimbabwean civil society in hosting the Annual Zimbabwe Solidarity Dinner at the 81st Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. We worked with international partners to offer emergency support and solidarity to human rights defenders in distress.

Innovation continues to be a cornerstone of our strategy. The launch of the CollectiVibe digital platform revolutionised our community engagement, while our use of social media has enhanced membership engagement, activated digital activism, and raised human rights awareness. Looking ahead, we are committed to strengthening our digital efforts to amplify marginalised voices on both national and global platforms. Digital activism is our way of responding to the shrinking space, opening new spaces for activism, and driving the

human rights agenda.

Our good work has not gone unnoticed. In 2024, we were nominated for two prestigious awards by the National Association for Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO). The Director of the Year Award and the Human Rights Defender of the Year Award. We successfully won the Director of the Year Award. Our members, Namatai Kwekweza of We Lead Trust and Godfrey Dzveta of Tariro Foundation, also won the Youth Empowerment Award and the Disability Sector Award, respectively.

Despite our hope for a better 2025, we remain keenly aware of the challenges that lie ahead. The looming PVO Bill threatens to restrict civic space further while political repression, economic hardships, and social inequalities persist. The use of lawfare, intimidation, and torture tactics against human rights defenders, coupled with the erosion of democratic institutions, remind us that our work is far from finished. However, the resilience of the communities we serve inspires us to press on with even greater determination.



Looking ahead to 2025, our focus is clear: we will expand the Movement Builders Academy to equip more activists to drive grassroots change.

We will intensify our advocacy against repressive laws, continue empowering communities to lead their own struggles for justice and replicate successful peace-building models across Zimbabwe. Additionally, we will focus on developing more knowledge tools to support our advocacy and community empowerment efforts. We also recognise the critical role of Zimbabweans abroad in advancing human rights and will formalise the ZimRights Diaspora Chapter to provide a structured platform for engagement, advocacy, and solidarity. Finally, we will strengthen regional and international collaborations to amplify Zimbabwean voices.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the National Council for their leadership during the year 2024. I salute the ZimRights Secretariat for their commitment, resilience, and excellence in the year. It was a year of insane productivity in the face of unprecedented obstacles to activism. Without their collective commitment, we would not have been able to achieve the impact we did in 2024.

To our members, thank you for being the heart of ZimRights. Your unwavering commitment and active participation are the foundation of our work. Together, we are the engine of change in our communities. To our national, regional, and international partners, thank you for your continued support. Whether through funding, advocacy, or expertise, your contributions strengthen our efforts and amplify the voices of those who need it most.

Together, we are making a meaningful impact and moving closer to a just and equitable Zimbabwe.

Dzikamai Bere

National Director,
ZimRights



ABOUT ZIMRIGHTS

We are Campaigners for Human Rights

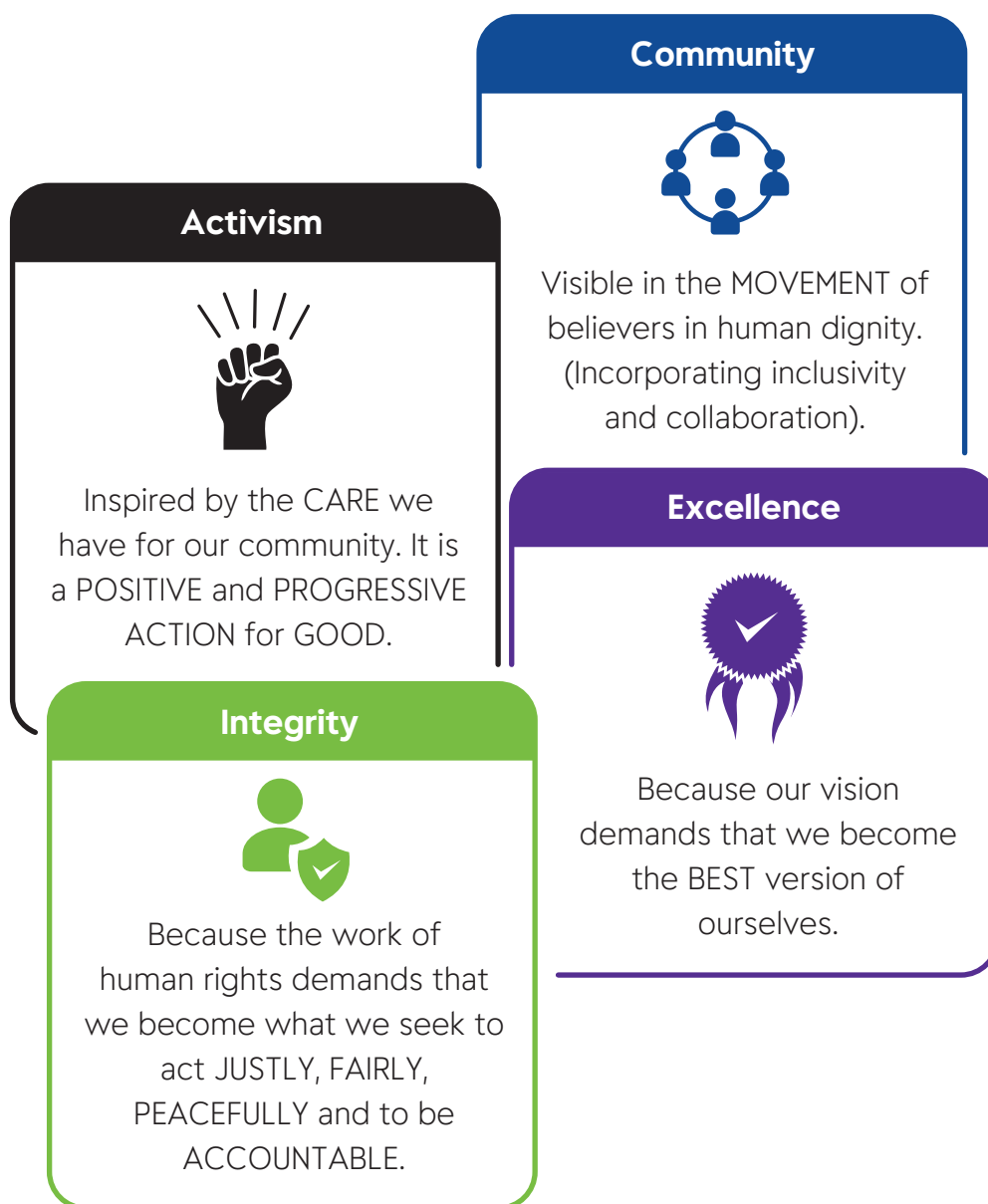
The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) is Zimbabwe's first post-independence indigenous grassroots human rights advocacy organisation, registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO), registration number W/O 3/93.

ZimRights brings together ordinary people who work together to advance the cause of human rights in Zimbabwe. Since our inception in 1992, we have successfully built a movement for all Zimbabweans who believe in human rights, democracy, and accountability.

We envision a Zimbabwean society in which communities actively lead in creating and sustaining a culture of human rights. We campaign for human rights in Zimbabwe through innovative, grassroots-based, and citizen-driven approaches.

Our Values

Our values are like signposts, guiding us on the path that we must take. They are like stars, shining light on our path.



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



Takesure Musiwa
National
Chairperson



Themba Chivheya
Vice National
Chairperson



Jannet Kanavete
National
Treasurer



Phillip Muketiwa
Mashonaland West
Chairperson



Joyce Mhungu
Masvingo
Chairperson



Musa Moyo
Bulawayo
Chairperson



Entrance Takaidza
Committee
Member



Lagos Maphosa
Committee
Member



Allan James Dube
Matebeleland South
Chairperson



Isaac Chamonyonga
Committee
Member



Merjury Makunere
Committee
member



Malvern Daka
Matebeleland North
Chairperson



Mildred Muzanechita
Manicaland
Chairperson



Liberty Nyadome
Mashonaland East
Chairperson



Silas Mupeta
Chitungwiza
Chairperson



Takawira Mashingaidze
Harare
Chairperson



Dzikamai Bere
National
Director



Priscilla Mashinge
Midlands
Chairperson



Gladman Mazwi
Mashonaland Central
Chairperson



Sarah Njanji
Committee
Member



Panganai Murime
Management
Committee Member



Kelvin Nzimba
Management
Committee Member



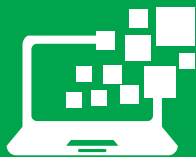
2024 AT A GLANCE

The 2024 implementation year witnessed ZimRights creating and sustaining a culture of human rights across its eleven (11) administrative regions in Zimbabwe despite a hostile and restrictive operating environment.

Against the backdrop of increasing human rights violations, shrinking civic space, and targeting of pro-human rights Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the ZimRights secretariat and membership demonstrated resilience in impactfully championing and advancing the promotion and protection of human rights.

2024 Impact Dashboard

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE



1153181

Users reached and engaged through social and digital media platforms.



Publications of

30

research products, policy briefs, press statements and the ZimRights Human Rights Round Ups. Including flagship 2024 State of Civic Space Report.



3132

People were reached directly through ZimRights interventions.



11010

People were reached indirectly through ZimRights interventions.



2057

New members joined the association.



A total of

122

Human rights interventions were implemented in 2024 across all 10 Provinces in Zimbabwe.

Through 122 human rights interventions, we intensified our advocacy campaigns, successfully lobbying for legislative reforms aimed at enhancing civil-political liberties and protecting marginalised communities; expanded our grassroots initiatives recruiting 2057 new members and setting up over 96 human rights action committees; as well as strengthened partnerships with global human rights organisations, enhancing our capacity to influence international discourse on Zimbabwe's human rights landscape.

From our National Director, Dzikamai Bere, receiving the Director of the Year award at the NANGO Annual NGO Awards on 25 October 2024 to redefining grassroots activism, 2024 was indeed a high impact year for the ZimRights community.

The year 2024 also saw the convening of the ZimRights Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Masvingo which saw landmark resolutions for the operationalization of the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Council, the Youth Council, the Women's Council, the Diaspora Council and launch of the Movement Building Academy, Community Leadership Academy coupled with piloting of the CollectiVibe (ZimRights Digital Community) platform - huge milestones towards our Shifting Power to the People (SP2P) Strategy¹.

The ensuing section, meticulously yet concisely captures and narrates the impact of ZimRights' work in the period, January - December 2024.



ZimRights National Director receiving the NANGO Director of the year award

1. Available here <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SP2P-Strategic-Plan-2022-2026-Ir.pdf>



Scan here to find out
what was happening

OUR IMPACT ACROSS ACTION ZONES

A look at our achievements organised by action zone and province, showcasing the specific actions we've taken and the difference we've made in various communities.

Action Zone Framework

In 2024, ZimRights continued to deliver on its mandate (Shifting Power to the People) using the Action Zone Framework.² As an implementation model.



Action Zones



Human Rights Interventions

2. <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/the-action-zone-framework/>

ZIMRIGHTS ACTION ZONES

"Words are not enough - act"



The ZimRights action zone framework is a design for decades-old grassroots organising wisdom for which ZimRights is known. It is based on the premise that a movement is like a bicycle – if it loses momentum, it loses traction, if it loses traction, it loses balance. If it loses balance, it collapses. Hence, what builds and keeps a

movement alive, in motion, relentless, and unstoppable are the actions that members in their small communities undertake. These small communities are what we call 'Action Zones'. They are the arena for civic action. Below is a delineation of our impact across provinces, disaggregated by the eight (8) action zones.

01

Human Rights Monitoring and Response

In 2024, ZimRights, under the Human rights monitoring and response action zone with over 250,000 members and 96 action committees, documented 274 human rights violations across the 10 provinces in Zimbabwe. These included violations related to partisan food distribution, forced displacements, unjustified arrests, inhuman treatment, restricted access to social services, hate speech, assault, detention, and malicious property damage.

According to the ZimRights human rights violations situational reports (SitReps), 8279 people were affected by the violations in total. The violations are disaggregated by type in the graphical representation below.

Out of these,



4457

were female,



3822

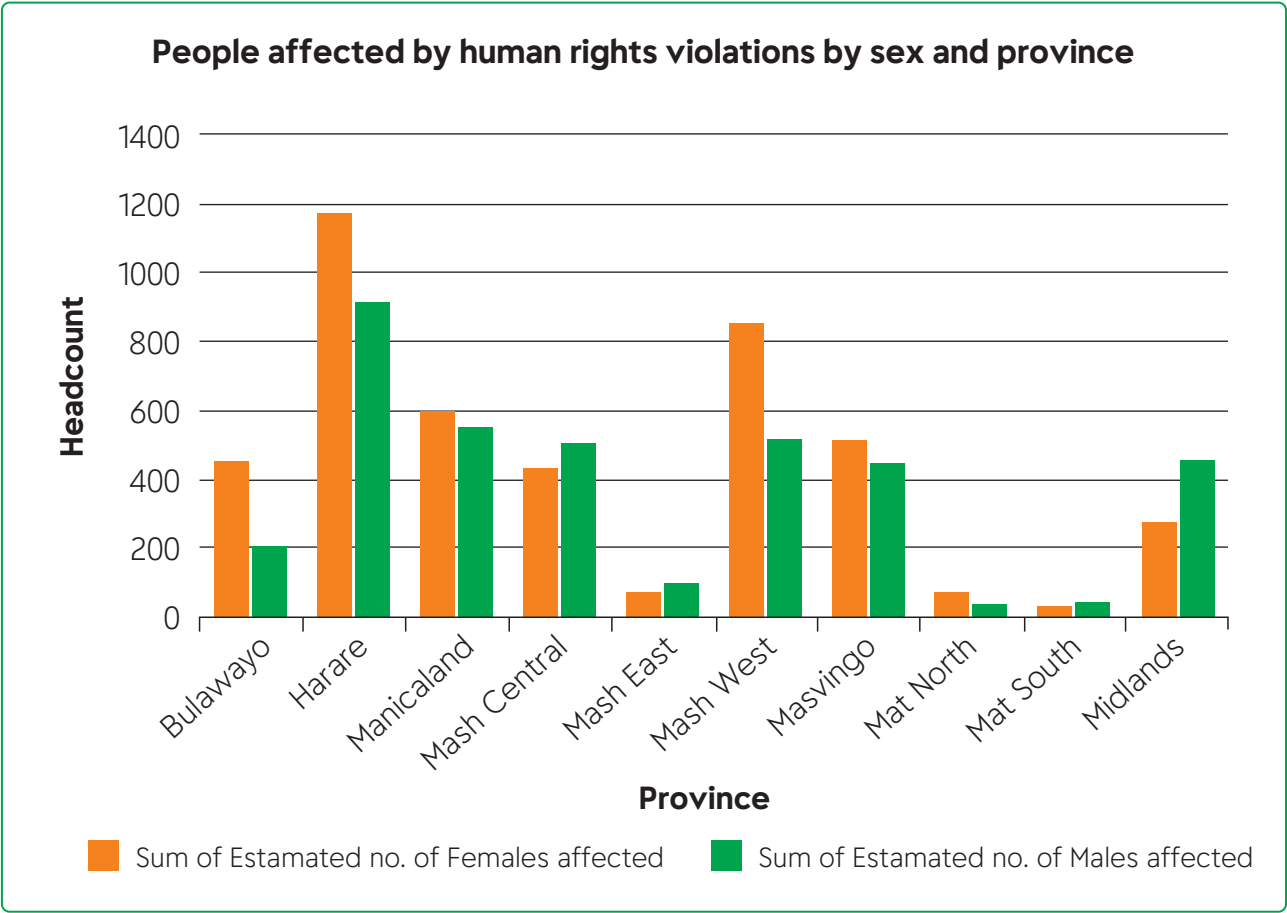
were male, and



109

were PWDs.

Figure 1. Number of people affected by human rights violations by sex and province





8279

people were affected
by the violations
in total.

The total reported cases indicate that **4457 females** and **3822 males** were affected by various human rights violations.

Notably, Harare (HRE) and Bulawayo (BYO) provinces reported the highest numbers for both genders, with **1,170 females** and **912 males** affected in Harare and **446 females** and **202 males** in Bulawayo. This suggests a concentrated pattern of violations in the urban centres for the capital and second largest city, potentially linked to political tensions and socio-economic instability.

The breakdown of incidents (see figure 2 below) shows a diverse array of human rights violations, with 8 reported types.

The most prevalent incidents include;

- restricted access to social services: **4,687 individuals affected**, indicating systemic barriers to essential services, likely exacerbated by political affiliations.
- This is followed by displacement: **1,232 individuals** were displaced, reflecting the ongoing challenges faced by communities during political upheaval and land disputes.
- Another type of violation was inhuman treatment, affecting **531 individuals**.

This highlights a critical concern regarding the treatment of citizens, especially in the context of law enforcement and state authority.

Figure 2. | Violations by incident type

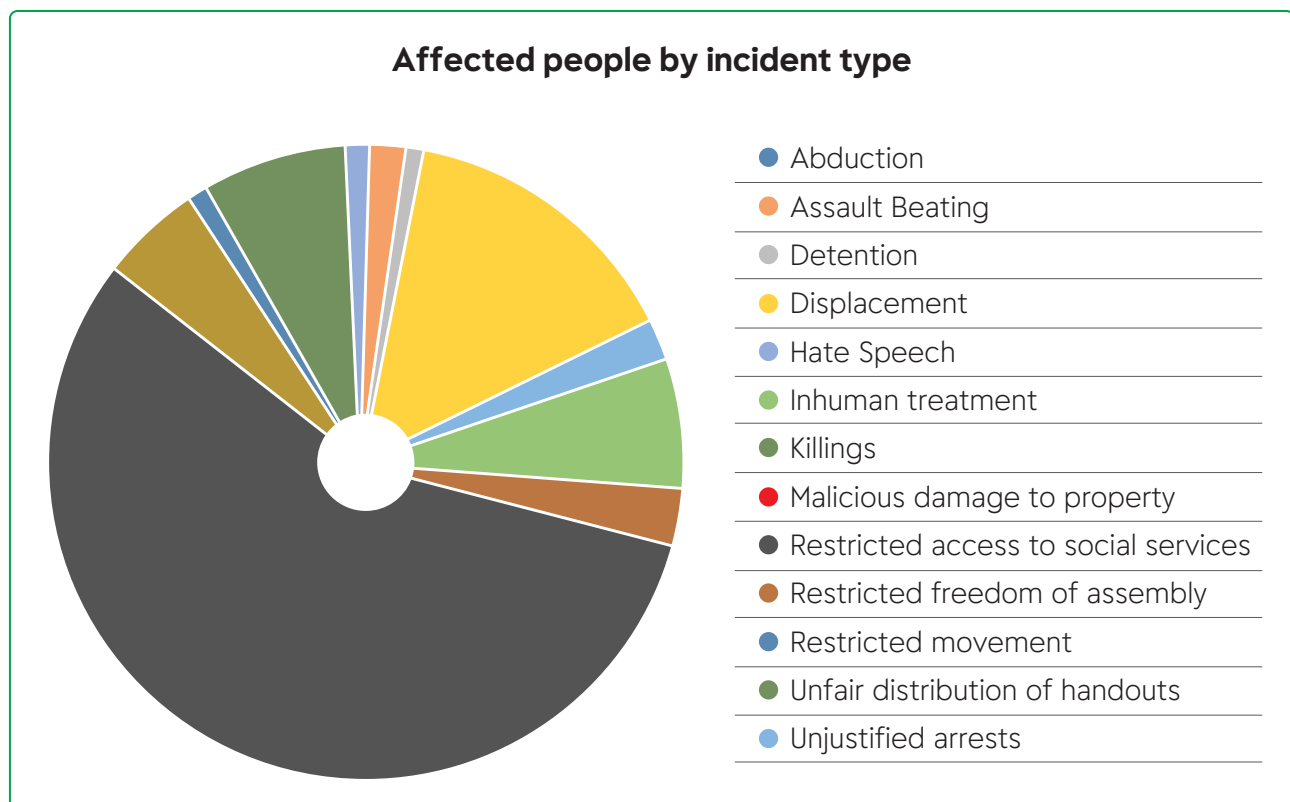
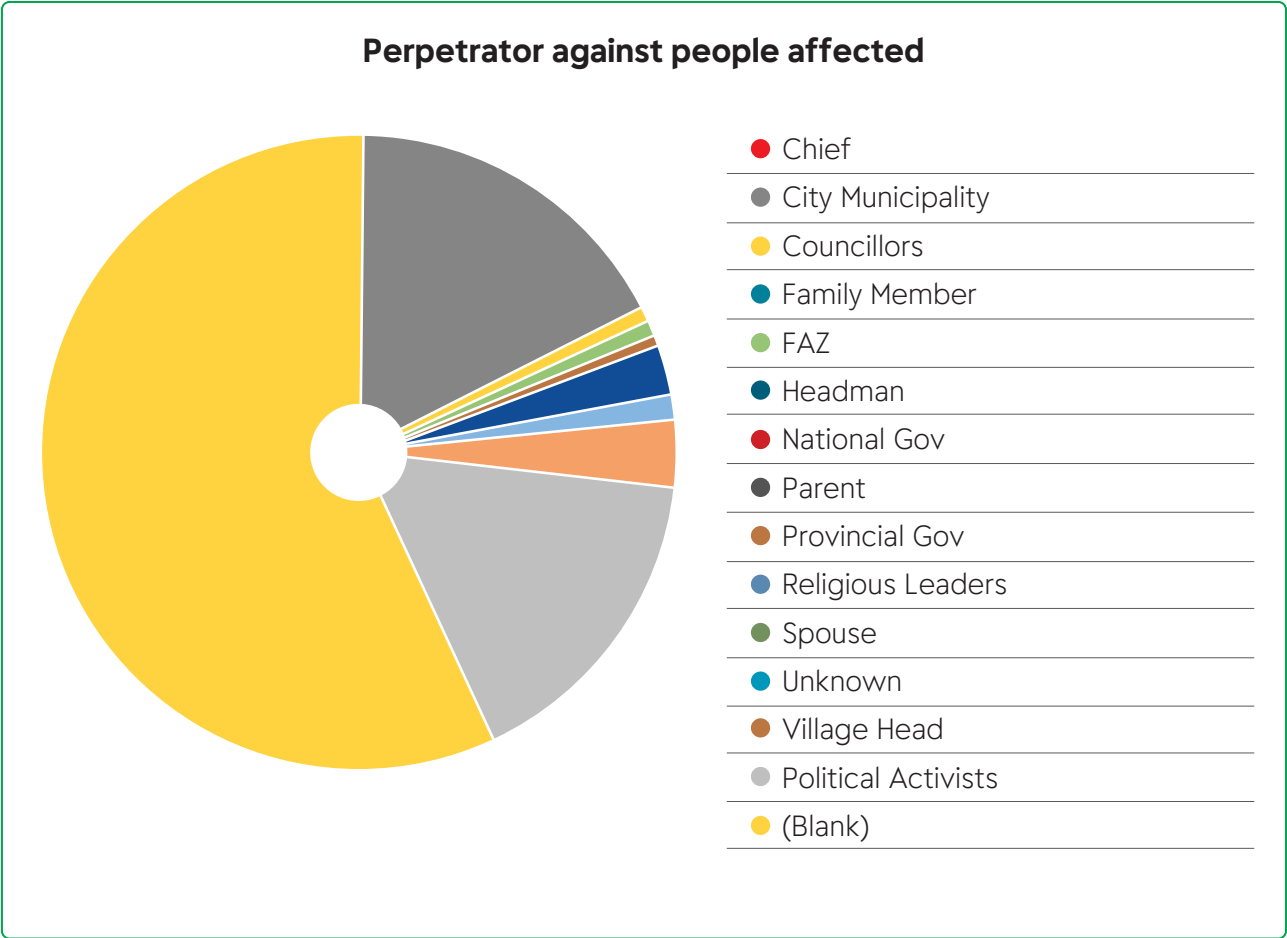


Figure 3. | Perpetrators of violations by people affected



Our

96

human rights action
committees and

250,000

members also recorded
troubling data on perpetrators
of violations.

The data on perpetrators reveals a troubling trend, with political activists identified as responsible for 1,359 violations, followed by local government officials and police forces. This points to a pattern where state apparatus and affiliated political entities are implicated in perpetuating human rights abuses.

The prevalence of ZRP violations (4,697 instances) raises concerns about accountability and transparency with regard to policing.

Moreover, our human rights monitoring action zone data suggests a correlation between political affiliation and the likelihood of experiencing human rights violations. This politicisation of basic rights and services creates an environment where people's livelihoods are contingent upon their alignment with the ruling party, undermining the principles of democracy and equity.

As part of responsive action to the human rights monitoring, ZimRights largely contributed to the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) Monthly Monitoring Reports (MMR) coupled with the HRP Human Rights Monitoring reports.³ Specifically, ZimRights also deployed 243 monitors with ZPP. Additionally, as part of the human rights monitoring and response action zone – we provided rapid response to Budiriro floods

victims (25 families), Mufakose homeless persons who had been evicted (20 families), Mt. Darwin (12 families), Chinhoyi (60 families evicted from Citrus Farm), Gokwe (10 families affected by the floods), Chitungwiza, Epworth and Mabvuku (17 families affected by SADC arrests, 11 activists in Mutasa and Mutare, and 12 families in Kariba who were victims of arbitrary arrests.

This attests to the fact that we not only scan the environment for human rights violations but also offer legal, medical, and subsistence safety nets to victims. To complement these efforts, in 2024, we also convened 52 human rights clinics that offered free legal aid and support to vulnerable communities and victims of violations.

02

Civic Education

Under the civic education zone, ZimRights made fruitful strides towards raising public awareness and stakeholder awareness on rights and responsibilities. In 2024, ZimRights managed to reach directly to 3132 individuals with civic education initiatives, whilst over 1,153,181 were reached with civic education on ZimRights online platforms. Through post evaluation of initiatives, over 66% of individuals reached directly with civic education demonstrated increased understanding and knowledge of human rights and their responsibilities, and on how to handle human rights violations.



3132

individuals and



1,153,181

online users reached directly with civic education initiatives.

3. ZPP MMR Library, [https://data.zimpeaceproject.com/?q=\(from:60,limit:30\)](https://data.zimpeaceproject.com/?q=(from:60,limit:30))



Key Highlight

A key highlight under this action zone was the setting up of 96 civic education and engagement action committees. Post committee set up assessments and evaluations revealed that the committees were successfully equipped with knowledge, skills, and tools on detecting, analysing, documenting, reporting human rights violations and implementing localised solution oriented human rights civic action.

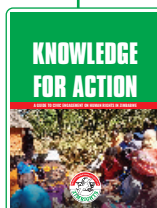
Examples of other civic education initiatives carried out in 2024 include youth voices for a, women voices fora, People's Human Rights Manifesto Engagement meetings, collective action dialogues, and membership onboarding meetings. Owing to ZimRights interventions, citizens have become more knowledgeable about their rights and the mechanisms available for redress, leading to increased demands for accountability from authorities (Refer to Communities in Action section of this report). ZimRights members have also taken an active role in documenting and reporting human rights violations; for example, all the violations reported under the human rights monitoring action zone were documented and reported by ZimRights members.

Through heightened awareness and human rights consciousness, ZimRights members were pivotal in producing ZimRights' flagship reports, including the 2024 State of Peace Report, the 2024 State of Civic Space Report, and several policy briefs.

Additionally, as part of civic education, in 2024, ZimRights also curated over 800 social media content types in the form of Videos, Banners, Posters, Statements, Pictures, and text on ZimRights social media handles on Twitter⁴, Facebook⁵, Instagram⁶, LinkedIn⁷ and YouTube⁸.

Through these platforms, 1,153,181 citizens accessed reliable, credible, and up-to-date information on civic participation and human rights. Leveraging its digital activism strategy and innovation unit, ZimRights creatively packaged knowledge bites through:

- #RightsWednesdays series posts,
- #RightsInParliament series posts, and
- the introduction of #Membership-Choosedays.



We also reproduced copies of the Knowledge for Action Manual, which was distributed to all eleven (11) regional councils across Zimbabwe.

4. <https://twitter.com/ZimRightsLIVE>.

5. <https://www.facebook.com/ZimRightsLIVE>

6. <https://www.instagram.com/zimrightslive/>

7. <https://www.linkedin.com/company/37382540/admin/feed/posts/>.

8. <https://www.youtube.com/@zimrightslive>.

03

Peace Building

Under the peace building action zone, ZimRights continued to implement its Right to Peace campaign. Through the campaign, we activated fourteen (14) Peace Committees in Masvingo, Matabeleland South, and Bulawayo. The peace committees have been active in identifying threats to peace in their communities and actively resolving conflicts. ZimRights also carried out ten (10) paralegal trainings and eight (8) community dialogues on conflict resolution. These enhanced the capacity of paralegals by addressing policy changes and responding to the dynamic peace landscape. The refresher training of community paralegals also equipped participants with enhanced knowledge and skills to provide legal assistance, helping individuals navigate everyday issues, address human rights abuses, and seek redress for violations of their rights, with a total of 71 paralegals capacitated in Bulawayo, Beitbridge, and Gwanda Urban, and 71 copies of the paralegal manual distributed.

The knowledge and skills gained through project activities were assessed through pre- and post-training assessments, which involved conducting quizzes or surveys to measure knowledge acquisition and skill improvement; practical demonstrations, where participants applied their newly acquired skills in real or simulated scenarios such as role-playing mediation or providing legal advice; feedback and reflection sessions that facilitated group discussions or individual reflections for participants to share their experiences; and case studies that reviewed specific instances where participants used the paralegal manual to address community issues, assessing the effectiveness of their interventions.





Key Highlight

A key highlight under this action zone was the launch of the 2023 – 2024 State of Peace report, which was featured on seven (7) major news outlets in Zimbabwe. This was accompanied by a compilation of four (4) Policy Briefs on Transparency and Accountability, Strengthening Law Enforcement and Justice Systems, Reforming Political Processes and Democratic Institutions, and Promoting Livelihoods.

Sports for Peace (S4P) tournaments targeting the youth, men, and women against violence were also convened. The Sports for Peace tournaments fostered conflict resolution, intercultural dialogue, and social inclusion by engaging youth and marginalised groups, as well as involving key stakeholders like duty bearers and police.

Through these several interventions under the peace building action zone, ZimRights' Peace Structures have made significant strides in promoting peaceful conflict resolution through non-violent communication strategies. By organising community dialogues, they educated communities on valuable skills like active listening, empathetic dialogue, and interest-based negotiation.

Through the community dialogues on conflict resolution, ZimRights and its peace structures helped individuals express their concerns constructively, fostering an environment where understanding different perspectives is paramount.



At the centre of this approach were the peace gardens, which served as community hubs for dialogue and mediation. These gardens provided safe spaces for conflict resolution and empowered community members to engage in meaningful discussions about their rights and responsibilities. ZimRights has a total of 5 community peace gardens, 4 of which are in Masvingo (Chivi, Mwenezi, Bikita, Zaka) and Gwanda (Sofa)⁹.

The Chivi Peace Garden maintained productivity throughout 2024, while the Bikita and Mwenezi Peace gardens were consistently productive. However, the peace gardens in Zaka and Sofa faced significant challenges after the first quarter of 2024, resulting in zero output. The El Niño drought adversely affected underground water levels and sustainability. By May 2024, local water sources dried up, leading to the suspension of garden activities and a shift to seasonal gardening. During monitoring

⁹. Regarding the peace gardens in Gwanda and Zaka, their produce is seasonal due to perennial water shortages. The lack of consistent water supply limits agricultural productivity, meaning that these gardens can only yield crops during the rainy season.

visits in Gwanda (18 December 2024) and Zaka (20 December 2024), the Peace Garden Committee shared plans to utilise the rainy season for recovery while seeking sustainable solutions. Despite these obstacles, the gardens remain vital for community meetings, reflecting the community's commitment to preserving them as symbols of peace.

For example, peace and garden committees identified and reported 43 cases of threats to peace to local leaders. These cases included poor sanitation, corruption, abuse of power by office bearers, partisan distribution of food aid, and lack of human rights knowledge and legal statutes.

Out of the 43 cases reported in the year 2024, 9 were responded to by local leaders. These stretched from poor public service delivery issues such as penurious quality of Basic Education, Health, noise pollution, and other public amenities. Hence, under the peace building action zone, local leaders were able to rally communities, partner with state and non-state actors, and mobilise resources to conduct vibrant and effective clean-up campaigns in communities such as Cowdray Park. In a bid to try and improve the quality of basic public services in health and education, local leaders have collaborated with various stakeholders, engaged communities, and aligned communication plans with the overall objective of communities being able to resolve issues peacefully.

04

Membership Engagement

In 2024, we recruited 2,057 new members into the movement, expanding our reach and strengthening grassroots networks. The membership activities across various provinces demonstrated significant engagement and functional status for most members structures.



Key Highlight

A key highlight of the membership engagement action zone was the membership audit as well as the operationalisation of the Movement Builders Academy coupled with the PWDs Council and Diaspora Council. These platforms strengthened inclusion with regard to membership engagement.

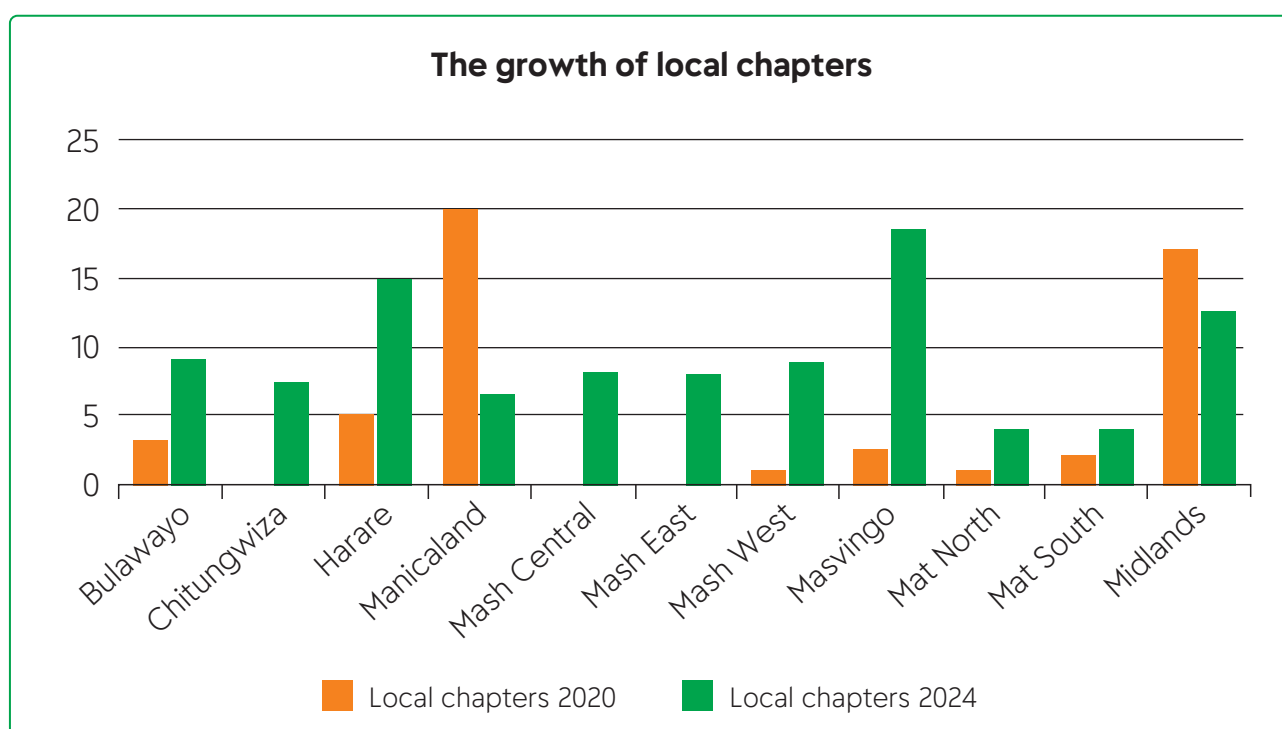
At the 2024 AGM, ZimRights set up the Persons with Disabilities Council, the Youth Council, the Women's Council, and the Diaspora Council and launched the Movement Building Academy and Community Leadership Academy, coupled with piloting of the CollectiVibe (ZimRights Digital Community) platform.

These were huge milestones in strengthening the membership base, amplifying marginalised voices, and improving community organising.

The membership audit in 2024 revealed that ZimRights membership continues to grow and become more organised. There are currently 101 active local chapters, reflecting an increase from the 52 chapters reported in the last audit that was done in 2020. The chart highlights a mix of growth and decline across the provinces.

While several areas, such as Harare and Masvingo, show remarkable increases in local chapters, others like Manicaland and Midlands have experienced declines. The establishment of new chapters in previously inactive provinces is a positive sign of expanding community engagement.

Figure 4. | ZimRights Membership Local Chapters



Additionally, copies of the membership handbook were printed and distributed across the 11 regions. To strengthen membership engagement, a pocket-sized membership handbook was also designed, printed, and distributed.¹⁰ To close up the year in style, we also launched a new database and a chatbot that made it easy for the secretariat to coordinate membership initiatives.

10. ZimRights Membership Handbook, available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ZimRights-Members-Handbook-2024.pdf>.

05

Youth Zone

Under the youth zone, ZimRights, in partnership with WELEAD Trust, convened an Action Learning Session with youths from Harare, Epworth, Nyatsime, and Chitungwiza. The sessions reached out to over 30 youths in total. Post-activity assessments and feedback revealed that the Action Learning Session managed to empower the youths who are part of the marginalised grassroots communities to coalesce and actively lead in promoting vertical accountability between rights holders and duty bearers on the People's Human Rights Manifesto. The youth have been self-organising and engaging in human rights action, including mobilisation of youth for rights, Manifesto dance challenge, sports for rights tournaments and raising awareness of youths on human rights concerns in Harare, Epworth, Nyatsime and Chitungwiza.

Additionally, ZimRights convened Action Learning Sessions with youths in Gweru, Gokwe, Bulawayo, and Gwanda. The sessions reached out to over 70 youths in total. Post-activity assessments and feedback revealed that the Action Learning Session managed to empower youths in Gweru, Gokwe, Gwanda, and Bulawayo, who are part of the marginalised grassroots communities, to coalesce and actively lead in promoting vertical accountability between rights holders and duty bearers on the People's Human Rights Manifesto.

The youth have been self-organising and engaging in human rights action, including mobilisation of youth for rights, Manifesto dance challenge, sports for rights tournaments, and raising awareness of youths on human rights concerns in Gweru and Gokwe.



ZimRights also managed to support 15 Constitution Clubs in Harare and Masvingo. This made fruitful strides towards organising young people, including students, around demanding constitutional compliance from the government. Through the clubs, ZimRights raised constitutional literacy amongst young people in Harare and Masvingo. We look forward to replicating this across the remaining nine (9) regions across the country in 2025.



06

Elections and Democracy

Under this action zone, ZimRights launched the "Showing Up or Giving Up: Baseline Survey on Citizen Participation in the 2023 Elections in Zimbabwe" report in a webinar that reached over 55 human rights stakeholders, civil society groups, academia, and citizens.¹¹ Panellists of the launch included Permanent Ngoma, the Executive Director of Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association; Tony Reeler, Co-Convener of the Platform for Concerned Citizens (PCC); and Youngerson Matete, a co-founder of the African Network for Democracy (AND). ZimRights' secretariat was represented by the Team Leader, Dzikamai Bere, and National Programmes Manager, Gillian Chinzete. The webinar successfully generated interest and advocacy appetite on post-election engagement, as well as pushed for electoral reforms before the next election cycle. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts on the 2023 elections and their aftermath, offering recommendations for enhancing future

electoral processes in Zimbabwe.

During the by-elections held in 2024, ZimRights deployed over 63 election observers with the Zimbabwe Elections Support Network (ZESN). Specifically, in preparation for the by-elections that were scheduled for February 3, 2024, ZimRights held a virtual meeting on 26 January 2024 to ensure effective strategies were in place to mobilise and educate voters in the Goromonzi South constituency, Mashonaland East, Zimbabwe. A total of 15 ZimRights members were capacitated with knowledge, information, and tools that would ensure that human rights would be observed during the by-elections. The anticipated outcome was that ZimRights members would strategise in mobilising and educating voters in Goromonzi South to practice their right to vote. The capacitated members played a critical role in informing the by-election electoral brief that was produced after the elections by ZESN.

11. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Showing Up or Giving Up, 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Showing-Up-or-Giving-Up-Report.pdf>.



“

Through the Women and rights action zone, ZimRights has been able to strengthen women's capacity to claim their rights and advocate for the respect, protection, and promotion of women's rights in their communities.

07

Women and Human Rights

Under the Women and rights action zone, ZimRights convened a women's voices for a session in Mutasa, Manicaland on 15 May 2024. The fora sessions were attended by 19 women from Mutasa wards 21, 22 and 25, Ms. Mildred Muzanechita, the ZimRights Manicaland Provincial Chairperson, and the ZimRights Secretariat. Through the fora, ZimRights opened a platform for women to discuss specific challenges that impeded their full participation in the elections, developed action plans, mapped solutions, and engaged responsible community leaders. Thus, through the Women and rights action zone, ZimRights has been able to strengthen women's capacity to claim their rights and advocate for the respect, protection, and promotion of women's rights in their communities.

In another impact story, ZimRights community champions in ward 10, Mutasa, Manicaland protested against partisan food

distribution by the ward distribution committee to ZHRC. In response, ZHRC lodged an investigation and did an outreach in the ward on 17 February which was accompanied by a meeting to redress the issue with the MP, ward distribution committee, local councillor, traditional leader and ZimRights action committee.

Additionally, under the women and human rights action zone, ZimRights also celebrated its female members through engagements on International Women's Day.¹²

ZimRights published a press statement and did several social media engagements that amplified and celebrated women in their diversity.¹³ By sharing statements, videos, and blog posts on significant occasions and events, we strived to ensure that essential themes like women's rights remain prominent in the public consciousness.

12. Phillip Fungurai, Women's Representation in the 10th Parliament: The Metrics, 8 March 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/womens-representation-in-the-10th-parliament-the-metrics/>.

13. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, 2024 International Women's Day Statement. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/zimbabwe-human-rights-association-international-womens-day-statement/>.

08

Media and Advocacy

In 2024, not only did ZimRights see significant growth and engagement across its digital platforms, but it produced new products aimed at enhancing consistency, quality and impact. These new products included Manifesto Monday, a weekly programme that focuses on promoting the People’s Human Rights Manifesto (PHRM), and This Week in Rights, a roundup of the week’s events produced as a news bulletin presented by an AI presenter. ZimRights also upgraded its existing media products, that is Membership Tuesday promoting ZimRights members, Rights Wednesday, focusing on the human rights development and Your Rights in Parliament, seeking to enhance awareness of parliamentary processes. The upgrade involved changing the products into better-branded, more interactive, responsive, and better-optimised visual products. This was aimed at increasing the uptake of our media products by various audiences, and as such, throughout the year, ZimRights reached over two and half million impressions and over 100,000 engagements across its social media platforms, that is X, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Tik Tok, and WhatsApp.



Figure 5. | Breakdown of total reach for each platform

ZimRights Social Media Platform Statistics		Count/Percentage
	YouTube Views	19,400
	YouTube Watch Time (Hours)	481.9
	YouTube Impressions	425,700
	Facebook Views	55,500
	Facebook Reach Increase (%)	69.2
	Facebook Engagement Increase (%)	110.9
	LinkedIn Impressions	139,300
	LinkedIn Reactions	2,794
	LinkedIn Comments	203

OVER THE PAST YEAR, ZIMRIGHTS HAS UNDERTAKEN SIGNIFICANT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE REFORMS, NOTABLY:

Campaign Against Abductions and Arrests (June-August 2024)

In the lead-up to the 44th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit held in Zimbabwe in August 2024, there was a concerning escalation in state repression, characterized by abductions and arrests of human rights activists. ZimRights issued a statement highlighting these violations and called upon SADC leaders to address the deteriorating human rights situation in Zimbabwe. Through its advocacy efforts, ZimRights reached nearly a million people, raising awareness and urging both regional and international communities to take action.

Advocacy for the Repeal of the Vagrancy Act

ZimRights has been at the forefront of advocating for the repeal of the colonial-era Vagrancy Act (Chapter 10:25), which criminalises homelessness and disproportionately affects marginalised communities. On 31st July 2024, ZimRights submitted a petition to the Parliament of Zimbabwe, urging the repeal of this

archaic law. The organisation also presented evidence to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence, Home Affairs, War Veterans, and Security Services, highlighting the Act's incompatibility with constitutional rights and its detrimental impact on vulnerable populations.

Media coverage amplified this advocacy, with articles such as "Homelessness shouldn't be a crime" in NewsDay detailing the organisation's efforts and the broader implications of the Vagrancy Act.¹⁴

Promotion of Peace Following the Broken Calabash Report



In September 2024, ZimRights published the 2023-2024 State of Peace Report titled "The Broken Calabash", shedding light on prevailing peace and security challenges.

The organisation utilised its online platforms to advocate for peace, disseminating interviews and news stories to foster dialogue and reconciliation.

14. NewsDay, Chantay Ruswa, Homelessness shouldn't be a crime, 1 October 2024. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/local-news/article/200033017/homelessness-shouldnt-be-a-crime>.



The report revealed that six out of ten Zimbabweans perceive elections, political violence, and intimidation as the biggest threats to peace, underscoring the need for comprehensive peace-building initiatives.

Media Engagement and Coverage

ZimRights' advocacy initiatives garnered substantial media attention, resulting in over 20 media articles covering topics such as the Vagrancy Act, pre- and post-SADC Summit advocacy, and the State of Peace Report. Notable examples include:

- NewsDay's Coverage on Human Rights Violations: An article titled "Party activists contributed 40% to human rights violations: Report", highlighted ZimRights' findings that political party activists were responsible for 40% of human rights violations between July and September 2024, including the manipulation of essential services for political purposes.¹⁵
- The Standard's Report on Public Concerns: The article "Zimbos bear brunt of instability: ZimRights" detailed the public's apprehension regarding political instability, as highlighted in ZimRights' State of Peace Report, and emphasised the need for measures to restore public trust.¹⁶

ZimRights National Director in Conversation with Trevor

Another key highlight of 2024 was the hosting of the ZimRights National Director on the In Conversation with Trevor renowned platform.¹⁷ Through this important platform, our National Director discussed important issues ranging from the role of ZimRights; the perpetual election atmosphere the country is currently stuck in; how elections have become a source of fear; three toxic elements in the Zimbabwean Election Culture and why ZimRights launched the People's Human Rights Manifesto. He also shared wisdom against the professionalization and partisanship of the civil society; the implications of the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Bill, and how elections are a profitable industry for the civil society in Zimbabwe. The conversation and episode were subsequently summarised into a cheat sheet which was an interactive content on the conversation reaching over 6000 online users.¹⁸



National Director in Conversation with Trevor

15. NewsDay, Sydney Kawadza, Party activists contributed 40% to human rights violations: Report, 17 October 2024. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/local-news/article/200033686/party-activists-contributed-40-to-human-rights-violations-report>.

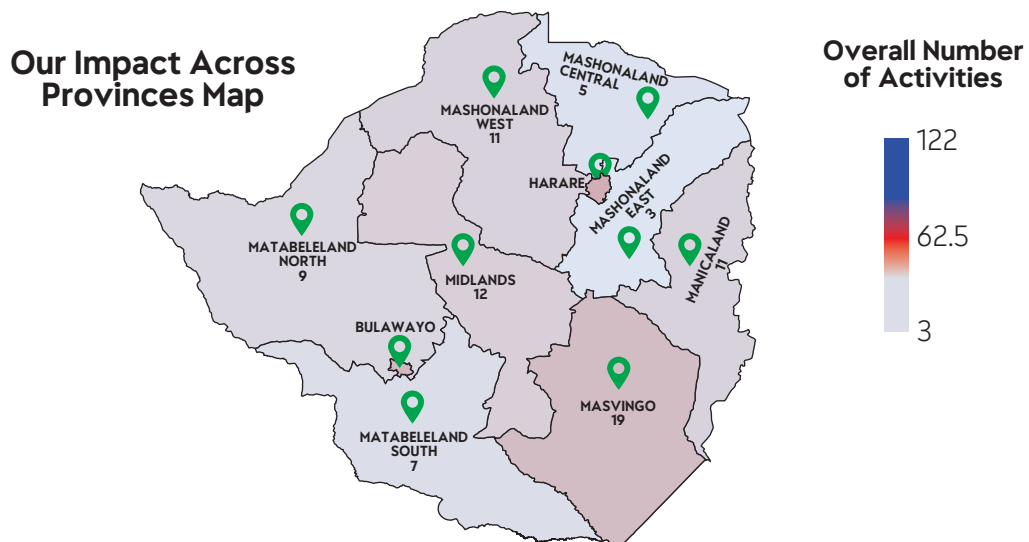
16. The Standard, Zimbos bear brunt of instability: ZimRights, 30 September 2024. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/thestandard/local-news/article/200033000/zimbos-bear-brunt-of-instability-zimrights>.

17. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwOEu0ia0QI&t=397s>

18. Available at <https://x.com/ZimRightsLIVE/status/1778781280701706589>

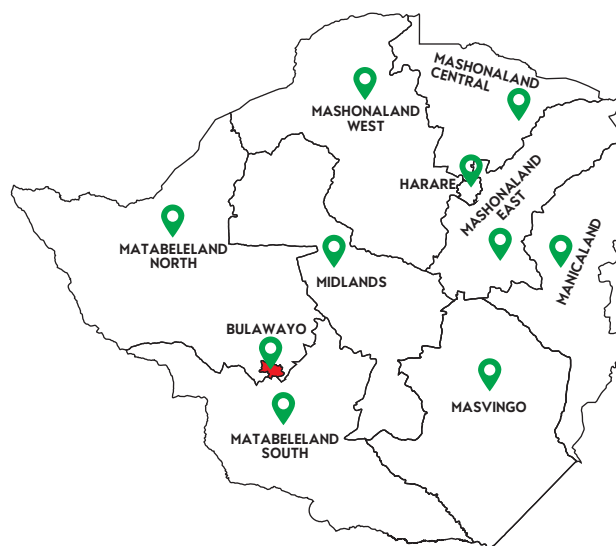


OUR IMPACT ACROSS PROVINCES



Bulawayo

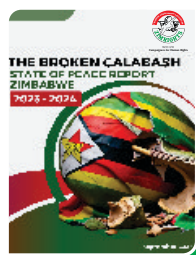
In Bulawayo, ZimRights convened People's Human Rights Manifesto enforcement engagement meetings. The enforcement meetings were attended by community members and local duty bearers. Communities cited cases of lack of adherence to the Manifesto mainly on Asks number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Action plans were designed to compel the local leaders to comply with their election promises and the People's Human Rights Manifesto.



PHRM Enforcement engagement meeting in Bulawayo

ZimRights also convened three (3) Action Learning Sessions which promoted vertical accountability between rights holders and duty bearers, equip action committees with the necessary skills and tools for effective advocacy, and encouraged self-organisation and mobilisation for solution-oriented human rights actions. Through these sessions, 60 participants – 19 men, 23 women, 8 young men, and 10 young women

were reached. The sessions increased self-organisation among action committees, leading to successful advocacy campaigns and enhanced accountability measures.



In Bulawayo, ZimRights also launched the State of Peace report through several community and online interventions.

ZimRights produced "The Broken Calabash: The State of Peace Report 2023 - 2024", which examined the peace situation in Zimbabwe, focusing on the lived experiences of citizens rather than merely the political outcomes of the 2023 elections. It emphasised that true peace extends beyond election periods and is shaped by everyday realities. The report includes a survey of citizens' understanding of peace, leading to the development of "The People's Indicators of Peace", and assesses peace in 2023 compared to the previous year through the "Citizens' Peace Barometer". The report garnered extensive media attention and spurred discussions on instability and human rights, achieving over 20,000 impressions online. Pre-launch efforts included a statement for the International Day of Peace and an Op-Ed in NewsDay, which led to two prominent front-page stories highlighting civil society organisations' concerns about government human rights abuses and the impact of instability on Zimbabweans.



On a different intervention, the ZimRights Bulawayo regional office in partnership with the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (the Forum) convened a legal clinic for students at tertiary institutions in Bulawayo. Through this, 26 tertiary students drawn from Lupane State University (LSU), Midlands State University (MSU), Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU), Bulawayo Polytechnic, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), and Women's University in Africa (WUA) were equipped with knowledge of the law and their rights.

ZimRights' session focused on training the students to effectively monitor human rights violations, on campus, and in the communities, they hail from.

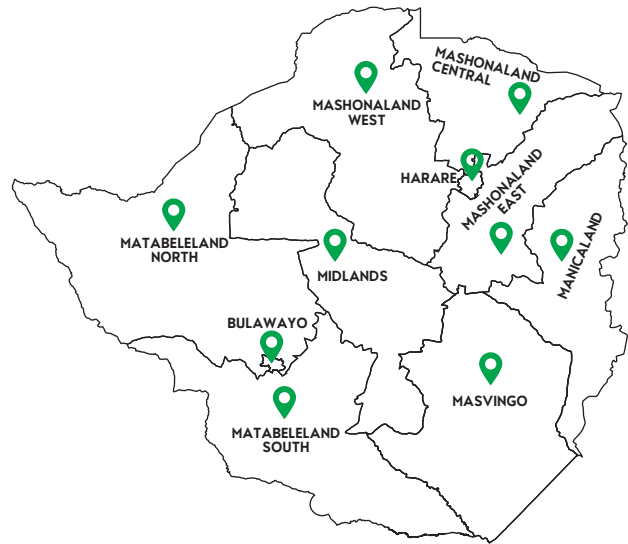


The Launch of the State of Peace Report

Chitungwiza

ZimRights' Chitungwiza demonstrated agency and urgency through active participation in local governance and legislative processes bearing testimony to increased skills-set in human rights consciousness. Seventeen (17) ZimRights members from Chitungwiza participated and made substantial inputs in the public hearings for the Medical Services Amendment Bill in November 2024. To support their engagement, ZimRights produced a resource pack, Understanding the Medical Services Bill, which included the Bill itself and a summary of ten key considerations. This enabled members to make impactful submissions on critical issues such as free maternity care, healthcare provisions for the elderly, prisoners, and persons with disabilities, as well as the protection of health record confidentiality. They also advocated for specialised care, including providing sunscreen for albino individuals. This advocacy took place at the local level in Chitungwiza, with the broader goal of influencing national legislative reforms. As a result, lawmakers gained a heightened awareness of the need for inclusive and equitable healthcare, with several key suggestions incorporated into the Bill.

Additionally, in ward 10, Zengeza 2, ZimRights local action committees engaged their councillor and council through direct meetings to address water access and sewer pipe issues. Ward 10 had challenges of burst sewer pipes that posed risks and



a health hazard to the community. This was worsened by the cutting of water supply for a period of over two weeks. Following a series of engagements with the council and their councillor, the ZimRights civic action committee from ward 10 managed to ensure the repair of the sewer pipe and restoration of water to twice per week. Whilst a lot still needs to be done - the collective agency in engaging local duty bearers was commendable.



In Chitungwiza, ZimRights local chapter members also challenged election irregularities at a local school. At Chaminuka primary school in Chitungwiza, there were irregularities in the local School Development Committee elections after attempts to impinge on the integrity of the process.

Following ZimRights getting reports on this, they protested and wrote a letter to the District Education Officer.

After this intervention, the election was nullified and new transparent elections were held.



Letter of engagement by Chitungwiza members

Harare

In the capital city, ZimRights demonstrated thought leadership, and human rights impact in advancing the human rights discourse. ZimRights produced mini-documentaries¹⁹ on the disruption and paralysis of social service delivery in Glenview²⁰ suburbs in Harare coupled with the plight of the Budiriro floods victims. Through the mini-documentaries, for example, in the Budiriro one, ZimRights managed to outsource subsistence support in the form of food hampers, blankets, clothes and toiletries for the over 60 families who were displaced by floods.²¹

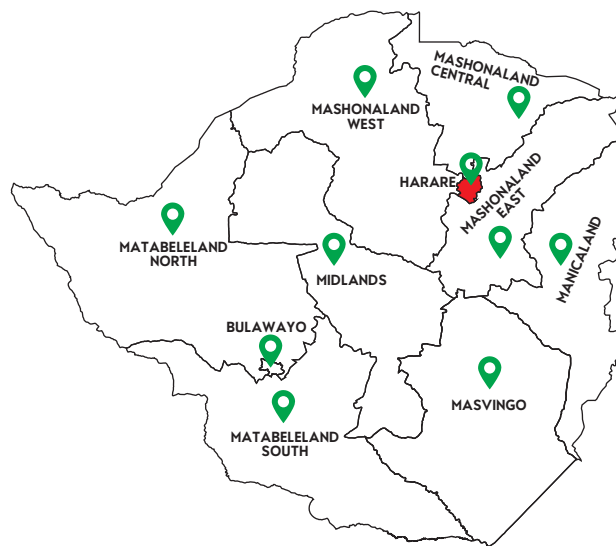
Further, in Harare, on 27 June 2024, ZimRights hosted a Parliamentary Public Hearing Breakfast Meeting bringing together members of Parliament from Hwange, Lupane, Victoria Falls, Harare, and Chitungwiza alongside ZimRights members from Harare and Chitungwiza to discuss the implications of the PVO Amendment Bill on human rights in Zimbabwe. The meeting focused on concerns raised by participants regarding key issues in the bill, such as vague definitions, the centralisation of power, and the potential impact on smaller community-based organisations (CBOs). Parliamentarians were urged to move away from a polarising and punitive approach to CSO regulation, advocating instead for a nation-building approach that emphasises dialogue and collaboration among all stakeholders.

19. Available here <https://x.com/ZimRightsLIVE/status/1753337423952838792?s=20>

20. Available here <https://x.com/ZimRightsLIVE/status/1754462959445672369?s=20>

21. See <https://x.com/ZimRightsLIVE/status/1745407986313384206?s=20>

22. Available here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIYT9hXrVho>.



In Harare again, ZimRights was also invited to participate in the Zee Tv and Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, "Constitution at 11" series which reached over 2200 viewers and listeners on YouTube and X (former Twitter).²² ZimRights was represented by its Team Leader, Dzikamai Bere. Through this important platform, the Team Leader raised public awareness on the importance of the expanded Bill of Rights in protecting all generations of human rights. He further,



shed light on how the people of Zimbabwe, through the People's Human Rights Manifesto, have organised themselves to safeguard their constitution and uphold the principles of sovereignty and separation of power.



ZimRights also joined forces with other local CSO in Harare to push back against the PVO Bill through mobilisation of participation in public hearings, sensitisation on the red flags of the bill and engagement with duty bearers.²³ Similarly, in Harare, ZimRights mobilised 60 community human rights monitors including PWDs to contribute to the Public Hearings on the Person with Disabilities Bill. The participants drew inspiration from talking points on the PWD Bill that had been generated by ZimRights members.

In Epworth, residents collectively developed action points to demand transparency in food aid distribution and the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) selection processes, fostering a proactive approach to local governance. Similarly, following a Youth Voices in Hopley,

youth were able to share their concerns with duty bearers especially regarding civil and political rights concerns. The Hopley Youth Voices Fora created a safe space for young women to discuss pressing issues and draft a community action plan focused on their grievances.

In the streets of Harare, ZimRights also rolled out the Ashes, Roses and Rights festival on 14 February. This followed the intersection of Valentine's Day, Catholic Ash Wednesday and the ZimRights Rights Wednesday. ZimRights successfully distributed roses and spread the aura of the right to love to over 30 citizens in Harare. The ZimRights Ashes, Roses and Rights festival was clinically celebrated and reflected on, in this analysis by the ZimRights National Director, "On the Festival of Ashes, Roses and Rights ZimRights Reflects on the Right of Rights the Right to Love".²⁴

Through various media and advocacy efforts alone, ZimRights reached to over 189 695 citizens including important government and human rights stakeholders.

Harare also hosted the convening of the SADC People's Summit. It was convened under the theme, "Reclaiming SADC for Peoples Development: Building People Power, Voice and Agency towards Democracy and Inclusion".

23. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, 10 Reasons Why the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill, H. B. 2, 2024 Is Bad for the People of Zimbabwe, May 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/PVO-Bill-Information-Pack.pdf>.

24. Dzikamai Bere, On the Festival of Ashes, Roses and Rights, 14 February 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/on-the-festival-of-ashes-roses-and-rights/>

In his solidarity message at the official opening ceremony of the Summit, ZimRights National Chairperson Mr. Takesure Musiwa called for SADC leaders to respect human rights and the people of Southern Africa.²⁵

The solidarity message reached over 2500 views online. At the SADC People's Summit, ZimRights also led and co-convened the Regional Symposium on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance in Harare, Zimbabwe which saw the physical participation of over 140 CSO leaders, human rights defenders and democracy stakeholders from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, and Mozambique.

A livestreaming of the symposium with over 4000 views for the two days was also done by HSTV with support from the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP).²⁶

At the closing ceremony of the symposium, the ZimRights, National Vice Chairperson Mr. Themba Chiveya emphasised the need for collaboration among human rights defenders and civil society actors to advocate for the realisation of the tenets of democracy, human rights and good governance across Southern Africa.



A key outcome of the Summit was the outcomes document²⁷ prepared by the Human rights, Democracy and Governance cluster and the overall, Advocacy Communique to the SADC Heads of State and Government.²⁸



25. Watch his solidarity address at <https://www.facebook.com/ZimRightsBYO/videos/solidarity-and-action-at-the-sadc-peoples-summit-yesterday-zimrights-national-ch/1401343503877620/>

26. Available at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=839483261228198>

27. Available at <https://x.com/ZimRightsLIVE/status/1824825373877510220>

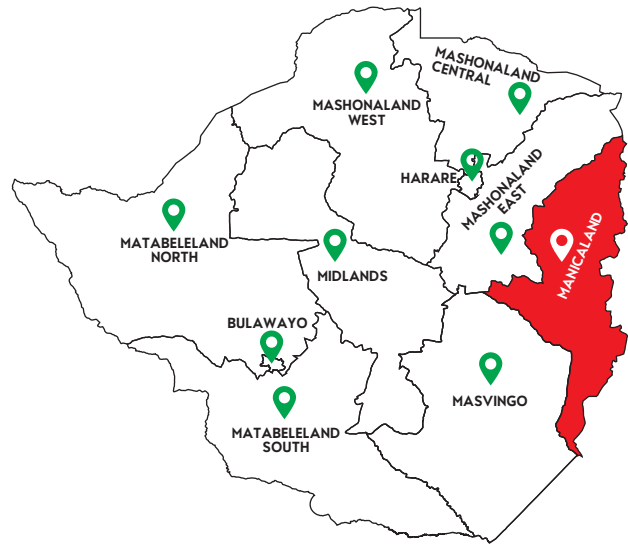
28. Available at https://sapsn.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SADC-COMMUNIQUE_2024-1.pdf

Manicaland

In Manicaland, two (2) human rights quarterly review meetings were held in Makoni to assess the status of human rights monitoring and reporting. These gatherings served as platforms to identify challenges, track progress, and reinforce the community champions' understanding of human rights and the role of the ZHRC.

ZimRights also released and published a press statement condemning the police brutality against students at St. Faiths High School in Manicaland province which culminated in some of the affected students getting access to medical treatment from ZimRights partners thanks to our referral pathway.²⁹

An Action learning session was also convened in Buhera, Manicaland as part of the civic education action zone. The initiative focused on empowering communities regarding their civil and political rights, local governance, and active participation in democratic processes. Notable outcomes included the facilitation of discussions that allowed residents to articulate their concerns about local governance issues, such as transparency, accountability, and access to essential services. For instance, Buhera participants gained critical knowledge about their rights and the appropriate actions to take when violations occur, particularly concerning duty-bearers like the police.



ZimRights also directly engaged with over 975 people directly through, We the People's Human Rights Manifesto Dialogues; Launch of the People's Human rights Manifesto; and People's Human Rights Manifesto (PHRM) road shows in Manicaland. Through these interventions, the PHRM is now a household name across Manicaland and ZimRights members. Impact was exerted in popularising the PHRM and its utilisation by citizens as an advocacy tool to



29. Available at <https://x.com/ZimRightsLIVE/status/1759493954179899689?s=20>

demand delivery on electoral promises made by duty bearers. Similar activities were also done in Gweru and Masvingo. After a high impact, one community member in Mutare noted that, "ZimRights continues to be a reliable authority on human rights happenings in the country". This signposts to the impact of ZimRights advocacy, knowledge and media products.

On 16 July 2024, ZimRights also convened a Human Rights Quarterly Review meeting in Makoni, Manicaland. The engagement equipped 45 community members with the knowledge and tools necessary to identify, document, and address human rights violations. This meeting was part of ZimRights' broader initiative to strengthen community leadership in human rights protection.



Key activities included discussions on various human rights violations, presentations on national human rights institutions, and strategies for community members to engage in advocacy and hold leaders accountable.

Ever since the engagement, human rights champions in Makoni have been actively documenting and reporting human rights violations for further advocacy by the ZimRights secretariat.

In the same province, ZimRights also convened a Human Rights Education and Awareness session in Sedze, Nyanga on the 24th of July 2024. Through the session, ZimRights enhanced the community's understanding of human rights, with a focus on civil, political, socio-economic, and cultural rights as delineated in the Constitution of Zimbabwe. 39 participants, including local traditional leaders were reached and ZimRights established 4 local action committees to address violations and hold leaders accountable in Sedze, Nyanga.

On the following day, the 25th of August 2024, ZimRights carried out another, Human Rights Education and Awareness session in Mutare. 35 participants were equipped with knowledge of human rights, with a focus on civil, political, socio-economic, and cultural rights as delineated in the Constitution of Zimbabwe. Similarly, 4 local action committees to lead localised civic action in demand of human rights were established.

On September 25, 2024, ZimRights convened a Citizen Duty Bearer Engagement in Mutasa District, Manicaland, bringing together 27 female community leaders and local duty bearers. This event facilitated open dialogue about barriers to women's involvement in governance, such as patriarchal norms, financial constraints, and political exclusion. The engagement resulted in an action plan aimed at increasing women's participation, including commitments to attend ward development

meetings and organise mentorship sessions for aspiring leaders.



Key achievements from this engagement included the establishment of a collaborative platform that fostered accountability between women leaders and local duty bearers.

Twenty women committed to attending ward development meetings, ensuring stronger representation in local governance.

Success stories emerged shortly after the engagement, with the Tsvingwe Residents Association holding budget consultations where 11 attendees actively participated in community dialogue.



Additionally, local councillors conducted mentorship sessions with women from the engagement, sharing their journeys in political leadership to inspire greater female participation.



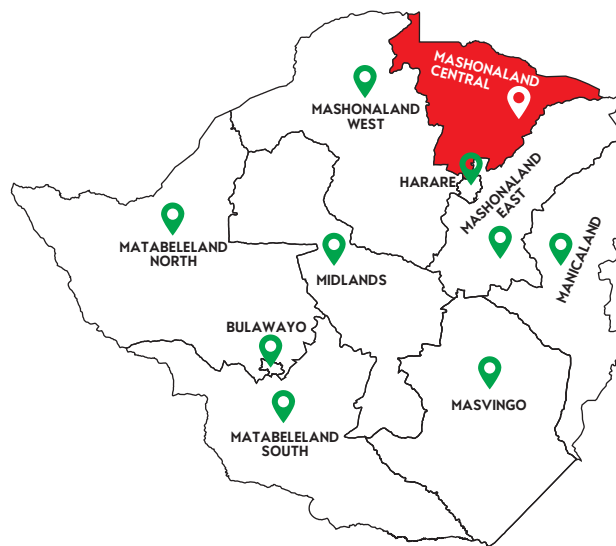
Mashonaland Central

A key success in Mashonaland Central was the follow up made by the ZHRC to violations submitted by ZimRights in Mashonaland central. ZimRights members and others from the village development committee in ward 26, Dhawe farm in Mazowe North, Mashonaland Central, received and hosted Sharon Magumbo, Ms. Moyo, and Ms. Tsoka from ZHRC on 9 July 2024. This was after a report to the commission about the mining activities in the area that are polluting the environment and causing massive land degradation. The officers from ZHRC were on a fact finding and verification mission on which they managed to verify and document the violations that were reported by ZimRights. Following these interventions, some mining activities were since paused pending thorough investigations.



On July 12, 2024, a Human Rights awareness training was conducted in Rushinga, targeting marginalised communities to enhance their understanding of human rights and the mechanisms available for protection.

The training successfully engaged 42 participants disaggregated as 23 males and 19 females, exceeding the initial target of 30. The training successfully empowered



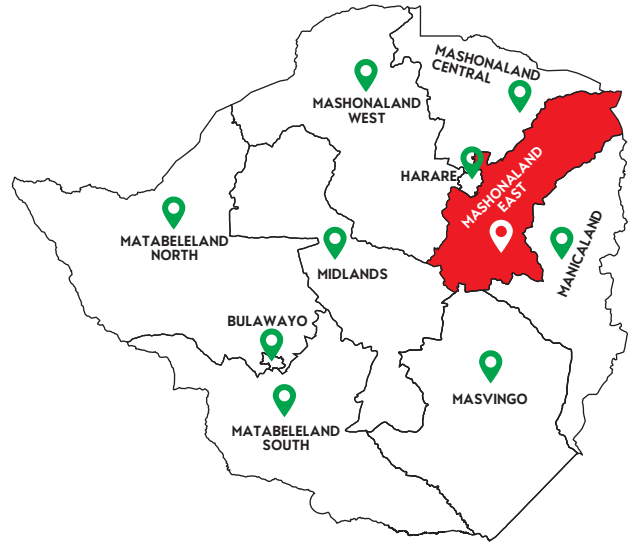
the participants with skills and tools to identify, document, and report human rights violations. The program emphasised the importance of civic education in cultivating active citizenship and included discussions on the roles of the established local Action Committees in handling human rights violations and traditional leadership courts, which often perpetuate human rights abuses. By fostering awareness and encouraging community-driven advocacy, this initiative was a crucial step towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society, ultimately empowering individuals to champion their rights and engage in democratic processes.



Mashonaland East

On 15 May 2024, ZimRights dispatched a team to Marondera to investigate a violent disruption during a public hearing on the PVO Bill that occurred the day before, involving opposition ward councillor and some alleged ZANU PF supporters.

The investigation revealed that pro-Bill supporters, linked to ZANU PF, threatened the ward councillor and vandalised his vehicle, highlighting severe human rights violations, including infringements on freedom of expression and assembly. The incident led to a premature abandonment of the hearing, reflecting a climate of political intolerance in Zimbabwe. ZimRights recommended legal action against the aggressors, psychological support for the affected, and the promotion of peaceful dialogue.

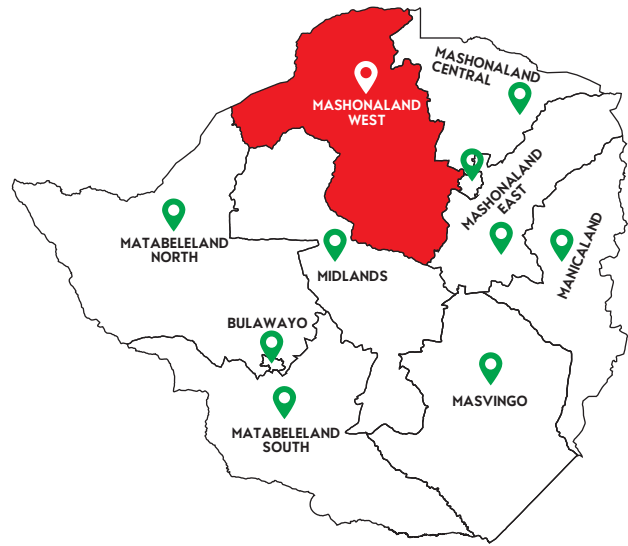


Long-term strategies proffered include strengthening law enforcement, fostering community engagement, and collaborating with international human rights organisations to improve the overall human rights landscape, ensuring accountability and a safe environment for public discourse.



Mashonaland West

In Mashonaland West, the ZimRights action committees have been at the forefront in asserting and demanding their rights. ZimRights local civic action committee in Hurungwe protested to the Department of Social Welfare and their councillors against the partisan distribution of food aid. Working with independent commissions, and the local civic action committee in Nyamhunga, Kariba asserted their rights and showed civic agency by delivering a letter to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) in Kariba on the 15 August. The committee requested ZEC to establish a voter registration booth at Nyamhunga centre. This was prompted by challenges on voter registration emanating from the inaccessibility of existing voter registration centres.



In November 2024, ZimRights facilitated a community-based advocacy initiative in Kariba aimed at addressing human-wildlife conflict, significantly enhancing the safety and well-being of local residents. This initiative followed community feedback from a June 2024 engagement, leading to a



Some of the participants at the community meeting held in Kariba to address human-wildlife conflict

strategic meeting with officials from Zimbabwe National Parks. Residents articulated their concerns regarding wildlife encroachment and safety risks, resulting in formal requests for wildlife relocation and increased patrols. The advocacy efforts were fruitful, with authorities committing to discounted fishing fees for local fishers and

enhancing patrols in conflict-prone areas. Additionally, improved communication channels between the community and local authorities were established, along with plans for ongoing education on waste management to reduce wildlife attraction, paving the way for better wildlife management policies.



ZimRights Kadoma local chapter letter to Kadoma Municipality

In Kadoma, ZimRights also protested poor service delivery and wrote a letter to the Kadoma Municipality. The letter raised service delivery challenges (access to clean water) in the community. After submission of the letter, there were advocacy engagement meetings between the council and ZimRights members including residents.

Despite the Municipality's financial challenges, there were commitments made to ensure access to clean water for the residents. This was a fruitful advocacy engagement that saw commitment and accountability by the local council.

In Hurungwe, the ZimRights Duty Bearer Engagement Committee raised concerns about the establishment of a cement plant without community consultation, advocating for a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment to protect local interests. Overall, these initiatives reflect a robust commitment to fostering community engagement and accountability in governance.

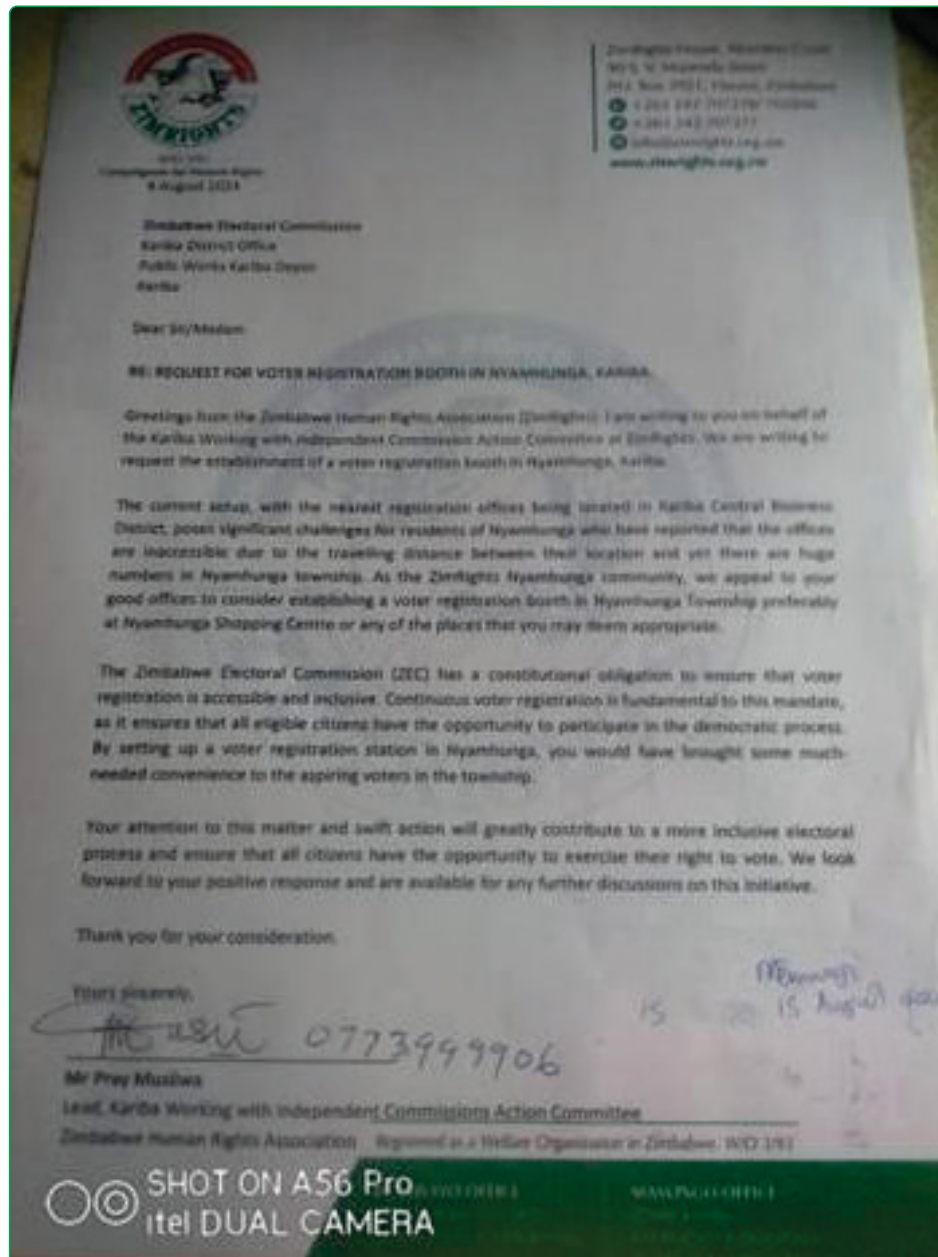
In an effort to enhance voter registration access, the Kariba Working Independent Commissions Local Action Committee submitted a formal request to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) for a mobile voter registration booth in Nyamhunga, a low-income area with limited access to registration centres. The petition, submitted in August 2024, was escalated to the Chinhoyi Provincial Office following sustained follow-ups.

This advocacy effort highlights the community's proactive role in promoting electoral participation.

In November 2024, the Kariba Duty Bearer Action Committee launched an advocacy campaign to address the escalating human-wildlife conflict. Following concerns raised during a community dialogue in June, the committee engaged the Zimbabwe National Parks Authority to highlight the safety risks, economic hardships, and urgent need for intervention. As a result, authorities committed to increasing patrols, introducing discounted fishing fees for local fishers, and enhancing communication with affected communities through a dedicated WhatsApp group. Additionally, recognising poor waste management as a key factor attracting wildlife into residential areas, authorities pledged to implement ongoing waste management awareness initiatives. These measures mark a significant step toward balancing conservation efforts with community safety and well-being.



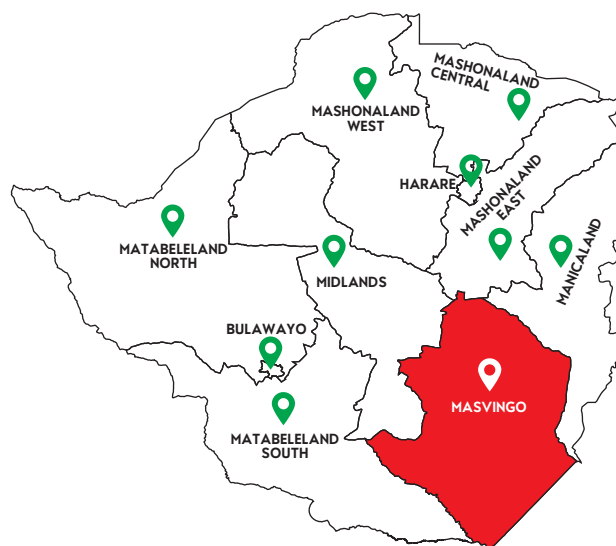
ZimRights members in conversation with Zimbabwe National Parks Authorities



Signed letter submitted to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
by Kariba Action Committee Members

Masvingo

In Masvingo, communities in Bikita, Gutu, Masvingo Rural and Zaka reported cases of partisan distribution of food aid. This situation has been exacerbated by the Elnino drought which resulted in crop failures in most parts of Zimbabwe. As a result, most rural households had to rely on food handouts, which, according to community reports, has been abused by political activists to deprive those perceived to be opposition sympathisers from getting the aid.



Participants at the Strengthening Law enforcement and justice systems roundtable: Masvingo

ZimRights was active in Masvingo as witnessed through different interventions. The actions reflected the character of the ZimRights Shifting Power to the People Strategy, that is, being Participatory and Member centric, being Data Intensive and Knowledge Drive, and being Practice and Action Oriented. Some of the activities that were conducted included:

- capacity trainings (such as Paralegal and Peace Action Committee trainings and refresher trainings),
- Advocacy campaigns (such as Policy dialogue series with duty bearers and different stake-holders),
- as well as mobilisation activities (such as attendance and participation in public hearings).

ZimRights also received special recognition by being asked to attend and facilitated a session during a Zimbabwe Republic Police training for Officers-In-Charge of All Police Stations across Masvingo province. ZimRights facilitated a session on Human Rights and Policing, emphasising the importance of community policing and a human rights-based approach to policing.

To cap the year in Masvingo, ZimRights recorded several success stories, with one of them being the recognition of the Mwenezi Peace Garden. The Mwenezi Peace Garden emerged as a symbol of resilience and community organising in 2024. More than just a source of fresh produce, the garden has become a platform for dialogue and conflict resolution. The garden provides fresh produce to over 50 families, addressing food insecurity and malnutrition. It has resolved 10 community disputes, fostering social harmony and collaboration. At the Green Expo, the garden won 4th place out of 11 community gardens, earning four shovels to expand its operations. As Ms. Joyce Mhungu, ZimRights Masvingo Chair, noted, "In these gardens, community members don't just grow food, they grow understanding." The Mwenezi Peace Garden is a testament to the power of grassroots organising in building resilient and peaceful communities.

ZimRights members in Gutu raised concerns over rising political violence targeting opposition members, leading to a formal



*Monitoring the Functionality of
Peace Gardens - Mwenezi*

complaint with the ZHRC in March 2024. The ensuing investigation revealed that Gutu Officer-in-Charge, Cameas Myambo, had failed to open dockets for political violence cases involving ZANU-PF, instead arresting opposition victims, violating their political rights, rights to administrative justice, property rights, and protection from cruel treatment.

The report also implicated senior police officers, including Chief Superintendent Taurai Mambure and Masvingo Law and Order Officer-in-Charge James Nyoni, in enabling the violence, and identified the Sarukore brothers as key perpetrators.

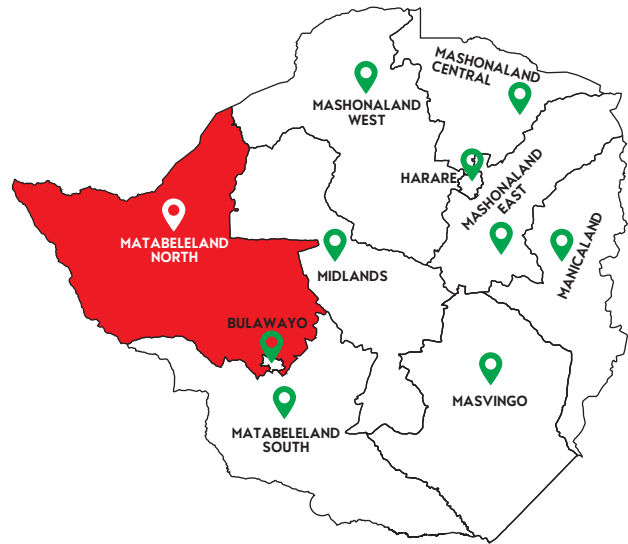
After investigating, the ZHRC confirmed the credibility of the reports and denounced the violence.³⁰

30. See https://x.com/themirrormsv/status/1772532080221495551?s=46&t=XqS4gCFL__zz5Op6Pxvhig

Matabeleland North

To gauge citizens' perceptions of elections, ZimRights organised two (2) post-election dialogues in Hwange, Matabeleland North. These dialogues were designed to reconnect with segments of society that may have been marginalised and foster a culture of active involvement in democratic processes. The goal was to amplify voices, address citizen needs, and promote transparency, accountability, and good governance for future elections. Participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts on the 2023 elections and their aftermath, offering recommendations for enhancing future electoral processes in Zimbabwe. By uniting diverse stakeholders, the dialogues culminated in the development of an action plan, including the submission of a petition to parliament addressing issues related to the local administration in Hwange.

In November 2024, the organisation conducted a Youth Forum targeting 30 young people and this activity successfully created a safe space for discussing and prioritising civic-political rights issues. This forum not only facilitated meaningful dialogue among participants but also translated these discussions into actionable community plans aligned with the Human Rights Manifesto. The engagement was notable, with 20 females and 10 males actively participating, highlighting the importance of inclusivity in addressing youth concerns.

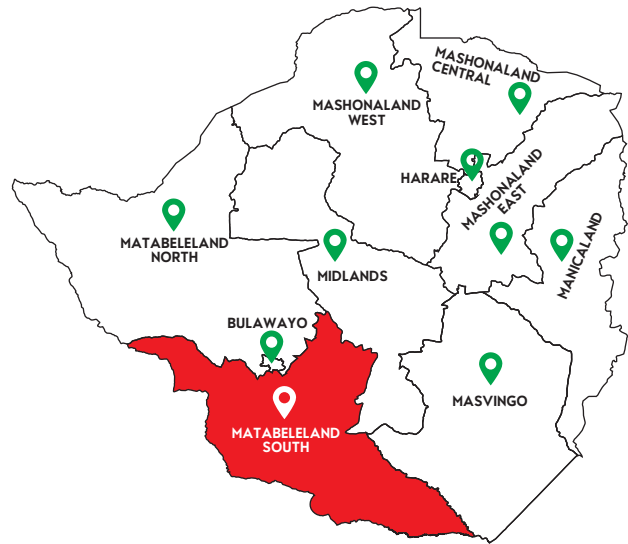


This activity is particularly empowered young people with skills to advocate for their rights and take ownership of civic engagement, fostering a generation that is informed and active in promoting human rights within Matabeleland North.



Matabeleland South

In Gwanda, youth leaders organised a peace-building workshop, bringing together diverse community groups to address long-standing conflicts. The workshop fostered collaboration among traditional leaders, women's groups, and youth representatives, leading to the creation of a Community Peace Committee. This committee has already resolved 5 land disputes and 3 cases of political violence, restoring harmony in a community once divided by tension. By addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting dialogue, the youth of Gwanda have shown that peace is not just an ideal but a tangible reality that can be achieved through collective effort.



ZimRights also conducted a paralegal refresher training in Matabeleland South.

The refresher training of community paralegals equipped participants with enhanced knowledge and skills to provide legal assistance, helping individuals navigate everyday issues, address human rights abuses, and seek redress for violations of their rights, with a total of 71 paralegals capacitated in Bulawayo, Beitbridge, and Gwanda Urban, and 71 copies of the paralegal manual distributed.

The knowledge and skills gained through the project activities were assessed through:

- pre- and post-training assessments, which involved conducting quizzes or surveys to measure knowledge acquisition and skill improvement;
- practical demonstrations, where participants applied their newly acquired skills in real or simulated scenarios such as role-playing mediation or providing legal advice;
- feedback and reflection sessions that facilitated group discussions or individual reflections for participants to share their experiences; and
- case studies that reviewed specific instances where participants used the paralegal manual to address community issues, assessing the effectiveness of their interventions.

In Matabeleland South, ZimRights, through its peace committees also documented 43 cases of threats to peace. These included poor sanitation, corruption, abuse of power by office bearers, partisan distribution of food aid, lack of human rights knowledge and legal statutes. Cases from the rural communities, specifically around the Sofa - Mtshazo areas in Gwanda, Matabeleland South, also highlighted concerns over local chiefs running partisan agendas instead of maintaining neutrality when dealing with

issues that affect the community or its development. This has caused divisions amongst communities with members in support of the political party in opposition of the Chief's supposed preference indicating unfair treatment in disputes. Consequently, this has also caused fractions amongst the Village Headmen and triggers the necessity for ZimRights to amplify its efforts in incorporating Chiefs and Headmen in peace building and capacity building initiatives.

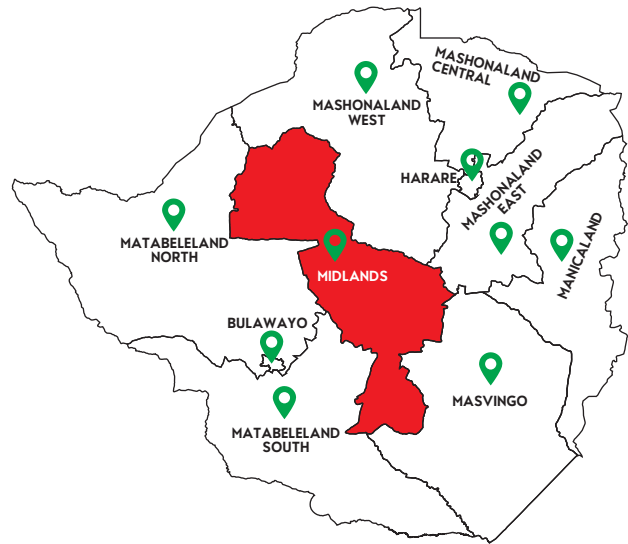


Midlands

In Gokwe, young activists took to the streets and airwaves to launch a community awareness campaign. Through door-to-door outreach and radio programs, they engaged over 1,000 residents in conversations about human rights, focusing on healthcare access and youth unemployment. The campaign sparked a dialogue with local duty bearers, who began to take youth concerns more seriously.

One of the most significant outcomes was the establishment of a youth resource centre, which now provides skills training and mentorship for 50 young people. This centre has become a hub of hope, offering opportunities for economic empowerment and personal growth in a region often plagued by marginalisation.

ZimRights also launched a Community Accompaniment Program to support oppressed human rights advocates in Gokwe. The program provided legal and medical assistance to 15 victims of political violence and intimidation, ensuring they received the justice and rehabilitation they deserved. One of the program's most impactful outcomes is the production of a documentary, set to launch on July 17, 2024. This film captures the struggles and resilience of these advocates, amplifying their voices and inspiring others to stand up for their rights. The documentary is not just a record of injustice but a call to action for a more just and equitable society.



In the Midlands province,
ZimRights documented

 **67**

human rights violations
affecting


520

individuals.

These included cases of public violence, hate speech, and unjustified arrests. Through diligent advocacy, we secured the release of 12 wrongfully detained individuals and the prosecution of 3 perpetrators.

These efforts have not only brought justice to victims but also sent a clear message that human rights violations will not go unpunished. By holding perpetrators

accountable, we are building a culture of respect for human rights across the region.

Under the youth zone, ZimRights convened Action Learning Sessions with youths from Gokwe and Gweru. The sessions reached out to over 45 youths in total. Post activity assessments and feedback revealed that the Action Learning Session managed to empower youths in Gokwe and Gweru, who are part of the marginalised grassroots communities to coalesce and actively lead in promoting vertical accountability between rights holders and duty bearers on the People's Human Rights Manifesto.

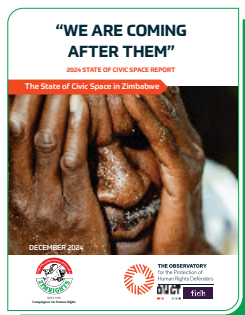


The youth have been self-organising and engaging in human rights action, including mobilisation of youth for rights, Manifesto dance challenge, sports for rights tournaments and raising awareness of youths on human rights concerns in Gweru and Gokwe.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR KNOWLEDGE FACTORY

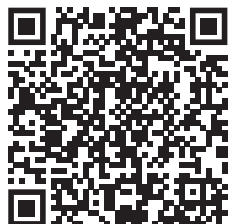
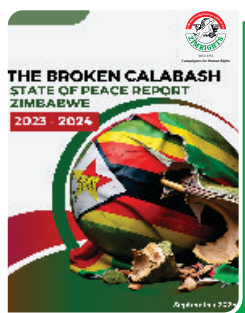
In 2024, ZimRights strengthened its role as a knowledge hub by producing key reports, policy briefs, and strategic resources aimed at shaping advocacy, enhancing civic engagement, and empowering its members, local communities, and human rights defenders in Zimbabwe.



State of Civic Space Report

On 20 December 2024, ZimRights, in partnership with the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (FIDH and OMCT), launched the first ever State of Civic Space in Zimbabwe Report.³¹ Based on survey data from 67 national and grassroots organisations, the report provides a critical analysis of the restrictive environment in which civil society operates. It highlights the impact of repressive legislation, particularly the proposed Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Bill, along with surveillance, intimidation, and state interference that hinder free expression and civic engagement.

Through case studies and statistical insights, the report underscores the urgent need for policy reforms, transparency, and institutional accountability. It calls on the government to abandon restrictive laws and foster a collaborative approach that strengthens civil society. Offering clear, actionable recommendations, the report serves as a vital tool in the fight to safeguard civic rights, promote good governance, and ensure the sustainability of CSOs in Zimbabwe.

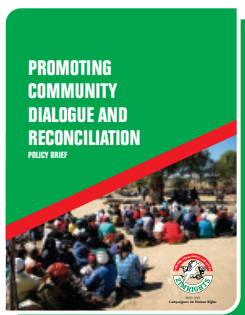


The Broken Calabash: 2023 - 2024 State of Peace Report and Policy Briefs

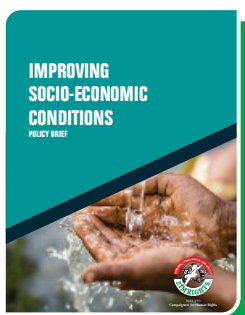
Under the Right to Peace Campaign, ZimRights produced and launched The Broken Calabash: State of Peace Report 2023-2024 at the National Art Gallery in Bulawayo on 24 September 2025, bringing together its Peace Action Committees, civil society leaders, local government representatives, and traditional leaders.³² The report captures the voices of communities across the country, emphasising that top-down peacebuilding approaches have failed. Instead, it calls for a people-driven approach where communities take the lead in shaping Zimbabwe's peace agenda. One of the report's key findings is that bureaucratic, high-level commissions have done little to foster real peace, while grassroots efforts hold the greatest potential for lasting change. The report

31. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, The State of Civic Space in Zimbabwe, December 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/The-State-of-Civic-Space-in-Zimbabwe-Expanded-Version.pdf>.

32. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, The State of Peace in Zimbabwe Report, September 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/The-State-of-Peace-Report-2023-2024-Lr.pdf>

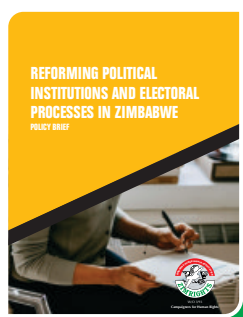
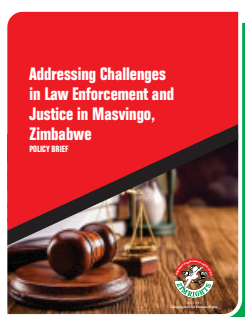
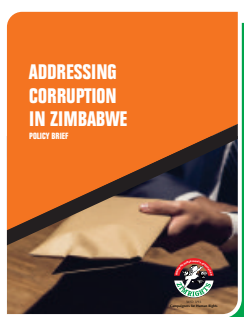


argues that the government has been more effective at disrupting peace than fostering it, and true peacebuilding must be led by the people. Dedicated to the late Dr. Webster Zimbaro, a key advisor to the campaign, the report stands as a call to action for all stakeholders to embrace a bottom-up approach to achieving lasting peace in Zimbabwe.



Based on the concerns that came out from community consultations in the formulation of the State of Peace Report, six policy briefs were developed. These policy briefs provide comprehensive recommendations of the actions that the state should take to address socio-economic,³³ political and electoral,³⁴ law enforcement³⁵ and corruption³⁶ challenges which were identified as posing the most significant threats to peace in Zimbabwe. Citizens emphasised the importance of community dialogue in the reconciliation process, leading to the production of the Promoting Community Dialogue and Reconciliation policy brief.³⁷

Additionally, the Peace We Want Policy Brief was developed to reflect citizens' perspectives on peace in Zimbabwe, highlighting that peace extends beyond the absence of violence and must be tangible in daily life.³⁸



33. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Improving Socio-Economic Conditions Policy Brief, 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Policy-Brief-Improving-Socio-Economic-Conditions.pdf>.

34. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Reforming Political Institutions and Electoral Processes in Zimbabwe Policy Brief, 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Policy-Brief-Reforming-Political-Institutions-and-Electoral-Processes.pdf>.

35. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Addressing Challenges in Law Enforcement and Justice Policy Brief, 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Policy-Brief-Addressing-Challenges-in-Law-Enforcement-and-Justice.pdf>.

36. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Addressing Corruption in Beitbridge Policy Brief, 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Policy-Brief-Addressing-Corruption-in-Beitbridge.pdf>.

37. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Promoting Community Dialogue and Reconciliation Policy Brief, 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Policy-Brief-Promoting-Community-Dialogue-and-Reconciliation.pdf>.

38. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, The Peace We Want Policy Brief, December 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Policy-Brief-The-Peace-That-We-Want.pdf>.



Partnerships for Rights Handbook

The Partnership for Rights Handbook was developed as a comprehensive resource for human rights activists in Zimbabwe.³⁹ It provides essential information on engaging with constitutional commissions to promote and protect human rights. The handbook outlines the mandates, functions, legal frameworks, and procedures of key commissions, equipping activists with the knowledge needed to navigate these institutions effectively. Recognising the challenges in realising human rights across Zimbabwe, the handbook underscores the importance of strategic partnerships between activists and constitutional bodies. It offers practical guidance on reporting human rights violations, engaging with commissions, and leveraging their constitutional mandates to advance human rights work. By enhancing activists' understanding of these mechanisms, the handbook serves as a vital resource for strengthening advocacy and fostering accountability in Zimbabwe's human rights landscape.



Digital Activism Strategy

The ZimRights Digital Activism Strategy (2022–2026) is designed to harness innovation and digital tools to advance human rights in Zimbabwe. It provides a framework for leveraging digital platforms such as social media, podcasts, and CollectiVibe to amplify human rights advocacy and hold duty bearers accountable. The strategy guides ZimRights in expanding its reach, maximising social capital, and adapting to the evolving human rights landscape. With Zimbabwe's internet penetration steadily increasing, digital activism remains a cost-effective and impactful tool for mobilisation, awareness, and citizen participation. In 2024, ZimRights reviewed the strategy to assess its effectiveness and refine its approaches, ensuring continued relevance in an ever-changing digital environment.

39. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Partnerships for Rights Handbook, June 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Partnerships-for-Rights.pdf>.

40. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, Digital Activism Strategy Reviewed in 2024. Available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Digital-Activism-Strategy.pdf>



ADVOCACY

National Advocacy

ZimRights has played a pivotal role in national-level advocacy, tackling key human rights issues and advocating for legislative and policy reforms. Through campaigns like the repeal of the Vagrancy Act and standing against the PVO Amendment Bill, ZimRights has contributed to shaping a more inclusive and rights-respecting environment in Zimbabwe.

The following highlights some of the significant national-level advocacy efforts led by ZimRights in 2024.

01

Repeal of the Vagrancy Act Campaign

In 2024, ZimRights launched a campaign to repeal the Vagrancy Act (Chapter 10:25), a colonial-era law that criminalizes homelessness and disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations.⁴¹ The campaign was driven by concerns from communities in Chitungwiza and Harare, where growing numbers of homeless individuals faced increased targeting by authorities rather than receiving support. Launched on 10 July through the Loaves and Blankets initiative, the campaign culminated in a petition signed by 230 ZimRights members online and in person calling for the repeal of the Vagrancy Act.⁴² The petition was submitted to Parliament on 31 July.⁴³ The campaign also included community organising efforts, such as the Blankets and Loaves Initiative.

On 25 November 2024, ZimRights presented the petition to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence, Home Affairs, War Veterans, and Security Services. Represented by Ms. Farirai Sibanda and Mr. Kenias Shonhai of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, ZimRights provided evidence of the human rights violations enabled by the Act and its contradiction with regional and international human rights standards, citing the African Court's 2020 advisory opinion.⁴⁴ In response, the Committee committed to reviewing the petition and engaging relevant stakeholders, including the Zimbabwe Republic Police, ministries, and Parliament, with a focus on aligning Zimbabwe's laws with its constitutional and international human rights obligations.⁴⁵



Team ZimRights preparing to Distribute Loaves and Blankets to the homeless in Harare

41. Available at <https://zimlil.org/akn/zw/act/1960/40/eng@2016-12-31/source>

42. Available at <https://www.change.org/p/repeal-of-zimbabwe-s-vagrancy-act>

43. NewsDay, Parliament Petitioned to Repeal the Vagrancy Act, Harriet Chikandiwa, 27 November 2024. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/local-news/article/200035530/parliament-petitioned-to-repeal-vagrancy-act>

44. African Court on Human and Peoples Rights, Advisory Opinion on the Compatibility of Vagrancy Laws with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other Human Rights Instruments Applicable in Africa, December 2020. Available at <https://www.african-court.org/cpmt/storage/app/uploads/public/5fd/0c6/49b/5fd0c649b6658574074462.pdf>

45. The latest updates on the progress of this campaign are available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/repeal-the-vagrancy-act-advocacy-update-feb-2025/>



Presentation of the Review of the Vagrancy Act petition by Ms Sibanda and Mr Shonhai.

02

Standing Against the PVO Bill

On 27 June 2024, ZimRights hosted a Parliamentary Public Hearing Breakfast Meeting in Harare, bringing together members of Parliament from Hwange, Lupane, Victoria Falls, Harare, and Chitungwiza alongside ZimRights members from Harare and Chitungwiza to discuss the implications of the PVO Amendment Bill on human rights in Zimbabwe. The meeting focused on concerns raised by participants

regarding key issues in the bill, such as vague definitions, the centralisation of power, and the potential impact on smaller community-based organisations (CBOs). Parliamentarians were urged to move away from a polarising and punitive approach to CSO regulation, advocating instead for a nation-building approach that emphasises dialogue and collaboration among all stakeholders.



Through campaigns like the repeal of the Vagrancy Act and standing against the PVO Amendment Bill, ZimRights has contributed to shaping a more inclusive and rights-respecting environment in Zimbabwe.

03

Chiefs of Shame or Guardians of Human Dignity Documentary

ZimRights produced a documentary titled *Chiefs of Shame or Guardians of Human Dignity: Traditional Leaders and Human Rights in Zimbabwe*, which was screened during the launch event on 17 July 2024. The documentary explores the complex role of traditional leaders in Zimbabwe,⁴⁶ highlighting how some chiefs have perpetuated human rights abuses, including corruption, bias, and denial of due process, undermining their intended role as protectors of community harmony and

cultural values. The launch event brought together traditional leaders, civil society representatives, and community members to discuss the challenges within these leadership structures, focusing on issues like corruption, bias, and lack of legal safeguards. The event provided a platform for dialogue on the need for education, monitoring, and policy reforms to ensure human rights protection while respecting culture.



Mr. Mashingaidze, Harare Provincial Chairperson (standing) addressing the Parliamentarians

46. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYwgbVqEcTU>

Regional Advocacy

ZimRights' regional advocacy efforts focus on fostering dialogue and collaboration among African countries, strengthening the region's human rights frameworks, and amplifying the voices of marginalised communities.



01

Reclaiming the Southern African Development Community for the People

From 17-18 August 2024, Zimbabwe hosted the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government in Harare. On the sidelines of this pivotal summit, various CSOs convened the SADC People's Summit, organised under the Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN). The summit brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from the region.

As part of the People's Summit, ZimRights, in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Southern Defenders, WE LEAD, the Women's Academy for Leadership and Political Excellence, the Zimbabwe Coalition

on Debt and Development, Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association, and the Vendors Initiative for Social and Economic Transformation, organised a two-day symposium on Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance in the SADC Region. The hybrid conference attracted 120 in-person participants and 80 online attendees, representing civic leaders from all 16 SADC countries. The symposium focused on fostering dialogue and collaboration, stressing the need for a united electoral culture that promotes trust and accountability while also advocating for greater representation of women and youth in leadership.



Participants underscored the importance of strengthening service delivery mechanisms and improving community livelihoods to ensure that the voices of the people are heard and respected.

Key recommendations, including calls to repeal restrictive laws, uphold judicial independence, and strengthen human rights and governance frameworks, were

presented to the SADC Heads of State and Government in the People's Summit 2024 Communique to the SADC Heads of State & Government.⁴⁷ The symposium further emphasised the need for inclusive decision-making, better access to essential services, and the integration of sustainable development and rights protection into regional development plans.⁴⁸



Panellists (from left) Advocate Wilbert Mandinde (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum), Thabo Masuku (Foundation for Socio-Economic Justice – Swaziland), Leah Mitabi (Council for Social Support – Zambia), and Laswet Savadye (Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network)

02

Spotlighting Civic Space Challenges at the African Commission

In October 2024, ZimRights' National Chairperson, Mr. Takesure Masiwa, represented the organisation at the 81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission

on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, Gambia. Before the session, on 15 October, Mr. Masiwa attended the NGO Forum, where the theme was "Educate an

47. Available at <https://sapsn.net/sadc-communique-2024/>

48. The full symposium report is available at <https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Reclaiming-SADC-for-the-People.pdf>.

African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa."



A key outcome of the forum was the adoption of a joint resolution addressing the restriction of civic space in Zimbabwe, which was incorporated into twelve country resolutions presented to the African Commission.

Notably, Resolution CRES/012/10/24 focused on the arrests, abductions, and torture of human rights defenders (HRDs) and the targeting of CSOs in Zimbabwe.⁴⁹ The resolution called on the Government of Zimbabwe to comply with its obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, to protect HRDs and CSOs, and to abandon the proposed PVO Amendment Bill, which poses a significant

threat to the operations of civil society in the country.

On 16 October, ZimRights, in collaboration with FIDH, the Legal Resources Foundation, the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, and the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, convened a side session at the 81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission. The session aimed to foster global solidarity with Zimbabwe's human rights movement and discuss the findings and recommendations from the abridged 2024 State of Civic Space Report. The event brought together 30 participants to discuss the challenges facing civic space in Zimbabwe, focusing on the restrictive impact of the PVO Amendment Bill and the broader human rights situation. The discussions emphasised the importance of unity among human rights defenders, regional collaboration, and the need for effective strategies to protect civic freedoms. Participants highlighted the role of intergenerational leadership, strong civil society organisation, and grassroots solidarity in safeguarding civic space across the continent.



Participants attending the Civic Space Side Session in the Gambia

49. Available at <https://ishr.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/COUNTRY-RESOLUTIONS-ADOPTED-AT-THE-NGOs-FORUM-PRECEDING-THE-81st-OS-ACHPR-OCTOBER-2024.pdf>



PARTNERSHIPS: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2024, ZimRights strengthened its partnerships with local, regional, and international organisations, creating a robust network of collaboration to advance human rights in Zimbabwe.

These partnerships have been instrumental in amplifying our impact, enhancing our capacity, and fostering a united front in the fight for justice and equality.



Local Partnerships

At the grassroots level, ZimRights worked closely with community-based organisations (CBOs), local councils, and traditional leaders to address human rights challenges. For example, in Chitungwiza, our collaboration with local action committees led to the resolution of water access and sewer pipe issues, improving the lives of thousands of residents. In Kariba, our partnership with the Zimbabwe National Parks Authority resulted in tangible solutions to human-wildlife conflict, including increased patrols and discounted fishing fees for local fishers.

National Collaborations

ZimRights partnered with key national institutions such as the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) to document violations, provide legal support, and advocate for policy reforms. Our joint efforts led to the release of 12 wrongfully detained individuals and the prosecution of 3 perpetrators of human rights violations.

Regional and International Alliances

Regionally, ZimRights collaborated with the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN) and the Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN) to advocate for human rights at the SADC People's Summit. Internationally, our partnership with FIDH and OMCT enabled us to launch the State of Civic Space Report, which has become a critical tool for advocating for the protection of civic freedoms in Zimbabwe. These alliances have not only amplified our voice but also positioned ZimRights as a key player in the global human rights movement.

The Power of Collaboration

Our partnerships are built on a shared commitment to human rights, transparency, and accountability. By working together, we have been able to achieve outcomes that would have been impossible alone. As we move forward, we remain committed to fostering these relationships and exploring new opportunities for collaboration.



COMMUNITY VOICES: HEAR THEM SPEAK!

The heart of ZimRights' work lies in the stories of the communities we serve. In 2024, we witnessed incredible resilience, courage, and determination from individuals and groups who stood up for their rights and inspired change.



Youth Leading the Way

"ZimRights gave us the tools to fight for our rights. Through the Manifesto Dance Challenge, we were able to engage our community and demand better access to education. Now, we have a Human Rights Advocacy Group that meets regularly to address local issues. We are no longer silent - we are the change-makers."

Youth Leader, Gweru



Women Empowering Women

"The Women's Voices Forum in Mutasa changed my life. For the first time, I felt empowered to speak up about the challenges women face in our community. Together, we developed an action plan and engaged our leaders. Now, we are seeing real change, and I am proud to be part of this movement."

Community Member, Mutasa



A Garden of Peace

"The Mwenezi Peace Garden is more than just a source of food. It is a place where we come together to resolve conflicts and build understanding. Through this garden, we have learned that peace is not just the absence of violence, it is the presence of harmony and cooperation."

Ms. Joyce Mhungu,
ZimRights Masvingo Chair



Fighting for Justice

"When my family was displaced due to political violence, I felt hopeless. But ZimRights stood by us, providing legal support and advocating for our rights."

"Today, we have a place to call home, and I am grateful for their unwavering support."

Survivor of Political Violence,
Midlands

These stories are a testament to the power of collective action and the impact of ZimRights' work. They remind us that every voice matters and that together, we can create a more just and equitable society.



LOOKING INTO 2025

As we look ahead to 2025, ZimRights remains committed to its mission of promoting and protecting human rights in Zimbabwe. Building on the successes of 2024, we have identified key priorities to guide our work in the coming year.

Expanding the Movement Builders Academy (MBA)

The MBA has proven to be a transformative initiative, equipping activists with the skills to drive change in their communities. In 2025, we plan to expand the academy to reach more provinces, with a focus on digital mobilisation, human rights monitoring, and election advocacy. By training a new generation of human rights defenders, we aim to build a critical mass of activists who can lead grassroots movements and hold duty bearers accountable.

Strengthening Digital Advocacy

Our CollectiVibe platform has revolutionised how we engage with communities, enabling real-time collaboration and advocacy. In 2025, we will enhance the platform's capabilities, making it more accessible and user-friendly. We will also leverage social media and other digital tools to amplify our advocacy efforts and reach a broader audience.

Advocating for Legislative Reforms

The proposed PVO Amendment Bill and other restrictive laws continue to threaten civic space in Zimbabwe. In 2025, we will intensify our advocacy efforts to oppose these laws and push for reforms that protect the rights of civil society organisations and human rights defenders. We will also continue to advocate for the repeal of the Vagrancy Act, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not criminalised for their circumstances.

Empowering Grassroots Communities

At the heart of our work is the belief that change must be driven by the people. In 2025, we will focus on empowering grassroots communities to take the lead in human rights advocacy. Through community dialogues, training programs, and action committees, we will equip individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to advocate for their rights and hold leaders accountable.

Building Resilient Peace Structures

The success of the Mwenezi Peace Garden has shown the power of community-led peacebuilding. In 2025, we will replicate this model in other provinces, creating spaces for dialogue, collaboration, and conflict resolution. We will also work to strengthen peace committees and ensure that they have the resources and support they need to address local challenges.

Enhancing Regional and International Collaboration

ZimRights will continue to play an active role in regional and international human rights forums, advocating for the protection of civic freedoms and the promotion of good governance. We will strengthen our partnerships with organisations like FIDH, OMCT, and SAHRDN, ensuring that the voices of Zimbabwean communities are heard on the global stage.

CONCLUSION

As we close the chapter on 2024, we take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements we have made together. This year, ZimRights demonstrated unwavering resilience and commitment to human rights, even in the face of a challenging and restrictive environment. From empowering youth in Bulawayo and Gweru to cultivating peace in Mwenezi and Gwanda, from documenting human rights violations in the Midlands to advocating for legislative reforms at the national level, we have made significant strides in advancing justice, equality, and dignity for all Zimbabweans.

Celebrating Our Achievements

The year 2024 was a year of impact and transformation. We reached over 2,057 new members, established 96 human rights action committees, and documented 148 human rights violations affecting 1,120 individuals. Our Youth Zone initiatives empowered young people to lead advocacy efforts, while the Movement Builders Academy (MBA) equipped activists with the tools to drive grassroots change. The launch of the CollectiVibe digital platform revolutionised how we engage with communities, enabling real-time collaboration and advocacy. We also celebrated milestones such as the Mwenezi Peace Garden winning 4th place at the Green Expo and our National Director, Dzikamai Bere, being honoured as Director of the Year at the NANGO Annual NGO Awards. These achievements are a testament to the power of collective action and the dedication of our members, partners, and supporters.

Acknowledging the Challenges

Despite these successes, the road ahead remains fraught with challenges. The proposed PVO Amendment Bill threatens to shrink civic space while political intimidation, economic hardships, and systemic inequalities continue to undermine the rights and dignity of Zimbabweans. The targeting of human rights defenders, the marginalisation of vulnerable communities, and the erosion of democratic institutions pose significant obstacles to our work.

Yet, in the face of these challenges, we remain steadfast. We know that the fight for human rights is not a sprint but a marathon, one that requires perseverance, courage, and unity.

The stories of resilience and hope from the communities we serve remind us that change is possible, even in the most difficult circumstances.

A Call for Continued Support and Collaboration

As we look to the future, we invite you to stand with us on this critical journey. Your support, whether through advocacy, partnership, or resources, is vital to our success. Together, we can:

- Amplify the voices of the marginalised and ensure that no one is left behind.
- Hold duty bearers accountable and push for legislative reforms that protect human rights.
- Empower grassroots communities to lead the charge for justice and equality.
- Build resilient peace structures that foster dialogue, understanding, and collaboration.

Join Us in Building a Better Future

The work we do is not just for today, it is for generations to come. It is for the children of Gweru who now have a safe school to attend, for the women of Mutasa who are leading change in their communities, for the families of Mwenezi who are cultivating peace and resilience, and for every Zimbabwean who dreams of a brighter future. We cannot do this alone.

We need your voice, your passion, and your commitment. Together, we can build a Zimbabwe where dignity, justice, and equality are not just ideals but realities.

*Thank you for
standing with us!*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DONOR

FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

INCOME	CONSOLIDATED	DONOR 1	DONOR 2	DONOR 3	DONOR 4	DONOR 5	DONOR 6	DONOR 7	DONOR 8
Deferred Income	140,813	33,102	1,089	4,683	55,111	-	7	5,491	11,542
Transfer to Retained earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donation income	440,942	41,310	137,382	4,604	104,455	14,647	-	104,500	2,235
Interest Income	25	-	6	-	9	-	8	-	-
Membership income	3,625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rental Income	13,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Project salaries recoveries	640	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Income	3,211	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-
Mileage claim from projects	7,259	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	609,665	74,412	138,477	9,287	159,630	14,647	15	109,991	13,777
PROJECT EXPENSES	497,801	47,990	125,642	8,658	138,879	10,502	-	95,099	13,438
Project expenditure	281,908	30,335	71,799	6,458	76,626	4,294	-	52,246	12,438
Salaries and wages	215,893	17,655	53,843	2,200	62,254	6,208	-	42,853	1,000
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	136,227	14,996	12,586	629	20,658	1,138	15	14,220	339
Surplus / (Deficit) from operations	24,363	11,426	249	0	93	3,007	-	673	0
Represented by:									
Cash and bank	18,507	11,426	3,201	-	93	3,007	-	13	-
Receivables	1,518	-	48	-	-	-	-	660	-
Payables	20,980	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	595,604	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	487,580	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retained Earnings	131,434	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	24,364	11,426	249	-	93	3,007	-	673	-

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DONOR

FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

INCOME	DONOR 9	DONOR 10	DONOR 11	DONOR 12	DONOR 13	DONOR 14	DONOR 15	DONOR 16	OTHER INCOME
Deferred Income	-	29,727	-	-	-	-	-	16	-
Transfer to Retained earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donation income	7,000	-	3,416	8,795	2,993	7,337	2,270	-	-
Interest Income	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,625
Rental Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,150
Project salaries recoveries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	640
Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,156
Mileage claim from projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,259
Total Income	7,000	29,729	3,416	8,795	2,993	7,337	2,270	61	27,830
PROJECT EXPENSES	5,007	29,631	3,416	8,632	2,505	6,133	2,270	-	-
Project expenditure	5,007	650	3,416	8,632	1,605	6,133	2,270	-	-
Salaries and wages	-	28,981	-	-	900	-	-	-	-
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	1,989	71	-	163	488	1,204	-	29	67,704
Surplus / (Deficit) from operations	4	27	-	-	-	-	-	32	39,875
Represented by:									
Cash and bank	4	27	-	-	-	-	-	32	704
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	810
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,980
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	595,604
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	487,580
Retained Earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131,434
Reserves Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5	27	-	-	-	-	-	32	39,875

RISING STILL

COVER PICTURE

The cover picture of this report depicts ZimRights members in action. On the left is Batsirai Manhanga, aka DJ Yellowman, a ZimRights member from Manicaland, performing a song on the People's Human Rights Manifesto at a ZimRights workshop in Mutare on 1 February 2024. Batsi is the 2023 winner of the national contest for DJs called 'National Cup Clash'.

At the center in a black t-shirt is the Solo naMutsai hitmaker and ZimRights member Jonah Moyo receiving copies of the Manifesto from ZimRights Masvingo Office on 14 February 2024 during the Roses, Rights and Ashes Festival held by ZimRights to promote the People's Human Rights Manifesto.

On the right in a grey t-shirt, ZimRights Regional Chairperson for Masvingo Province Joyce Mhungu, promoting the People's Human Rights Manifesto in Chiredzi on 6 May 2024. The People's Human Rights Manifesto, launched in 2023, has become an accountability tool used by ZimRights members to track the delivery of electoral promises by duty bearers.

In the background circle, ZimRights Youth Zone focal person for Midlands Province Grace Mazambani addressing the ZimRights Youth Zone in Gokwe at an Action Learning Session held on 17 May 2024.

These images represent the diversity of our members and the unity of their purpose. The yellow circle represents a rising sun, a symbol of the people's eternal resilience, stubborn perseverance, and indomitable hope as they work every day to fight for their rights. This cover captures the theme of this year's report and encourages all human rights defenders around the country that their efforts are not in vain.

All pictures and designs: ZimRights Media and Advocacy Action Zone.

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W/O 3/93
Campaigners for Human Rights

RISING STILL

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE

2024 was a tough year for activists across the world.

At least 324 human rights defenders were killed, according to Front Line Defenders' Global Analysis report. These killings were documented across 32 different countries.

Back home, a survey administered to 67 civil society organisations (CSOs) by ZimRights and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, shows that in 2024 nearly all surveyed CSOs reported operating with severe restrictions. Out of the 34 national-level organisations surveyed, 94% mentioned facing surveillance, infiltration, material destruction, and intimidation of staff and members.

Community-based organisations reported demands for bribes, intimidation by local gatekeepers, and barriers to free community engagement. These are only some manifestations of the growing shrinking space for civil society in Zimbabwe, detailed in our report "We are coming after them: The 2024 State of Civic Space in Zimbabwe."

And yet in the face of this adversity, our members across the country remained resolute in defending human rights in every way possible. Over 2000 new members joined ZimRights, over 100 action committees took action and over 30 human rights resources were produced. This Annual Report tells the story of resilience, bearing witness to the courage of communities in defending human rights. Attacked left right and centre, still they rise and keep fighting.

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HEAD OFFICE

ZimRights House,
90 SV Muzenda Street, Harare
Tel: +263 242 707278 / 705898
Email: info@zimrights.org.zw

BULAWAYO OFFICE

Apartment 2, 1A Fife St and
Masotsha Avenue, Bulawayo
Tel: +263 292 263721
Email: bulawayo@zimrights.org.zw

MASVINGO OFFICE

ZIMRE Centre, Cnr Hughes/
S. Mazorodze, 2nd Floor, Masvingo
Tel: +263 392 266224
Email: masvingo@zimrights.org.zw

Hotline: +263 734 053 955. Membership Issues: membership@zimrights.org.zw