



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

***Zimbabwe Lawyers
for Human Rights***

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Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) Annual Report 2020

I. Overview of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) is a not-for-profit human rights organisation that was established in 1996. Our core objective is to foster a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe and encourage the growth and strengthening of human rights at all levels of Zimbabwean society through observance of the rule of law. ZLHR is committed to upholding respect for the rule of law and the unimpeded administration of justice, free and fair elections, the free flow of information and the protection of constitutional rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe and the surrounding region. We keep these values central to our programming activities.

ZLHR holds observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. We participate actively in the work of committees of the SADC Lawyers Association and have affiliate status with the International Commission of Jurists. ZLHR is a membership organisation consisting of 170 lawyers with a proven track record in, and affinity for, human rights protection and promotion. Members are drawn from all provinces of Zimbabwe, and our numbers are steadily increasing. ZLHR members involve themselves in activities of the organisation on the basis of their interest in human rights litigation, legal and rights-based education, research and advocacy. They donate part of their time and services *pro bono* to the organisation's activities and programmes, and reinforce the work of the ZLHR secretariat to expand our reach throughout the country. The organisation's secretariat operates from three offices located in Bulawayo, Harare and Mutare. ZLHR's legal support extends to all ten provinces through the services of full-time lawyers and the support of its member lawyers in private practice.

Vision

Sustainable culture of human rights, equality, respect for constitutionalism and the rule of law for a just and democratic Zimbabwe

Mission

To protect and promote human rights through sustainable litigation, education and advocacy

Values

Professionalism

Independence

Integrity

Inclusivity

Governance and Organisational Structure

Board Members

Chairperson — Mordecai Pilate Mahlangu

Vice-Chairperson — Nontokozo Dube-Tachiona

Tonderai Chitere

Selby Hwacha

Tanaka Muganyi

Godfrey Nyoni

Langton Mhungu

Advocate Eric Matinenga

Charles Kwaramba

Rudo Magundani

Roselyn Hanzi (*Ex officio*).



ZLHR Head Office, Kodzero-Amalungelo House

In October 2020, some long serving board members retired from the board. These included:

Beatrice Mtetwa

Precious Chakasikwa

Sarudzayi Njerere.

2. 2020 Reflections from the Chairperson and Executive Director

This annual report covers the period January 2020 to December 2020 and reflects on progress made by ZLHR in fulfilling its mission and vision. The broad outcome areas include *Access to Justice*, *Protection of Human Rights Defenders* and *Special Projects*.

Significant legal and political developments took place in Zimbabwe which have a far-reaching effect on issues that concern Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR).

Under the Access to Justice Cluster, ZLHR mainly took up public interest litigation cases including constitutional, strategic and anti-impunity litigation.

Under the Protection of Human Rights Defenders cluster, ZLHR supported key HRDs through provision of legal services, advocacy and risk management trainings while the Special Projects cluster covered various capacity building programs targetting people living with HIV/ AIDS (PLWHA) and persons with disabilities (PWDs), women and other marginalised groups.

The much anticipated political reforms remained outstanding with no progress made to restore the country to a viable democratic state. There was further economic decline due to lack of clarity in the state's monetary policies, lack of fiscal discipline and rampant corruption which resulted in cash shortages and liquidity challenges.

In March 2020, the operating environment for civil society organisations (CSOs) was affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The lack of provision of resources and support from central government led to deterioration in service delivery during this time. The continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic only worsened the situation as the government failed to provide the promised social relief and safety nets for its citizens. The declaration of a state of national



An armed police officer outside Harare Magistrates Court

disaster and a national lockdown period limited certain fundamental rights in a desperate bid to contain the virus. During this time, rights violations were widely recorded around the country.

Unfortunately, government used the national lockdown restrictions to clamp down on critics and muzzle freedom of expression through arrests and prosecution of HRDs. This inevitably affected ZLHR as the organisation closed its three offices on 23 March 2020 in order to limit exposure and the spread of coronavirus. During this time, ZLHR's operations were also restructured by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) that had directed that all trials and non-urgent hearings were to be postponed to June 2020. However, these limitations did not deter the organisation from continuing with its operations across the country.

In a bid to sustain its reform rhetoric, government gazetted the Maintenance of Peace Bill to replace the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) but regrettably it maintained the old provisions from the notorious POSA. The approved Constitutional Amendment (No. 2) 2019 Bill that would amend several provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe was republished in January 2020. The Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs conducted public hearings on Amendment No. 2, despite the COVID-19 restrictions, in a clear sign that the amendment was for political reasons.

Several judgments were issued before the High Court, Supreme Court and by the Constitutional Court, which had the effect of dictating how the political opposition in Zimbabwe should be organised.

The effect of these judgments in summary is that the courts held that the leader of the main opposition had not been lawfully installed in his place, notwithstanding all the facts that are common cause not only about the manner in which he was elected into office but also the number of votes that he personally and his party received in the 2018 elections.



Zengeza West constituency legislator Hon. Job Sikhala

On the heels of this somewhat bizarre development, the necessary by-elections to fill the vacancies arising from the recalls were simply banned and the vacancies were filled by appointees of a party that received less than 1% of the votes during the 2018 elections. Even more bizarre was the appointment of its leader as the leader of the opposition.

However, what happened before the courts and subsequently in Parliament further diminished the democratic space and denied voters who had supported the opposition representation by their chosen and elected members of Parliament.

Victims of abduction and torture

*left: Harare West constituency legislator
Hon. Joanah Mamombe*

bottom left: Netsai Marova

below: Cecillia Chimbiri



Effectively, therefore, the result of all these developments is that Zimbabwe is now a one-party state in that the courts and Parliament have chosen the opposition for the people of Zimbabwe in circumstances where such opposition appears to be nothing but an appendage of the ruling party. This is a sad state of affairs indeed and signifies a retrogression that would not have been thought possible or been contemplated in the “excitement” of November 2017. It is quite clear that the people of Zimbabwe were conned into believing that a new dispensation was in the offing and subsequent events have disabused them of this notion.

Those of us who thought that a new dispensation was born in 2017 must accept that we were sadly mistaken. The serious work of ZLHR in championing and protecting human rights, HRDs, promoting access to justice and all the other work that we do is needed now more than ever for the sake of so many Zimbabweans who are victims of a shrinking democratic space.

Unfortunately whenever democracy suffers, the economy tends to follow suit as democracy, investments and economic activity are joined at the hip and cannot be separated.

In the aftermath of what appeared to be seismic changes in October and November 2017, when Zimbabwe’s first and long serving President Robert Gabriel Mugabe was removed, there was hope that a new progressive dispensation had arrived and that the people of Zimbabwe would enjoy respect of their rights by the government and its functionaries, government policy would be people-centred and the nation would make progress. Unfortunately, in 2020, there seemed to be no basis for hope that the voice of the people would be heard.

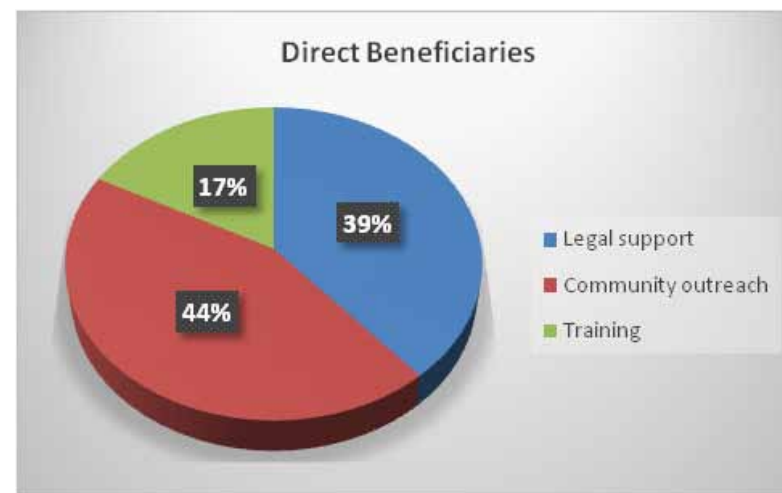
3. 2020 in a nutshell: Overview of ZLHR's interventions and beneficiaries

The year 2020 was mainly characterised by an unanticipated change in the operating environment as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. This inevitably affected ZLHR's programmes as some planned activities could not be conducted due to regulations enforced by government in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. Litigation was therefore the main activity as lawyers were classified as essential services. ZLHR assisted and supported 8 418 direct beneficiaries (3 469 males, 4 905 females, 5 transgendered persons and 39 organisations) through litigation, legal aid, trainings and community outreaches. The information, education and communication (IEC) efforts led to the team releasing 142 press releases in the form of media alerts and press statements, produced several editions of the organisations' flagship newsletter, *The Legal Monitor*, and produced at least 11 simplified publications on various human rights issues.

ZLHR implemented various activities during 2020 including the provision of legal services, human rights literacy during community outreaches, capacity building for human rights defenders, and advocacy as follows:

- 938 clients benefitted from litigation while 2 319 were offered legal aid
- 3 713 people participated in community outreaches
- 1 448 people partook of various trainings hosted by ZLHR
- Several editions of *The Legal Monitor* newsletter including special editions were printed and disseminated
- 142 media alerts and press statements on litigation cases and the human rights situation were disseminated on ZLHR's social media platforms
- 11 publications on different human rights issues were produced and shared

- Engagement meetings were carried out with strategic partners and stakeholders.





Zimbabwe Republic Police officers arresting Terrence Manjengwa outside Harare Magistrates Court

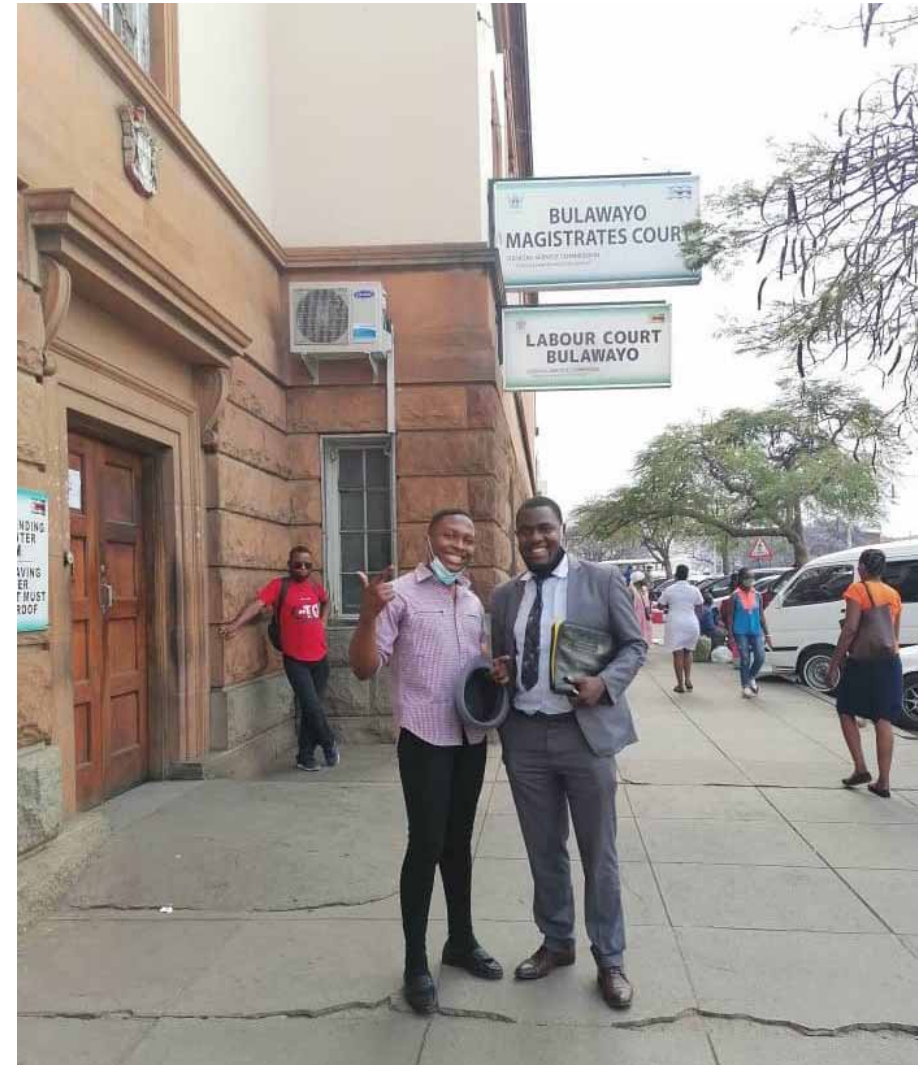
ZLHR lawyer Jeremiah Bamu was among lawyers arrested by police officers in 2020 while executing his professional duties





Jacob Ngarivhume arriving at Harare Magistrates Court with his lawyer Moses Nkomo of ZLHR

Pro-democracy campaigner Muzingaye Thaka and his lawyer Lison Ncube of ZLHR

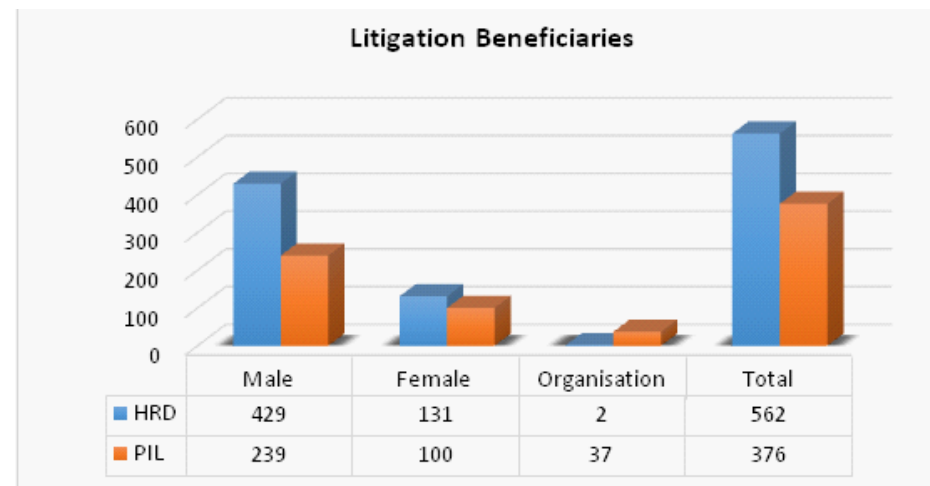


4. 2020 in retrospect

ZLHR's litigation efforts

ZLHR took up cases to enforce civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights protected in the Constitution. At least 35% of total cases were anti-impunity cases pushing for accountability for human rights violations perpetrated by state security agents. Most of these cases were taken up during the national lockdown when state security agents committed acts of brutality under the guise of enforcing lockdown regulations. ZLHR also assisted human rights defenders (HRDs) and victims of human rights violations who were targeted when they exercised the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms such as the right to demonstrate and petition.

- 435 cases were handled (179 HRDs and 256 PIL)
- ZLHR offered emergency and follow up cases which were aimed at protecting the rights of HRDs
- 938 clients benefitted from litigation made up of 668 males, 231 females and 39 organisations
- 562 clients (60%) benefitted from emergency and follow-up services under P HRDs while 376 (40%) benefitted from PIL under access to justice
- HRDs were mainly charged with section 37 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act followed by section 33 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act
- In the finalised HRDs cases at least 81% of the clients were released without charge, discharged at the end of state case or acquitted. Half of the cases were ongoing/pending
- Under PIL, 16 clients were awarded damages in anti-impunity cases while in 14% of the other cases, clients got a positive outcome. Only 28% of the cases had been finalised by year end, hence 72% of the cases were ongoing.



Beatrice Mtetwa and Hopewell Chi'nono

Highlights of some litigation efforts

Anti-impunity

During the reporting period, ZLHR filed notices of intention to sue the police, military and other state institutions as required by statutory provisions. ZLHR received most complaints of police and military brutality when enforcing lockdown regulations.

- ZLHR secured a positive judgment compelling the police and soldiers to respect human rights when enforcing lockdown regulations.
- ZLHR also managed to file contempt of court proceedings to compel relevant state actors and other institutions to respect court orders that had been issued against them. In one case, City of Harare complied with a court judgment and paid damages as ordered by the court after contempt of court proceedings.
- Loveness Chiriseri was awarded damages on 8 July 2020 in the sum of US\$16,788.75 or its equivalent in local currency for damages. The monetary award was for medical expenses, nervous shock, pain and suffering, disfigurement, and loss of amenities of life. Ms Chiriseri was the innocent victim of a police shooting on 19 August 2018, when she was travelling as a passenger in a taxi that drove through a police roadblock at Seke and Delpot Road intersection. A police officer indiscriminately shot at the vehicle, resulting in a bullet travelling through her body. She was hospitalised and suffered severe restrictions to her mobility. On 7 September 2018, lawyers sent a notice of intention to sue the Commissioner-General of Police and the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage. Lawyers intervened to protect citizens against indiscriminate use of force by police officers.
- On 30 September 2020, a Harare Magistrate issued judgment in favor of Jerasi Dzengah and ordered the City Council to pay compensation amounting to RTGS\$123,400 to the 67-year-old man. Dzengah broke his leg in June 2018 after he fell into an exposed storm-water



Jerasi Dzengah and his lawyer Fiona Iliff of ZLHR

drainage access point pit on a pedestrian traffic island in Harare. After sustaining injuries, doctors advised Dzengah that he required further surgery to put rods and screws to restore full function to his leg. The RTGS\$123,400 compensation awarded to Dzengah is meant to cover future medical expenses, pain, suffering and loss of income. Lawyers intervened to protect members of the public against council negligence.

Damages awarded

1. Tomufadzanei Murindagomo v Minister of State for National Security, Minister of Home Affairs, Commissioner General of Police and 5 others, awarded ZWL \$7,080.
2. Simon Mandoza v Commissioner General of Police, Minister of Home Affairs & others, awarded ZWL \$199,500.
3. Chiedza Svitsi v City of Harare, awarded ZWL \$20,000.
4. Martha Tholanah v City of Harare, awarded ZWL \$16,000.
5. Loveness Chiriseri v Commissioner-General of Police and Minister of Home Affairs, awarded US\$16,788.75.
6. Jerasi Dzengah v City of Harare, awarded ZWL 123,400.
7. Albert Marozva v City of Harare, awarded USD \$8,656.
8. Philemon Jijita v Commissioner General of Police and Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, awarded ZWL\$56,640.
9. Taurai Nigel Zambara v City of Mutare and 2 others ZWL \$6,500.



Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage Minister Hon. Kazembe Kazembe was ordered to compensate Simon Mandoza, a student based in Gweru

Public interest litigation



Landmark victory for constitutionalism ... In March, the Constitutional Court delivered a landmark ruling wherein it declared as unconstitutional the legality of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 1) Act following an application filed by Mutare Central constituency legislator Hon. Innocent Gonese and former Harare West constituency legislator Hon. Jessie Majome

ZLHR took up cases to enforce civil and political rights, economic social and cultural rights protected in the Constitution.

- ▶ In one of the landmark cases, the Constitutional Court ruled that Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 1 was unconstitutionally passed without the required number of votes in the Senate.
- ▶ ZLHR obtained an order that reversed a police ban prohibiting National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO) to petition Parliament on the state of the economic situation in the country. After the intervention by ZLHR, the youths successfully marched and petitioned Parliament.
- ▶ Court orders were secured for the protection of frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic when the High Court ordered government to provide frontline workers with personal protective clothing and regular testing.
- ▶ ZLHR stopped demolitions of vending stalls in Chitungwiza and Chinhoyi which were being carried out without following the due process of the law.
- ▶ ZLHR successfully protected the environment by securing orders that stopped development on wetlands.

- ▶ A case filed on behalf of Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) against the Minister of Health and Child Care wherein the High Court issued an order stating that the enforcement officers should only ask for a work identity document or letter from employer from those who were exempted and allowed to work during the relaxed lockdown period. Other provisions of the order were that only the medical personnel should be shown results of the COVID-19 tests and that Minister of Health shall continue publishing guidelines on the wearing of masks.
- ▶ On 12 June 2020, lawyers drafted and filed an urgent chamber application at the High Court in Harare on behalf ARTUZ and six other teacher unions. In the application the teacher unions sought to interdict the writing of Ordinary Level and Advanced Level June/July examinations on the basis that it was not safe to do so given COVID 19 pandemic. The teachers argued that government had not put in place measures to ensure the safety of learners and teachers and, moreover, some of the exam centers were being used as COVID-19 quarantine centers. The matter was set down for hearing on 17 June 2020. After hearing all the parties the judge granted an order directing the Minister of Education and others to provide personal protective equipment to teachers and learners, to clean and disinfect all schools and examination centers to meet the safety standards prescribed by World Health Organization and to provide facilities for thermal testing of teachers and learners and adequate sanitation facilities. In this case ZLHR lawyers intervened to protect the right to health of teachers and learners.

ZLHR obtained a court order compelling the City of Mutare and government to provide residents with clean potable water





Tsitsi Dangarembga and Fadzayi Mahere leading other protestors into Harare Magistrates Court after they were arrested by police officers



Nurses and Tinashe Chinopfukutwa of ZLHR outside Mbare Magistrates Court after they were acquitted

- ▶ On 21 July 2020, lawyers filed an urgent chamber application at the High Court in Harare on behalf of Sheila Jarvis challenging a warrant of search and seizure that had been obtained by the police for Econet to furnish all its subscriber details. In the application Jarvis argued that the search and seizure obtained by police was broad and intrusive on the right to privacy to Econet subscribers like her. The matter was set down for hearing on 24 July 2020. Minister of Home Affairs and others admitted to an order by consent invalidating the warrant. Lawyers intervened to protect the right to privacy.
- ▶ On 15 September 2020, ZLHR on behalf of Water Alliance (WA), Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) and Hon. Allan Markham obtained a court order compelling government to gazette a bill/bills giving effect to an Act of Parliament governing the devolution of power, as contemplated in Chapter 14 of the Constitution. In their application, WA, CHRA and Hon. Markham argued that government breached section 324 of the Constitution by failing to diligently perform its constitutional obligations. The granting of the court order came after Justice Mushore summoned Attorney-General, Advocate Prince Machaya, to appear in court over government reluctance to enact laws necessary to actualise devolution.



Freelance journalist Hopewell Chi'nono speaking to media practitioners as he arrives at Harare Magistrates Court

Legal Aid

ZLHR offered legal aid through three main channels. First, legal aid was offered in marginalised communities – mainly rural areas – during mobile legal clinics. Second, at “Help Desks” at Chitungwiza, Harare and Mutare Magistrates’ Courts and last, through walk-in clients who sought assistance at the three ZLHR offices. The Help Desks at courts equipped self-actors with legal advice on how to present their cases within the requirements set out in the rules of court. Legal aid as a whole remained critical for marginalised and vulnerable communities who could not afford legal services, enhancing access to justice for all. Legal aid ensured that there was some access to justice for vulnerable women and children, strengthening the capacity of vulnerable people to access justice promptly and increasing knowledge of vulnerable people to assert their rights. In total, ZLHR assisted 2 319 people.



*Tapiwa Makanza and his lawyers
Paidamoyo Saurombe and Obey Shava of ZLHR*

*Pro-democracy campaigners Namatai Kwekweza and Vongai Zimudzi
with their lawyers Rudo Bere and Tinashe Chinopfukutwa of ZLHR*



ZLHR lawyer Obey Shava and some ZINASU leaders outside Harare Central Police Station

Capacity building

ZLHR conducted at least 51 trainings for civil society organisations (CSOs), HRDs, students, lawyers, journalists, Members of Parliament, individuals, people living with disabilities and key populations to empower them on thematic human rights issues. ZLHR had to conduct some of the trainings on virtual platforms such as Zoom due to the restrictions imposed to manage the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe.

- ▷ A total of 1 448 people participated in the trainings and comprised 516 males, 927 females and 5 transgendered persons.
- ▷ It was positive to note that women constituted 64% of the participants.
- ▷ 319 people (93 males, 226 females) participated in trainings that specifically targetted marginalised and minority groups including PLWHIV, PWDs and LGBTQI. Of note was a two-day disability rights training which sought to train and enhance the knowledge of PWDs on their rights.

Community outreach

ZLHR conducted 30 mobile legal clinics (MLCs) nationwide. The “three in one” sessions included provision of legal aid, dissemination of rights literacy material and human rights literacy that covered various topics but mainly focused on constitutionalism, the Bill of Rights provisions in the Constitution and Chapter 12 institutions with emphasis on Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC). They enhanced communities’ knowledge of constitutional provisions, improved the appreciation of human rights and the roles and responsibilities for the full enjoyment of the Bill of Rights as enshrined in the Constitution. These were conducted mainly in rural and marginalised communities with support from CBOs who mobilized communities.

- ▷ The MLCs were conducted in 23 districts nationwide and reached out to 3 713 (1209 males, 2 504 females).
- ▷ ZLHR also collaborated with ZHRC and jointly conducted some of the MLCs, thereby increasing visibility of ZHRC work.
- ▷ Due to the pandemic which minimised contact activities, ZLHR ensured continuity of empowering communities through radio programmes in place of MLCs.

A crossing point that ZLHR lawyers Peggy Tavagadza and Moses Chikomo encountered while trying to reach their clients in Chimanimani. The Chimanimani community has to endure this rickety and dangerous footbridge to access basic amenities



Picture Credit... Claris Madhuku

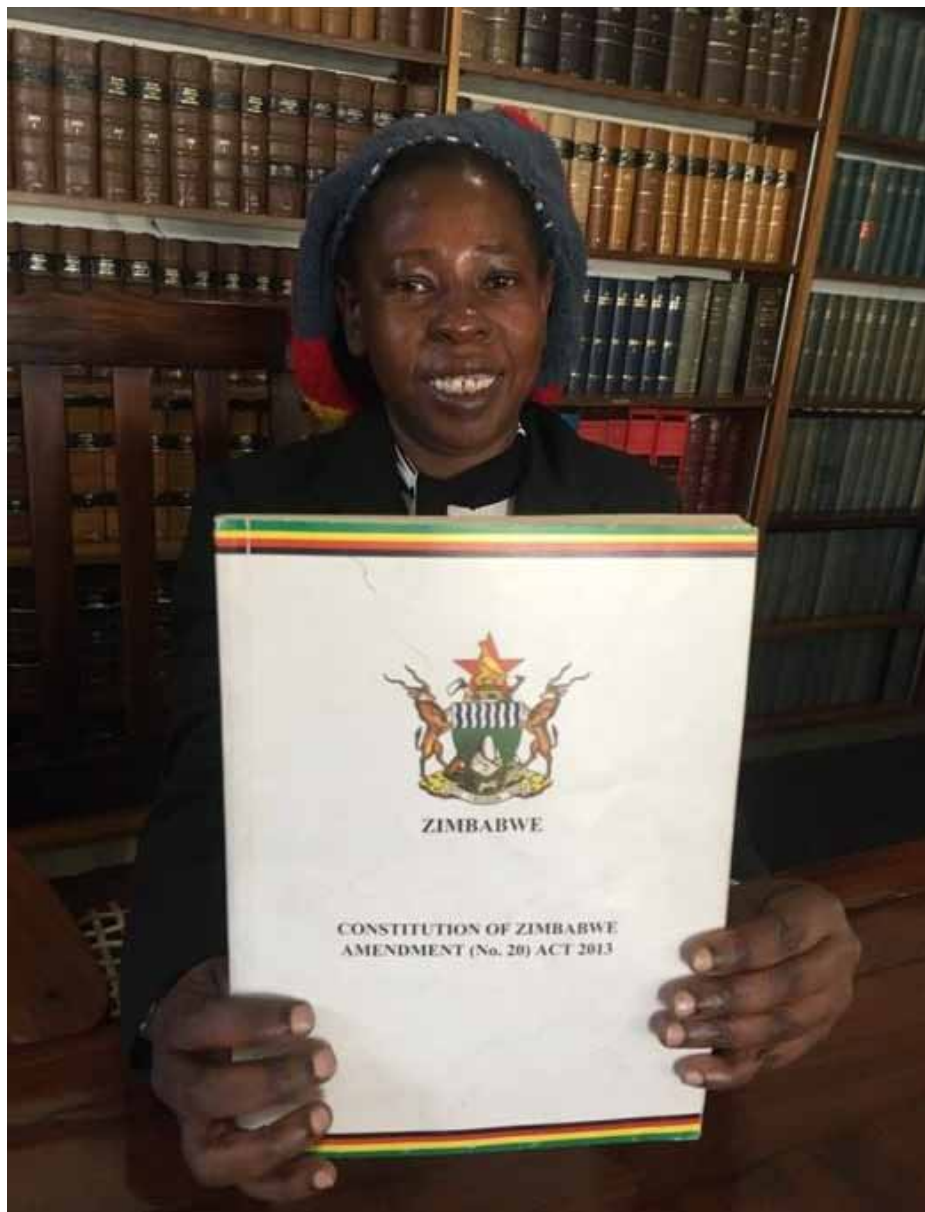


Prisca Dube of ZLHR at one of the mobile legal clinics.



Peggy Tavagadza of ZLHR at a mobile legal clinic held in Manicaland

Research and Advocacy



ZLHR Board member Sarudzai Njerere was part of a team of lawyers who audited the implementation of the Constitution

ZLHR produced at least 11 publications and simplified factsheets addressing different human rights violations. The publications produced were also relevant to the COVID-19 context, where human rights violations were witnessed under the guise of enforcing lockdown regulations.

- In light of COVID-19, ZLHR produced a “Know Your Rights and Responsibilities During This #COVID-19 Pandemic” factsheet, “Role of Police in Protecting Human Rights” factsheet and a factsheet on “State of disaster versus state of emergency”.
- In response to rising incidents of brutality and harassment of citizens committed by some enforcement officers across the country during the government-imposed national lockdown period, ZLHR produced a “Know Your Rights” infographic educating members of the public on lawful police conduct and duties and denouncing the use of violence against citizens to enforce the national lockdown. This was circulated on social media platforms such as ZLHR Twitter account.
- Advocacy meetings that were meant to be done with women in advocacy teams were modified due to the pandemic. Meetings were therefore conducted on social media platforms.
- ZLHR produced such publications as “Know Your Constitution” and “Your Rights” series, and factsheets on “Right to Access to Information”, “Right to education and associated rights for students” and “Right to Administrative Justice”.

- ZLHR produced an Analysis of Constitutional Amendment (No. 2).
- ZLHR produced two comedy skits in collaboration with Bustop TV which highlighted key advocacy issues. The skits were well received and proved that comedy is an effective and easily understood advocacy tool as it humorously touches the lived realities of people.
- In commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the Constitution, ZLHR produced a video where its lawyers audited government's adherence to implementing the governance charter to make it a living document.
- The organisation's flagship newsletter *The Legal Monitor* was produced and disseminated in the ten provinces as well as electronically.
- 142 press statements/alerts were produced on litigation cases and human rights situation in the country.
- ZLHR carried out strategic advocacy and participated in meetings in an effort to protect and promote human rights in Zimbabwe.
- ZLHR interacted with Members of Parliament, representatives of constitutional commissions and other stakeholders.



ZLHR collaborated with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission in conducting mobile legal clinics across the country to enhance human rights literacy

With regards international and regional advocacy ZLHR:

- ▷ ZLHR participated in two virtual sessions of the African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).
- ▷ ZLHR presented statements on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe and other interventions were made by ZLHR which increased awareness on the situation of human rights in Zimbabwe, more particularly the social, economic, civil and political rights violations.
- ▷ During the 66th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR ZLHR continued to advocate for communities so that socio-economic deficiencies could be addressed with the law being used as a tool for transformation and social justice.
- ▷ At the 67th Ordinary Session ZLHR raised concerns about the independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression and the media, crackdown on journalists and the persecution of opposition members and HRDs in Zimbabwe.
- ▷ The platforms were vital to lobby authorities to improve the conditions for the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and rights by HRDs, CSOs and ordinary citizens in Zimbabwe.
- ▷ ZLHR strengthened spaces of collaboration with the special mechanisms of the ACHPR and UN OHCHR working on key human rights issues.

ZLHR strengthened spaces of collaboration with various stakeholders and partners as follows:

- ✓ ZLHR was invited and participated in meetings hosted by various stakeholders including Harare Wetlands Indaba which focused on protection of wetlands;
- ✓ ZLHR also participated in meetings hosted by United Nations bodies including UN Women, UN OHCHR East Africa; and

- ✓ The special mechanisms of the ACHPR and UN OHCHR working on key human rights issues
- ✓ Worked with ZHRC through the two-way referral system and cases were referred to and received from the Commission;
- ✓ Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs as well as other government departments;
- ✓ ZLHR interacted with Southern Africa Development Community Lawyers Association and the International Bar Association and Centre for Human Rights;
- ✓ Collaborated with various CSOs and CBOs.

5. Keeping everyone informed

Press releases/conferences

A total of 142 information alerts and press statements were issued and quoted by various influential and respected international news agencies including CNN, Deutsch Welle, AFP and Al Jazeera. These were amplified on ZLHR's social media platforms.

Production of documentaries

ZLHR produced two documentaries on the organisation's strategic litigation efforts and an audit of the seventh anniversary of Zimbabwe's Constitution.

The first one was a short compendium documentary profiling some of its selected strategic litigation cases, which was broadcast during a cross-country learning event on strategic litigation hosted by Trócaire at its Global Strategic Litigation Virtual Event held in December 2020. Through the short documentary, which was deemed clear and succinct by Trócaire's videos review committee, ZLHR managed to give

participants a comprehensive summary of its key strategic litigation cases in which the organisation obtained favourable judgments on behalf of its clients, who are human rights defenders and ordinary citizens. Showcasing of the documentary provided an opportunity for Trocaire staff members and its partners to gain a deeper insight into the strategic litigation cases handled by ZLHR. For ZLHR, the cross-country learning event on strategic litigation helped the organisation's representatives to learn lessons and ideas about addressing challenges in employing strategic litigation as a strategy to promote, protect and defend human rights in unconducive operating environments of which Zimbabwe is one.

In commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the Constitution, ZLHR produced a video where its lawyers audited government's adherence to implementing the governance charter to make it a living document. In its assessment, ZLHR bemoaned the lack of political will in implementing provisions of the Constitution as well as some blatant violations and urged government to stop manoeuvres to amend the Constitution but to fully implement it and for citizens to assert and demand fulfilment of their fundamental rights.



International news agencies including Al Jazeera sought ZLHR's comments on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe

Know Your Rights Infographics

In response to the rising incidence of brutality and harassment of citizens committed by some enforcement officers across the country during the government-imposed national lockdown period, ZLHR produced a Know Your Rights infographic educating members of the public on lawful police conduct and duties and denouncing the use of violence against citizens to enforce the national lockdown.

The Legal Monitor

ZLHR produced several copies of *The Legal Monitor* newsletter, including special editions, and these were distributed nationwide in hard copy and also in soft copy through mailing lists and on social media.



Social media footprint

On social media, ZLHR entrenched its footprint. On Twitter the organisation's followers stood at 110 000 in 2020, which is the highest number among Zimbabwe's CSOs.



ZLHR bridged the information gap through publishing and distributing its flagship newsletter, The Legal Monitor to human rights defenders and in marginalised communities

Human Rights Day festivities

ZLHR commemorated International Human Rights Day on 10 December by hosting a simultaneous broadcast of five radio programmes across the country where the collective message was challenging government to take concrete measures to address the human rights situation in Zimbabwe and help curb coronavirus.

Our partners in 2020

European Union

Ford Foundation

International Centre for Not for Profit Law

Redress

Royal Netherlands Embassy

Royal Norwegian Embassy

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

SIDA

Sigrid Rausing Trust

The Students and Academics International Assistance Fund

TRACE

Trocaire

United States Agency for International Development

Our legal advisors

Dube, Manikai & Hwacha

Shava Law Chambers

Our auditors

Grant Thornton Zimbabwe

Our bankers

Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe



A publication of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

