



**HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Fostering a culture  
of human rights*

# Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) Annual Report 2023

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## Introducing ZLHR

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) is a non-profit law-based 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 SADC Lawyers' Association and have affiliate status with the International Commission of Jurists.

### Vision

A sustainable culture of equality, respect for human rights, constitutionalism and the rule of law for a just and democratic society.

### Mission

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

### Values

Professionalism, Independence, Integrity, Inclusivity, Human rights

### Aims and objectives

- ✓ To strive to protect, promote, deepen and broaden the human rights provisions in the Constitution of Zimbabwe.
- ✓ To strive for the implementation and protection in Zimbabwe of international human rights norms as contained in important sub-regional and international human rights instruments.

- ✓ To endeavour to find common ground with, and work alongside, other Zimbabwean groups, organisations, activists and persons who share a broadly similar concern for, and interest in, human rights.
- ✓ To liaise and work with other human rights groups wherever situated but particularly in Southern Africa, and especially those closely linked to the legal profession.
- ✓ To do all other things necessary to promote and protect human rights, the rule of law and separation of powers in Zimbabwe and the region.

### Our programmes

- Constitutional and human rights litigation
- Institutional strengthening, capacity building and rights literacy
- Research and advocacy

## Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights in 2023

### The Membership

ZLHR is a membership organisation comprising 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 thus reinforcing the work of ZLHR secretariat in expanding our reach throughout the country.

### The Secretariat

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. The secretariat is responsible for planning and implementing the core activities of the organisation.

## Governance

ZLHR's Board comprises 11 members (10 senior lawyers in private practice and an Executive Director in her ex officio capacity). Members elect a board at the Annual General Meeting. The board comprises national representatives and regional representatives for Manicaland, Midlands and Matabeleland.

### Board members

Chairperson – Rudo Magundani (assumed chair August 2023)

Denford Halimani

Tonderai Chitere

Chris Mhike

Trust Maanda

Godfrey Nyoni

Langton Mhungu

Tanaka Muganyi

Charles Kwaramba (former chairperson resigned July 2023)

Roselyn Hanzi (*Ex officio*)

## Reflections from the Chairperson and Executive Director 2023

The operating context remained extremely difficult, highly unpredictable and compounded by the regressing economic situation. Despite this, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) continued to work towards fulfilling its mandate of fostering a culture of human rights.

The political, economic, and human rights crisis, along with a breakdown in the rule of law, continued following the outcome of the again-disputed 2023 harmonised elections. Before the elections, ZLHR responded to fewer cases of arrests of opposition political activists and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), unlike in previous elections. The electoral environment was not conducive to free and fair elections, as opposition political parties had challenges in accessing communities during election campaigns. There were several electoral

disputes around the provision of the voters' roll, the candidature of Presidential candidates, to mention but a few. ZLHR took up some of these cases, but they were disappointingly either struck off or deemed not urgent. Regional and international observers raised concerns about electoral processes which did not comply with regional and international standards. Sadly, the country continued in election mode into the new year due to re-calls of parliamentarians who had been elected in August 2023.

Of concern was the continued targeting of human rights defenders associated with civil society organisations. The arrests of election observation staff and volunteers after the 2023 elections are a testament to this and show the propensity of the ruling party to continue to "rule by law", disrespecting the Constitution.

The government has not had much appetite to institute progressive legal reforms or institutional reforms. There has not been much investment in necessary economic reforms leaving the common citizen in a worse situation. Consequently, the demand for ZLHR's services remained very high in 2023. Notably, the organisation continued with its critical interventions and provided legal support and services in human rights cases around the country. The footprint of our interventions have been chronicled in this year's annual report.

## Taking stock of 2023: Overview of ZLHR's interventions and beneficiaries

The year 2023 was characterised by the general elections, which sadly for Zimbabwe were characterised by overt human rights violations. ZLHR therefore offered legal services to human rights defenders (HRDs) and the public at large in an effort to foster human rights in Zimbabwe. Key human rights violations during the year included arbitrary arrests and detention, impunity by security forces, restrictions of freedom of expression and of assembly and association, constraints of the right to free and fair electoral processes, the selective application of the law and ongoing disregard for the Constitution. ZLHR offered emergency and follow-up legal services to HRDs who were arrested, persecuted and prosecuted by the state. ZLHR also took up strategic litigation that strengthened and expanded the operating human rights spaces. Public interest litigation increased access to justice for victims of human rights violations and defended progressive provisions of the Constitution that were under threat from non-compliance or non-implementation. ZLHR further held human rights violators to account and brought anti-impunity claims for damages against state and non-state actors who violated people's rights.

ZLHR trained residents' associations, CSOs, HRDs, lawyers, community champions and students primarily to enhance their knowledge of human rights. ZLHR further conducted mobile legal clinics (MLCs) in communities nationwide. Through MLCs, ZLHR provided rights literacy on thematic human rights issues, disseminated human rights materials, offered on-site legal advice and took up cases for litigation. Radio programmes augmented the MLCs and provided rights literacy on thematic human rights topics to wider audiences. ZLHR also conducted various advocacy initiatives at the local, regional and international level in an effort to amplify human rights violations in the country and promote human rights in Zimbabwe. Various publications on human rights and the Constitution were produced and disseminated to communities, while 11 editions of *The Legal Monitor* newsletter were also produced and disseminated, which increased access to information on human rights.



*Defending HRDs ...Tinashe Chinopfukutwa, Paidamoyo Saurombe, Roselyn Hanzi and Kelvin Kabaya*

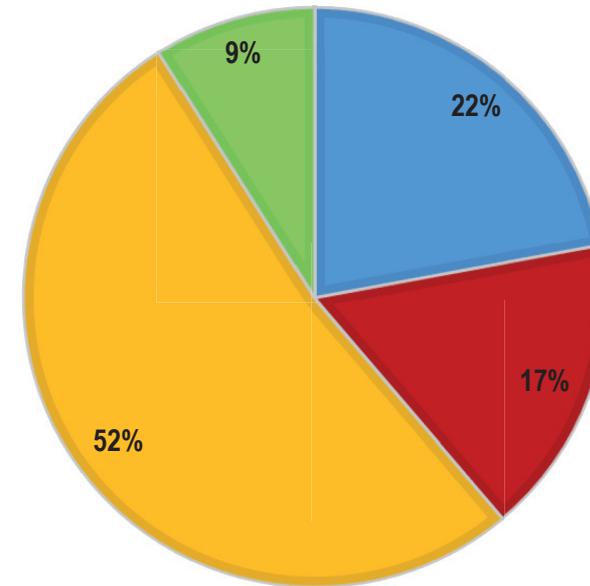
### **Legal services**

ZLHR offered different legal services to diverse groups that included HRDs, women, men, gender fluid persons (they), youths, persons living with disabilities (PWDs), organisations and marginalised groups, as follows –

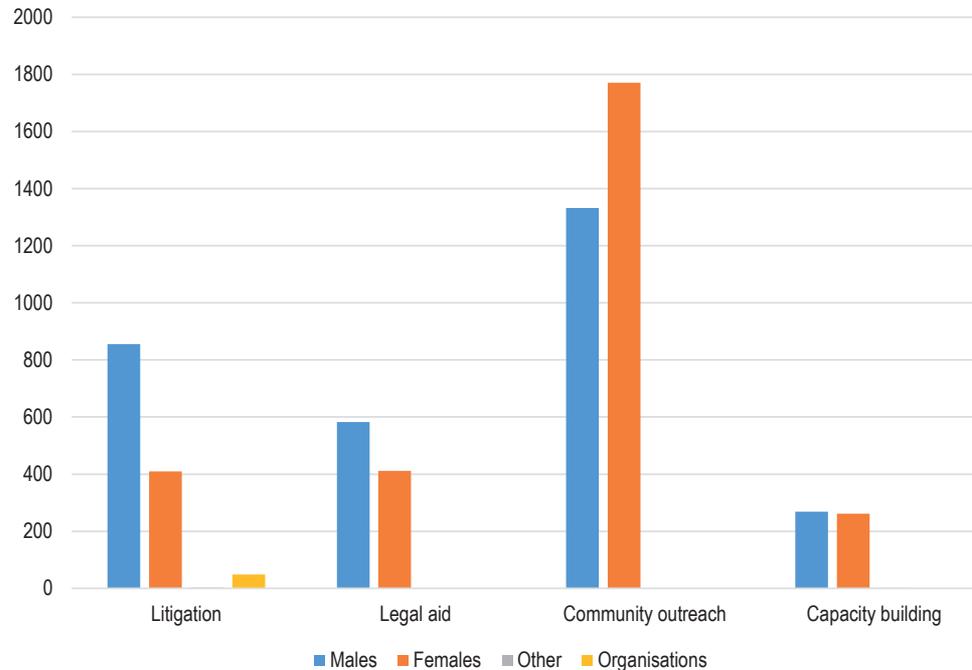
- In total, ZLHR assisted and supported 5 948 direct beneficiaries (3 038 males, 2 855 females, 5 they, 50 organisations) through litigation, legal aid, trainings and community outreaches

- 1 317 people benefitted from litigation with 494 HRDs receiving support through emergency and follow-up services
- 995 people walked into ZLHR’s three offices and received legal aid with some cases taken up for litigation
- 3 103 people, mainly from rural and marginalised communities, benefitted from 29 community outreaches
- 533 people comprising CSOs, HRDs, lawyers and Members of Parliament were trained by ZLHR
- 11 editions of the organisation’s flagship newsletter *The Legal Monitor* were published and disseminated
- 98 information alerts and press statements were produced and disseminated to different stakeholders and quoted by various online media houses

■ Litigation ■ Legal aid ■ Community outreach ■ Capacity building



Direct beneficiaries



- 21 radio broadcast programmes, including on community radio, were conducted about relevant legal issues
- Advocacy was conducted on various human rights violations experienced in Zimbabwe in 2023
- At least eight publications were drafted and disseminated.

**ZLHR’s litigation efforts**

ZLHR offered litigation services through emergency legal support and follow-up legal support services to HRDs who exercised enjoyment of their fundamental freedoms protected in the Constitution. ZLHR also litigated in constitutional, strategic impact, public interest, electoral and anti-impunity cases to enforce civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights also protected in the Constitution. Anti-impunity litigation was offered to individuals who had been tortured and ZLHR sued state institutions as required by statutory provisions.

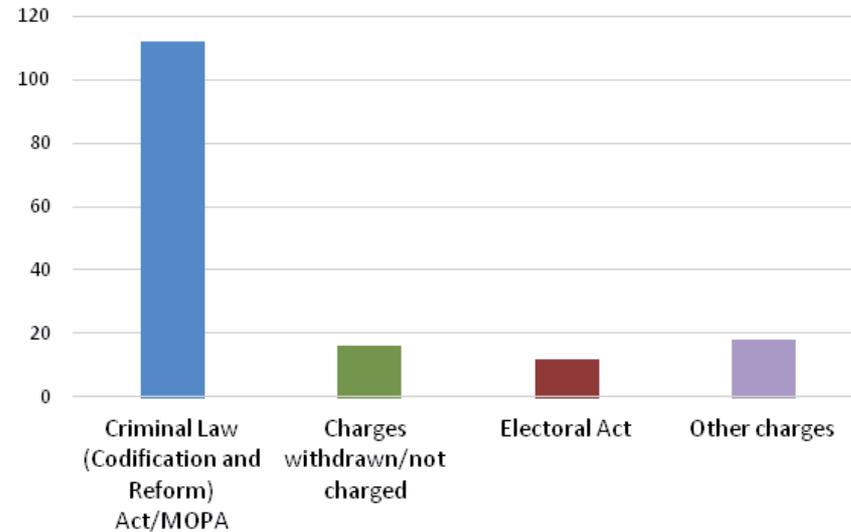
**Litigation beneficiaries**

ZLHR handled 547 cases which assisted various groups including opposition party activists, students, residents, journalists, trade union leaders, war veterans, CSOs members and the public

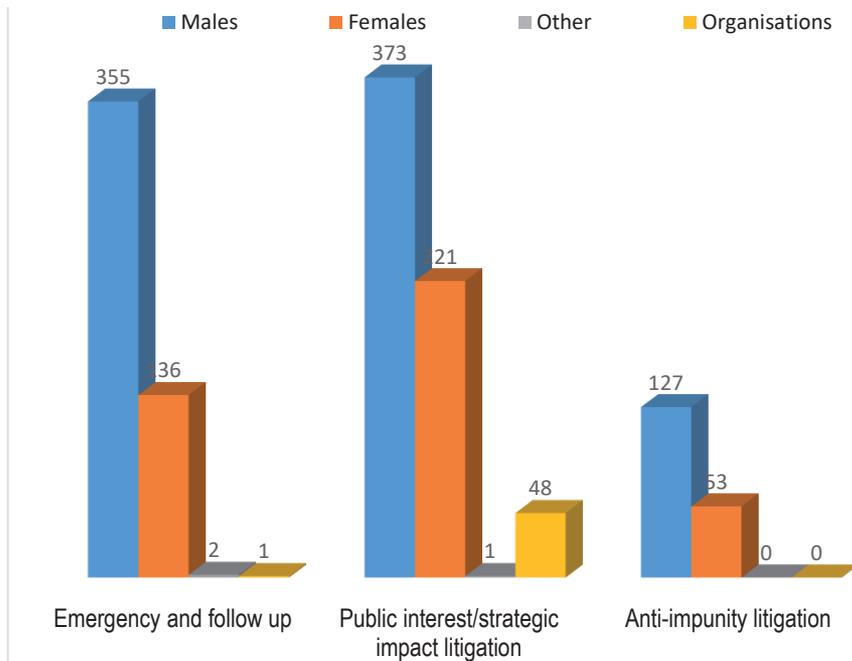
- ✓ 1 317 (855 males, 410 females, 3 they, 49 organisations) clients benefitted from litigation
- ✓ 158 emergency and follow-up cases were taken up that assisted 494 (355 males, 136 females, 2 they, 1 organisation) beneficiaries
- ✓ 233 public interest/strategic impact litigation assisted 643 (373 males, 221 females, 1 they, 48 organisations) beneficiaries
- ✓ 156 anti-impunity litigation cases were handled that assisted 180 (127 males, 53 females) beneficiaries

- ✓ 31% of all clients were females, who mainly asserted their rights in public interest, strategic impact and constitutional litigation

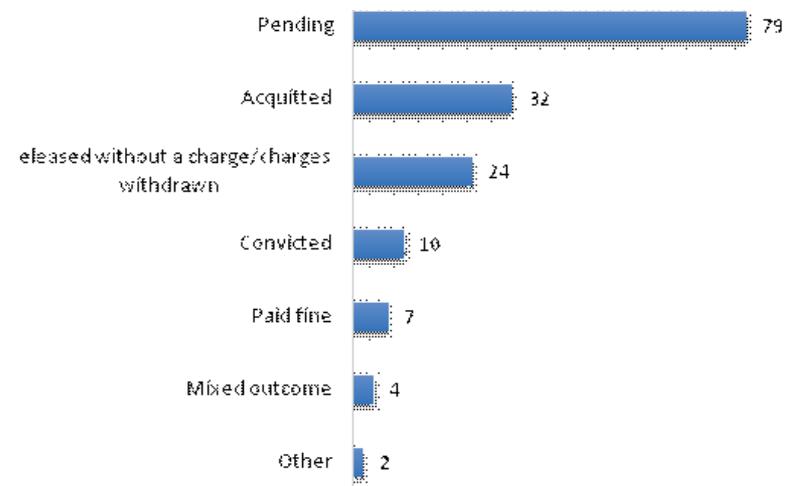
**Laws applied to HRDs**



**Litigation beneficiaries**



**Status of HRDs Cases**





*ZESN and ERC employees and volunteers seen at Harare Magistrates Court after they were arrested by ZRP and charged for allegedly contravening section 66 of the Electoral Act*

### **Show cases**

**■** ZLHR obtained a groundbreaking ruling that ignited hope in thousands of children denied the right to identity. Morine Dube from Bulawayo was left hopeless after the Registrar General (RG)'s Office failed to issue her three grandchildren with birth certificates following the death of their parents. She approached the RG's Office to secure birth certificates but did not have her daughters' death records and her grandchildren's birth records, which

were required by officials. Her grandchildren were therefore condemned to statelessness. Dube attended one of ZLHR's Mobile Legal Clinics (MLCs) designed to sensitise people about their human rights. She approached ZLHR for assistance and Godfrey Nyoni represented her at the High Court. Dube won a landmark ruling that forced the RG's Office to issue her grandchildren with birth certificates. The order has far-reaching and positive ramifications for thousands of children in similar situations.

Right: ZLHR lawyers Beatrice Mtetwa, Ruthy Chibwe, Tinashe Chinopfukutwa, Paidamoyo Saurombe and Kelvin Kabaya arriving at Harare Magistrates Court



Left: Human rights lawyers Tapiwa Muchineripi and Doug Coltart were arrested and charged by ZRP for allegedly defeating or obstructing the course of justice

■ The family of a 13-year-old boy who suffered severe electrical burns due to negligence by the state-owned power company, ZESA Holdings, received US\$15 000 in compensation. The minor child was electrocuted in April 2019 after employees of Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC), a subsidiary of ZESA Holdings, left some exposed electricity cables at his parents' residence in Penhalonga Manicaland province. Medical doctors estimated his impairment percentage at 20 per cent due to the incident. Kelvin Kabaya of ZLHR wrote a letter of demand to ZETDC seeking US\$15 000 as compensation for damages. ZESA Holdings accepted the minor child's claim. ZLHR intervened in assisting the minor child as part of its anti-impunity strategies to foster accountability at the country's supplier of electricity and to deter and discourage acts of human rights violations by state-run institutions.

■ Prominent disability rights activist and motivational speaker, Soneni Gwizi, requested the state-run Zimbabwe National Road Administration (ZINARA) to make its facilities easily accessible to people with disabilities. The Bulawayo-based Gwizi, who is passionate about disability inclusion as she is a person who lives with disability, made the request after failing to access services offered by ZINARA at its Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) branch. An aggrieved Gwizi, who was frustrated by the experience and process while trying to access services at ZINARA, engaged Prisca Dube of ZLHR. Dube wrote a letter enquiring what ZINARA was doing to cater for the needs of persons with disability and create an inclusive environment, as articulated in the National Disability Policy in line with provisions of section 83 of the Constitution.

■ An intervention by ZLHR prevented a catastrophic conflation of the military and ruling party that HRDs feared would signal the death of Zimbabwe's already fragile democracy. On 28 October 2023, President Emmerson Mnangagwa caused widespread alarm when he appointed Zimbabwe Defence Forces Commander-General Philip Valerio Sibanda into the ruling ZANU PF political party's Politburo as an ex-officio member. President Mnangagwa was, however, forced into a major climb down and reversed the decision after an

award-winning human rights lawyer, Kudzayi Kadzere, protested against the illegal and unconstitutional conduct and threatened to sue him for delinquency. Represented by Alec Muchadehama of ZLHR, Kadzere advised President Mnangagwa that his appointment of General Sibanda to the ruling political party structure violated several provisions of the Constitution. President Mnangagwa reversed General Sibanda's appointment on 18 November 2023, a day after being served with Kadzere's letter.

■ The High Court quashed the conviction and sentence of a Chivhu resident who had been found guilty of disorderly conduct despite being himself a victim of police brutality. Darlington Manjokota was prosecuted after he was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, as defined in section 41 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. This was a desperate bid by the police to counter a civil claim for damages after they let loose one of their dogs, which attacked Manjokota and injured him. Manjokota stood trial at Chivhu Magistrates Court and was convicted of disorderly conduct and sentenced to pay a fine or serve three months in prison. Manjokota duly paid the fine to evade imprisonment. He was aggrieved by the conviction and engaged Tinashe Chinopfukutwa of ZLHR, who appealed at the High Court. The conviction was quashed and he was acquitted.

■ Bindura Magistrate Samantha Dhlamini ended the abuse of prosecution processes intended to persecute legitimate HRDs after acquitting two of them on charges of convening an unsanctioned meeting in contravention of the repressive Maintenance of Peace and Order (MOPO) Act. Two Institute for Young Women's Development (IYWD) team members, Sandra Zenda and Kudakwashe Munemo, had been on trial at Bindura Magistrates Court since 2022. They were accused of convening a meeting, which was attended by 80 people at Mayfair Lodge in Bindura, without giving notice to police for approval. Zenda and Munemo, were represented by Tinashe Chinopfukutwa, Idirashe Chikomba and Kelvin Kabaya of ZLHR. On 8 June 2023, Magistrate Dhlamini, acquitted the duo after ruling that prosecutors had not managed to prove a case



IYWD members Sandra Zenda and Kudakwashe Munemo together with their lawyer Kelvin Kabaya of ZLHR and IYWD leader Glanis Changachirere after they were acquitted

against Zenda and Munemo. Magistrate Dhlamini also ruled that the meeting was exempted in terms of the MOPO Act from the requirement to notify the so-called Regulatory Authority.

ZLHR successfully overturned the banishment of Patricia Moyo, who had been excluded from benefits from an irrigation scheme in Matabeleland North province. In 2020, Moyo joined the Bubi-Lupane Irrigation Scheme but was expelled and her membership terminated three years later due to her husband’s participation in opposition politics. ZLHR intervened to protect the rights of women as enshrined in Section 80 of the Constitution. Prisca Dube of ZLHR wrote a letter to the Chairperson of Bubi-Lupane Irrigation Scheme, demanding an explanation of why Moyo was being punished for the activities of her husband. Lawyers also shared the same letter to Kusile Rural District Council, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA). ZHRC also stood in Moyo’s corner after being alerted about violations of her rights. On 13 July 2023, Moyo was readmitted as a member of the scheme.

*ZLHR overturned the banishment of Patricia Moyo, who had been expelled from Bubi-Lupane irrigation scheme*



The High Court annulled the University of Zimbabwe's (UZ) decision to hike tuition fees beyond the reach of many students. In September 2022, the Students Representative Council and three students, namely Narshon Kohlo, Paidamoyo Mafusire, and Ethel Museswa, hauled Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Mapfumo, Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Minister Professor Amon Murwira and Professor Fanuel Tagwira, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, before the High Court, challenging hikes in tuition fees. The application, filed by Tendai Biti of ZLHR, argued that the tuition fee increase was irrational, unreasonable and a violation of students' right to education guaranteed in section 75 of the Constitution. The High Court agreed and ruled that the process of fixing and approving a new tuition fee structure at UZ was flawed and legally untenable and set aside the increase of fees.

*Prisca Dube of ZLHR facilitating at a mobile legal clinic held in Insiza*





*UZA political party leader Elisabeth Valerio smiles alongside her lawyer Andrew Makoni of ZLHR*

ZLHR dismantled some prejudice by ensuring that women participated in the harmonised elections through a favourable judgment from the Electoral Court, which guaranteed Elisabeth Valerio to be the sole female presidential candidate to contest the presidential elections after she had been unjustly banned by Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) from contesting. The only two female aspirants, Valerio and Linda Masarira, were disqualified for allegedly failing to raise the US\$20 000 required to register as a presidential candidate for

the elections. This was after some aspirant candidates reportedly experienced difficulties in having their nomination fees processed through the electronic payment system. Valerio was represented by Andrew Makoni, Alec Muchadehama and Jeremiah Bamu of ZLHR. Justice Deme set aside ZEC's decision to disqualify Valerio and ruled that the alleged failure of Valerio's payment to be cleared on the same day that she paid the registration fees to ZEC was a banking challenge.

## Capacity building

ZLHR carried out trainings for CSOs, HRDs, lawyers, students and policymakers to enhance their knowledge of human rights —

- ✓ 28 trainings were conducted
- ✓ A total of 533 (269 males, 262 females, 2 they/them) people participated in the trainings
- ✓ 6 lawyers' trainings were conducted that benefitted 105 lawyers
- ✓ ZLHR trained 23 policymakers.

## Community outreach

ZLHR conducted 23 mobile legal clinics nationwide, particularly in rural areas, and these were targeted at women, PWDs, youth, men and other socially excluded groups. The organisation also conducted 6 community champions' trainings.

- 29 community outreaches conducted nationwide that improved the knowledge of communities of basic human rights and the Constitution of Zimbabwe
- 3 103 (1 332 males, 1 771 females) participated in community outreaches
- At least 130 participants received legal aid on human rights issues that affected them
- 57% of participants were women

*Agnes Muzondo of ZLHR explains provisions of the Constitution to participants at a mobile legal clinic organised by ZLHR*





*Participants listen attentively as a facilitator explains provisions in the Constitution at St Stephens in Nyazura*

### **Radio Programmes**

ZLHR further empowered citizens, conscientising them about the provisions of the Constitution and their human rights and freedoms by conducting literacy sessions through radio programmes. These broadcasts augmented the MLCs and educated the public on their various rights, which are protected in the Constitution.

- 20 radio broadcast programmes conducted nationwide
- Radio programmes equipped communities with relevant knowledge about human rights, as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe
- Radio programmes enhanced access to justice for the public in cases of human rights violations and increased knowledge about available remedies for human rights violations

## Research and advocacy

ZLHR conducted various advocacy initiatives at the local, regional and international level in an effort to promote human rights in Zimbabwe.

- ✓ ZLHR advocated against the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Amendment Act and produced an analysis of the Bill
- ✓ ZLHR prioritised advocacy on women's issues and PWDs, and drafted and published papers highlighting the plight of these groups with recommendations about protection of their rights
- ✓ ZLHR produced and disseminated several factsheets on topical human rights issues in Zimbabwe
- ✓ ZLHR utilised social media platforms to disseminate human rights information on Facebook, X and WhatsApp platforms, where the organisation has a large number of followers. These communications included dissemination of press statements, alerts, factsheets, newsletters and infographics
- ✓ A total of 98 information alerts and press statements were produced during the year, which provided a record of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe
- ✓ ZLHR engaged policymakers on different issues including the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill and The Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Amendment Bill 2022, known respectively as the PVO and Patriotic Bills

With regards to international and regional advocacy —

- ZLHR participated in the 75th and 77th sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) where the organisation presented statements on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe
- ZLHR lawyers attended the 53rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
- ZLHR also attended various strategic advocacy missions and engagements with different stakeholders.



ZLHR Executive Director Roselyn Hanzi and ZLHR Litigation Manager Tinomuda Shoko and human rights defenders Irene Petras and Arnold Tsunga during the ACHPR session held in Banjul, the Gambia



Above: ZLHR Litigation Manager Tinomuda Shoko speaking during an event at an ACHPR session

Right: ZLHR Executive Director Roselyn Hanzi presenting during a panel discussion on state of human rights, rule of law, democracy and governance in SADC at SADC Lawyers Association Annual General Meeting held in Angola



### **Strategic stakeholders and partners**

ZLHR strengthened spaces of collaboration with various stakeholders and partners by –

- ✓ Interacting with the UN HRC and the ACHPR and issuing statements on the state of human rights observance in Zimbabwe
- ✓ Attendance and participation in meetings hosted by various UN Working Groups
- ✓ Participation in different lawyers' networking conferences
- ✓ Attendance at the HRDs Annual Networking Conference
- ✓ Engagement with various Parliamentary Portfolio Committees
- ✓ Collaboration with various CSOs and CBOs.



ZLHR lawyer Tinashe Chinopfukutwa presenting a statement during an ACHPR session in Banjul, the Gambia

## **Keeping everyone informed**

### **Press releases/conferences**

98 press statements and information alerts were issued in a year in which the country plunged into a democratic backslide, characterised by an unprecedented assault on people's fundamental rights and freedoms in the run-up to, during and after the period when Zimbabwe held general elections. These elections were condemned as a sham by some observers who noted that the polls did not meet regional, international or the country's own constitutional standards.

### **Production of visibility material**

ZLHR produced some T-shirts and promotional wall and tent calendars promoting its sought-after legal support services and activities in communities. These were distributed to people during community outreach programmes and to the organisation's members.

### **Radio and television appearances**

21 radio broadcast programmes were broadcast, including on community radio, concerning relevant legal and human rights issues thus ensuring that ZLHR reached out to the huge audience who listen to radio as the most used medium of mass-communication. Through such hosting of radio broadcast programmes, ZLHR assisted in helping equip communities with relevant knowledge of human rights as enshrined in the Constitution, helping to ensure access to justice for the public in cases of human rights violations and enhancing the knowledge of aggrieved people about available remedies to seek redress.

Media practitioners' interest in reporting about ZLHR's interventions kept growing, with ZLHR maintaining its authoritative role as a reliable source of credible news.

### **Production of *The Legal Monitor***

ZLHR continued to fill in the information gap by providing information to ordinary citizens who lack financial resources to purchase or access media or information products. ZLHR strategically printed and published 200 braille copies of *The Legal Monitor* newsletter targeting blind and partially sighted

# Legal Monitor Production 2023



people to access human rights literacy material. Additionally, 10 editions of *The Legal Monitor* were published focusing on internally displaced persons and showcasing ZLHR’s successes in ending the scourge of statelessness in Zimbabwe among some marginalised communities as well as the exposure and condemnation of the undermining of human rights by law enforcement agents. As an endorsement of ZLHR’s credible work, the Southern African Nationality Network, a collective of civil society organisations, individuals and networks, reproduced and published one of *The Legal Monitor’s* success stories on access to birth certificates in its quarterly newsletter titled *Statelessness in Southern Africa*.

## Impressions on social media

ZLHR underlined its position as Zimbabwe’s leading law-based human rights organisation, which key stakeholders rely upon in consuming verified and credible information concerning the country’s human rights landscape. It ended the year with a massive 176 000 followers on X and through this platform the organisation managed to galvanise support on campaigns against enforced disappearances and abductions and solicited positive comments for its interventions to protect and promote human rights. ZLHR also exploited the opportunities brought by WhatsApp, where the organisation shared its information for real-time consumption by HRDs, ordinary citizens and other stakeholders. On Facebook, ZLHR’s followers increased, reaching 18 000.

## Honouring ZLHR: Awards and recognition

### NANGO honours ZLHR

The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) honoured Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) as the Human Rights Defender for 2023. NANGO, which is the umbrella organisation for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in Zimbabwe, bestowed ZLHR with the prestigious award at its annual NGO awards ceremony held in the resort town of Victoria Falls in December. In conferring the award to ZLHR, NANGO applauded the law-based human rights organisation for working tirelessly to defend human rights and to foster a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe.

**Hanzi leads AfDB’s IRM Stakeholder Advisory Council**

ZLHR Executive Director Roselyn Hanzi was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) of the Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM) of the African Development Bank (AfDB). Hanzi was elected as Vice-Chairperson by her fellow SAC members in August 2023 and was applauded for making some significant contributions to the effectiveness of the IRM by linking up the organisation with her extensive networks across Southern Africa and beyond. SAC serves as a knowledge resource and sounding board for purposes of strengthening the IRM’s effectiveness and provides guidance, viewpoints and recommendations about the strategic direction and operations of the IRM in pursuit of its mission to provide fair, independent and effective recourse for individuals and communities, who believe they are negatively impacted by projects financed by the AfDB. The IRM is the independent accountability mechanism for people adversely affected by AfDB-funded projects to bring forward their complaints and seek redress. Its main objective is to enhance the accountability and sustainability of projects financed by the AfDB, which is a multilateral development institution that provides financing to African governments and private companies investing in its 54 regional member countries to spur social and economic development and alleviate poverty.

**IRM** INDEPENDENT RECOURSE MECHANISM

**Roselyn Hanzi**  
Executive Director,  
Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

**Newly Elected  
Vice-Chair of IRM’s Stakeholder Advisory Council**

**Our partners in 2023**

- DanChurchAid
- European Union
- Legal Resources Foundation
- Royal Netherlands Embassy
- Royal Norwegian Embassy
- Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
- The Students and Academics International Assistance Fund
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Trocaire FCDO/SIDA/IA
- Trocaire IATL

**Our legal advisors**

- Mtetwa & Nyambirai
- Shava Law Chambers

**Our auditors**

- Grant Thornton Zimbabwe

**Our bankers**

- Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe
- Stanbic Bank Botswana
- Stanbic Bank Mauritius

ZLHR has nationwide coverage. For more information on the nearest ZLHR representatives in your area, please contact the following offices:

**Harare Office**

*(National coverage)*

Kodzero-Amalungelo House,  
103 Sam Nujoma Street, Harare  
Phone: (+263 242) 705370/708118/764085  
Fax: (+263 242) 705641

**Mutare Office**

*(Covering Manicaland and Masvingo)*

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**Bulawayo Office**

*(Covering Matabeleland, Midlands and Bulawayo)*

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Matabeleland/Midlands: (+263) 773 855 635  
Manicaland/Masvingo: (+263) 773 855 718

**Email:** [info@zhr.org](mailto:info@zhr.org)

**Website:** [www.zhr.org.zw](http://www.zhr.org.zw)

**Facebook:** Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

**X:** [@ZLHRLawyers](https://twitter.com/ZLHRLawyers)