



ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

About the NTJWG

The National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) is a platform of Zimbabwean organisations representing various transitional justice stakeholders. Forty-six civil society organisations set up the platform in 2014 to provide an interface between transitional justice stakeholders and official transitional justice processes in the country. The establishment of the NTJWG came after the promulgation of a new Constitution in Zimbabwe in 2013, which established the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) to ensure post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation, including developing programs that promote national healing, unity and peaceful conflict resolution. This presented an opportunity for civil society to collaboratively work with official processes towards influencing the adoption of a national approach to peace and reconciliation processes that is inclusive and aimed at facilitating national healing and sustainable peace. Transitional justice experts were then elected to lead the NTJWG focusing on the following thematic areas: gender, justice and accountability, promotion of truth, institutional reform, reparations and memorialisation. The NTJWG works throughout the country and divides its geographical areas of focus into five regions, namely: Matabeleland (Bulawayo, Matabeleland North and South); Harare, Mashonaland East, West and Central; Midlands; Manicaland and Masvingo.

Areas of Interest

The NTJWG has managed to build a powerful movement for transitional justice in Zimbabwe. The following are some of its major milestones;

- The adoption of the Guiding Principles on Transitional Justice Policy and Practice in Zimbabwe by 48 organisations in July 2015
- The development of the Minimum Standards for an Effective National Peace and Reconciliation Commission in Zimbabwe
- Training for Parliamentarians on transitional justice policy framework for Zimbabwe
- Advocacy for the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission Act for Zimbabwe
- Development of a Monitoring Framework for Zimbabwe's transitional justice policy, and
- Provision of technical support to the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

The NTJWG's current priorities are as follows:

1. Coordination revolves around strengthening the NTJWG's capacity to coordinate transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe. In this area, the NTJWG has carried out the following activities:
 - a. Convening meetings of transitional justice stakeholders in civil society;
 - b. Producing briefings for the Executive arm of the Government of Zimbabwe, Parliament and the NPRC on topical transitional justice issues, the needs and expectations of stakeholders. These briefings have been presented to the duty bearers, discussed with them and published; they can be accessed through <https://ntjwg.org.zw/briefings/>
 - c. Lodging Complaints with the NPRC – the NTJWG has been working with its stakeholders and survivors to lodge complaints for investigation by the NPRC in line with its constitutional mandate. To date, two complaints have been lodged. The first is against the Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Monica Mutsvangwa, for hate speech following her address directed at the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Commission in 2020. The second is against unknown people who stole and destroyed a Gukurahundi memorial plaque in Silobela in the Midlands region in 2021.

2. Monitoring entails monitoring the official process in line with the existing framework and international standards. Key activities under this priority are as follows:
 - a. Production of newsletter with key transitional justice highlights, it can be accessed on <https://ntjwg.org.zw/newsletters/>
 - b. Production of NPRC Watch Report – this is a quarterly report produced to give a detailed analysis of key national, regional and global developments in the transitional justice sphere, the report looks into why certain developments are important, what they mean and the lessons that can be drawn from them. This report can be accessed by visiting <https://ntjwg.org.zw/nprc-watch/>
 - c. Production of State of Transitional Justice Report – this is an annual report that gives an overview of transitional justice developments and the operating context and gives recommendations for improvement in the next year. The report can be read on this link <https://ntjwg.org.zw/state-of-tj-reports/>
 - d. Litigation – the NTJWG has been involved in litigation and provided free legal services to survivors. One example of a case in which the NTJWG has been involved is *Andy Manyeruke v The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Another HC 6836/20* in which the applicant, a survivor of the 2018 post-election violence is seeking to have the Motlanthe Commission recommendations implemented. This case is currently pending before the courts.

3. Knowledge – this is about developing critical transitional justice knowledge systems for Zimbabwe. In its efforts to contribute to building transitional justice knowledge in Zimbabwe, the NTJWG carries out several activities, as highlighted below:
 - a. Convening community dialogues – the NTJWG convenes community dialogues across the five regions it operates to build the knowledge of communities on transitional justice with a focus on the NPRC and its mandate. Although the NTJWG specifically targets survivors of past violence through these dialogues, the NTJWG recognises that conflict affects all members of the communities. The dialogues are all-encompassing, and all community members are encouraged to participate.
 - b. Production of press statements – the NTJWG produces statements tackling emerging transitional justice issues and commemorating important transitional justice days. The statements can be read on <https://ntjwg.org.zw/statements/>
 - c. Hosting periodic radio programs on topical transitional justice issues discussed by the NTJWG board and stakeholders, survivors, other civil society organisations, independent commissions, parliamentarians, clergymen and other stakeholders. The programs can be accessed using these links <https://soundcloud.com/user-575637068-15080092> and <https://soundcloud.com/ntjwgzimbabwe>
 - d. Production of factsheets on transitional justice issues. An example of such a factsheet can be accessed on <https://ntjwg.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Gender-and-Transitional-Justice-Factsheet.pdf>
 - e. Production of animated videos used as a visual representation of the NTJWG strategy. The video can be accessed by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/NTJWGSim/videos/1215967832158904>
 - f. Production of an infographic which serves as a pictorial depiction of the NTJWG's strategy. The infographic can be accessed by visiting: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rkSCai5W7oOujYW_0AdE7lpsiZlgfwHW/view?fbclid=IwAR03LGnkqvOeh1acXyvb3F8cyGijZnCMtd62Ccb0vFxrDK5D_bMW4-Tt6AM
 - g. A national archival project to document Zimbabwe's past. This is available at <http://humanrights.org.zw/>
 - h. Production of ad hoc reports on transitional justice issues such as hate speech. One such report is titled "The Language of Intolerance, Intransigence, Authoritarianism and Violence in the "New Dispensation" In Zimbabwe". The full report is available on <https://kubatana.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/The-Language-of-hate-report.pdf>
4. Influencing – under this aspect, the NTJWG seeks to influence the policy Implementation policy modelling and engagement with critical actors in government and local

communities of practice. To achieve its aim of influencing policy, the NTJWG does the following:

- a. Production of policy papers tackling reparations, mental health, gender, exhumations and other topical transitional justice issues.
- b. Convening reflective policy meetings with duty bearers to discuss policy reform and obligations of duty-bearers such as the NPRC, Parliament and the Executive.
- c. Convening meetings with independent commissions to inform them of the needs of survivors and the role they can play in addressing those needs.
- d. Convening interface meetings between the NPRC and survivors to discuss the needs of survivors and how they would like them to be addressed by the NPRC.
- e. Convening policy dialogues for all transitional justice stakeholders, including survivors, to facilitate discussion on policy reform and make recommendations for reform in line with the needs and expectations of stakeholders.

Target Beneficiaries

In its work the NTJWG targets the following groups:

- a. Survivors and victims of past conflict and human rights violations as well as their families;
- b. Independent Commission with a primary focus on the NPRC;
- c. Civil society organisations working on transitional justice issues;
- d. Communities that have been subjected to conflict and human rights violations;
- e. Parliamentarians;
- f. The Government of Zimbabwe; and
- g. The people of Zimbabwe in general.

Contact Information

Address:	64B Connaught Road, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe
Telephone Number:	Tel: +263 4 770177-8/772860/770170
Facebook:	@NTJWGZim
Twitter:	@ntjwgzimbabwe
Email:	admin@hrforum.co.zw