



STATE OF PEACE REPORT

Community Peacebuilding
Action Report
2021



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CAMPAIGNERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
1992 - 2022

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90 SV. Muzenda Street, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 242 707277
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State of Peace Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Peace Report is an annual product of ZimRights' Right to Peace Campaign. The report captures the key peace concerns and issues in the communities where the campaign is being implemented. It brings together activists operating in the Right to Peace Action Zone into targeted conversations that help the community understand the state of peace in the areas they live. The campaign is being implemented in Masvingo, Bulawayo, Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South Provinces.

The process takes the affected communities through five reflective questions, followed by a detailed documentation process that captures the eight pillars of positive peace. The reflective questions are:

- a. How do we understand peace in our language?
- b. What are the factors leading to the breach of peace in our communities?
- c. What is the peace potential in our communities?
- d. What are our concerns, fears and worries about the future of peace in our communities?

Cutting across these questions is the question: what interventions can help us create and sustain a culture of peace?

By going through these questions in a reflective manner, communities share rich lessons on possible avenues for building peace from the bottom.

In presenting the 2021 State of Peace Report, ZimRights hopes this will be an action tool for communities to undertake practical actions to build peace.

KEY FINDINGS

The following are the key findings from the 2021 State of Peace Report.

01

Many people live in fragile peace

How we understand peace in our own language and culture determines how we approach peacebuilding and respond to the threats against peace. In this report, over 50% of the community activists acknowledged that they were living in a state of fragile peace which we call negative peace. They are uncertain of what the future holds. There are no peace fundamentals in the communities to sustain '*the silence*' they are currently experiencing.

02

Elections remain a nightmare

There was consensus across all the communities that participated in the report that elections presented a nightmare rather than an opportunity. Many community members are expecting bloodshed ahead of the 2023 election. They attribute the violence to violent nature of the ruling party. In addition to the violence, communities have no confidence in electoral systems' capacity to deliver democracy. Many are convinced that the election outcome is predetermined because the institutions are captured.

03

State of polarisation

The communities highlighted that they live in communities that are highly polarised along political lines. This is cutting across all sectors of society. Political alliances determine access to resources and the enjoyment of basic rights. Access to food aid is dependent on political allegiance.

04

Traditional leaders and peace

The communities observed that traditional leaders are many times forced to join politics on the side of the ruling party. As a result, they end up being conflicted and participating in manipulation of food aid and electoral processes. This is undermining confidence in the institution of traditional leadership which is supposed to be the sacred custodian of values and culture.

05

NGOs are the leading agents of peacebuilding

Many participants noted that civil society organisations are doing a lot in supporting peacebuilding interventions. Participants noted that several peacebuilding workshops and development programmes are currently being run by NGOs.

06

Businesses are taking a back seat on peacebuilding

The businesses engaged during the exercise indicated that their involvement was minimal. This shows that outside their core business, businesses do not think they have an obligation to support local peace initiatives.

07

The invisibility of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC)

Communities are not seeing independent commissions being actively engaged in conflicts. They do not engage with reports of violence nor with the victims. They say the NRPC is not playing the role that it is commissioned to play. Many communities that are torn by violence and conflict wish they could get help from the NRPC.

The report concludes with some recommendations for peace actions captured in each chapter. These include initiating local programmes to bridge the polarisation, equipping activists for peace monitoring, engaging businesses and other actors to take more interest in supporting local initiatives and strengthening the role of national human rights institutions.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organisations
NDS1	National Development Strategy 1
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPRC	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
ONHRI	Organ on National Healing Reconciliation and Integration
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisation
SP2P	Shifting Power to the People
TJ	Transitional Justice
TSP	Transitional Stabilisation Programme
ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
ZimRights	Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

Chapter 1

Introducing the State of Peace Report

On 12 November 1984, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (the right to peace declaration). This declaration forms the foundation of ZimRights' Right to Peace Campaign.

In the very first article, the declaration draws the link between human rights and peace.

 **Everyone has the right to enjoy peace such that all human rights are promoted and protected and development is fully realized."**

The declaration states.

In this very simple statement, three important connected concepts are captured. These are peace, human rights and development. Without peace, it is difficult to observe human rights. Without human rights, development is compromised. Without these three, the pursuit of happiness for humankind is a pipe dream. Thus, the declaration on the right to peace gives us a very rich and holistic understanding of human rights.

Writing for the Health and Human Rights Journal, Donna J. Perry, Christian Guillermot

Fernández, and David Fernández Puyana state that the establishment of the declaration on the right to peace is a critical milestone but realizing the goals of this instrument will require a global transformation toward a culture of peace.

What then are the goals of the right to peace declaration?

The goals of the declaration are captured in the preamble which states:

"Convinced that life without war serves as the primary international prerequisite for the material well-being, development and progress of countries, and for the full implementation of the rights and fundamental human freedoms proclaimed by the United Nations."

In short, to us, this means life without violence – violence in all its forms.

Violence can be defined as any action, words, attitudes, structures, systems, beliefs and practices that cause physical, psychological, social or environmental damage that prevents people or societies from reaching their full potential in life. Galtung says, “*just as there are three forms of peace, there are also three forms of violence: direct, cultural, and structural violence.*” In this definition, the nexus between peace and human rights continues to emphasise itself.

This nexus that brings in human rights, conflict transformation and peacebuilding can be interrogated in six propositions that highlight complementarity between the fields.

According to Michelle Parlevliet (2002), these include:

- Human rights abuses as both symptoms and causes of violent conflict.
- A sustained denial of human rights is a structural cause of (violent) conflict.
- Institutionalised respect of human rights and structural accommodation of diversity is a primary form of violence prevention.
- For the effective and sustainable resolution of intra-state conflict, the prescriptive approach of human rights defenders must be combined with the facilitative approach of conflict resolution and peacebuilding practitioners.
- Whereas human rights and justice per se are non-negotiable, the application and interpretation of rights and justice are negotiable in the context of a negotiated settlement.
- Conflict management and peacebuilding can function as an alternative to litigation in dealing with rights-related conflicts.

There is an increasing awareness that human rights, peace and justice are inextricably linked. As Barker (1996:566) puts it, “*peace is no longer acceptable on any terms; it is intimately linked with the notion of justice*”. Conflict resolution is not measured simply by the absence of bloodshed; it is assessed by the moral quality of the outcome. It is this which determines the sustainability to the measures adopted.

Over the years, the understanding of human rights has shifted from a focus on avoiding violence (negative peace) to a focus on building harmonious relations (positive peace). This new paradigm shift challenges activists to rethink their priorities and consider investing more in peacebuilding architecture rather than simply peacekeeping and violence prevention. History has shown that increasing investments in military and other violence containment measures does not necessarily translate to peace.

The 1994 Human Development Report highlighted two major components of human security: ‘*freedom from fear*’ and ‘*freedom from want*’.



Without peace, it is difficult to observe human rights. Without human rights, development is compromised.”

The Global Peace Index has identified 8 pillars of positive peace and mapped out a correlation in the state of peace of any given society with direct investments in the 8 pillars of peace. These are:

- well-functioning government,
- equitable distribution of resources,
- free flow of information,
- good relations with neighbours,
- high levels of human capital,
- acceptance of the rights of others,
- low levels of corruption, and
- a sound business environment



It can be argued that the 8 pillars of positive peace indicate key potential investments in sustainable peace. Johan Galtung has criticised the Global Peace Index (GPI) equating it more as a measure of business environment rather than human security. Thus, while in this report we used the GPI model, we juxtapose it with Galtung's.

Johan Galtung's definition of peace is:

$$\text{Peace} = \text{Equity} \times \frac{\text{Harmony/}}{\text{Trauma}} \times \text{Conflict Transformation}$$

Galtung goes on to define all the actions and elements that make up each of the elements of peace. Looking at these elements together with the 8 pillars of peace, it becomes clear that societies that invest in human security stand a better chance of enjoying peace. Employed youths that are involved in economic production, are most likely to be unavailable for violence. Failure by the government to invest in economic growth, even though it may invest in border security, will lead to mass exodus as people seek greener pastures. Lack of skilled labour leads to the collapse of essential services as experts take up employment in other countries. Those who cannot find opportunities in other countries become a restless population ready to rise against the government. That scenario maps the futility of prioritising negative peace over positive peace.

Zimbabwe's Peace Context

Over the past 27 years, ZimRights has worked with communities across the country's 10 provinces, growing to become the biggest movement of ordinary people for human rights. Formed in 1992, ZimRights main focus of work is empowering ordinary people and communities with knowledge and tools for effective participation in the protection and promotion of human rights as well as the search for effective remedies to past and ongoing violations. ZimRights has empowered communities through civic education, legal aid support, psycho-social support and community advocacy

strategies to ensure the realisation of basic rights especially for the most marginalised communities. In this process, ZimRights membership has increased to over 265 000 individual members equipped and empowered to claim their rights.

However, what has become clear is that the fight for civil and political rights has not translated into greater respect for human rights. The problem thus is mainly that civil and political rights seem to target mainly negative peace which is fronted by fear of violence rather than proactive actions that grow positive cultures of peace.

The concept of the right to peace opens up the human rights conversation to find avenues for more proactive and positive human rights advocacy that is not grounded in fault-finding but rather solution search.

Through the Right to Peace Campaign, ZimRights seeks to activate the 8 pillars of positive peace in communities and put together tools, actions and practices that balance Johan Galtung's peace formula. Running for 18 months now, the Right to Peace Campaign has activated Right to Peace Action Zones in Masvingo, Bulawayo and Matebeleland South. In these zones, human rights activists work with communities to detect the potential for violent conflict, activate local tools to prevent violence and resolve conflicts. Through the Right to Peace Masterclass, the activists receive training that allows them to understand their local capacities and harness the local resources to advance peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Through the Right to Peace Action Zone, we were able to use the various tools to analyse the state of peace in the four provinces, map out each province's peace potential and suggest possible interventions. This report captures the experiences of the Right to Peace Action Zone in their interaction with these tools.

The main purpose of this report is to give as accurate a picture of the state of peace in the Zimbabwean communities, using the Right to Peace Approach, map out key intervention strategies that are applicable at local level.

The information used was collected through the following;

- a. General human rights monitoring
- b. Focus group discussions
- c. One on one interviews with key informants
- d. Analysis of reports submitted by members of the action zones
- e. Interviews with key stakeholders.

The information collected was classified into 8 categories according to the GPI's 8 pillars of positive peace. For each of the 8, one case is documented and analysed through the principles covered in the Master Class. Specific interventions are recommended for each of the cases in line with the vision of seeing the positive transformation. In the final Chapter, a broad national overview is given, tying up key threads from the 8 cases.

The report is thus a source of information on the key peace indicators in the selected provinces, assisting communities to develop a sense of extraordinary awareness of issues that present a potential for violence as well as issues that are assets for building positive peace. As an action manual, the State of Peace Report is a Right to Peace Action Manual. Whereas the *Right to Peace: A Citizen Guide to Human Rights and Peacebuilding in Zimbabwe* is the foundation for ZimRights peace interventions, the State of Peace Report is the workbook that gives our members an opportunity to put the principles into practice while in the process documenting their experiences.

While this is not a scientific report, it is a practice report that gives one a fair idea of Zimbabwe's state of peace from the perspective of communities that are directly affected.

Data Collection

The data used in this report was collected from the focus groups convened in the following areas:

- a. Plumtree
- b. Gwanda
- c. Cowdray Park & Nketa
- d. Mwenezi
- e. Bulawayo central



Chapter 2

Understanding Peace in Your Language

Owning Peace

"Peace begins with me," so goes the old saying adopted by the Organ on National Healing Reconciliation and Integration (ONHRI), and later the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC). In other words, you cannot give what you do not have. Fambul Tok in Sierra Leone called it "*Peace from Inside Out.*"

This is true. One powerful way in which this was expressed during the year 2021 by our activists is, "*For me to own peace, I must embrace it in my own language first.*"

In every village we gathered, we discovered that there is a language of peace that is unique to that village. By language, we mean beyond mere words. It includes art and rituals that capture the essence of peace. But to capture it, we asked these communities to tell us the meaning of peace in their languages. We share the words in this section, to set the stage for understanding how language can help us understand the state of peace in different communities,

In the 5 districts where we worked, we were able to capture at least 7 words used by the locals for peace. We present them below.

- Runyararo
- Ukuthula
- Rugare
- ukuhlala kuhle
- Kugadzikana
- Ruwadzano
- Runyararo
- Rugare
- Kugadzikana
- Kunyarara

This exercise was done before the training. Participants thus shared words that spontaneously came to their minds. What then followed was an exercise to unpack the words into their actual meaning. The table below shows the general agreement on these words from the five groups. In general, these words mean peace. However, the exercise tried to bring out a more specific meaning.

Words	Language	Meaning
Runyararo	Shona	Silence
Ukuthula	Ndebele	Peace
Ukuhlala kuhle	Ndebele	Living in harmony
Kugadzikana	Shona	Stability
Ruwadzano	Shona	Cohesion
Rugare	Shona	Peace
Kunyarara	Shona	Silence

After the definitions were shared, the groups were invited to look at the definition of peace. Johan Galtung defines peace as the absence of violence in all its forms, and much more. It includes harmony and cooperation for mutual and equal benefit.

When a society does not have all these violences, it can be said to be at peace, and yet Johan Galtung say this peace is only '*negative peace*.' The intended goal of every peacebuilder is to achieve both negative peace and positive peace.

The forms of violence that Johan Galtung refers to are:

Direct Violence

Intentional causing of physical harm on another like shooting a person with a gun

Structural Violence

Systems and structures that impede human progress, advance inequality and deprecate the quality of life like a malfunctioning health care system that leads to pregnant mothers failing to give birth successfully.

Cultural Violence

A culture that justifies both structural and direct violence like hate speech and music that demonises people of a different political affiliation.

Negative peace is harmony and cooperation for equal and mutual benefit.

Negative Peace	Positive Peace
Runyararo The literal translation of the Shona word 'runyararo' means 'silence'. The group reflected that 'runyararo' may simply mean absence of violence.	Ukuhlala kuhle This is Ndebele phrase that means ' <i>living in harmony</i> '. This suggests that there is more than silence but elements of positive peace.
Kugadzikana This is a Shona word meaning 'stability'. This would most likely be in the middle but more on negative peace. Stability may mean the same as 'silence' just absence of violence but without the presence of harmony and cooperation for mutual benefit.	Rugare The literal translation of this Shona word would be 'Peace'. But it has elements of more than silence. It speaks to many other aspects of a tranquility that is more than silence but presence of other human needs that make life to be fulfilling and empowering.
Kunyarara This word literally translated means silence. As discussed under 'runyararo' silence does not necessarily mean peace. It many times may mean fear hence it falls under negative peace.	Ukuthula This Ndebele word means peace with the same connotations as the Shona word 'rugare' possessing indications of a deeper and comprehensive understanding of peace.

KEY FINDINGS

In reflecting on the community experiences of peace in the year 2021, 8 words dominated the conversation in the local languages. In looking closely at these words, we discover that 50% of them describe negative peace while the other 50% describe positive peace. These words are not special. They are part of the people's everyday diction in the 5 areas where data was taken from. This language helps us set the foundation for understanding the state of peace

in the targeted areas. This report thus finds the following;

- That there is as much negative peace in the areas identified as there is positive peace.
- The participants in many cases seemed content with negative peace and unless probed, did not seem to see anything wrong with the state of negative peace.

- Upon further reflection and probing, communities began to question the negative peace aspects and seemed eager to go for more.
- From the conversations, there were examples of positive peace developments in the area which strengthen the new resolve in the communities.
- Until probed, conversations on development and other forms of structural violence were not immediately treated as a peace issues.

Possible actions

- Peace in my own language' tool is recommended as a tool for building community awareness of the kind of peace they are enjoying in their lives.
- Regular reflections on the language of peace

can help improve community appreciation of the state of peace in their communities and giving it its right name.

- Developing rich local peace vocabulary is part of building a culture of peace in the communities.

Tasks for Peace Activists

- Work towards domesticating peacebuilding tools to ensure that those who teach peacebuilding, do it in the local languages.
- Work with local schools to develop the language of peace for local activists incorporating local art to ensure that culture is not lost but is incorporated in local peacebuilding efforts.



Chapter 3

Factors Leading to Breach of Peace



Managing Fault lines: Detecting the Pending Violence

"Kana kangoma koririsa kava pedyo nokuparuka"

The above Shona proverb was used by one of the participants at the Bulawayo Right to Peace Masterclass. Literally translated, it means when the beating drum starts sounding the loudest, it is close to bursting. In the words of Johan Galtung, conflict is a contradiction in goals or means. Usually, if these contradictions are handled well and they fizzle out. However, there are those other contradictions that fail to be

contained in time and they cross the threshold. When contradictions reach their limits, the conflict usually turns violent.

Peacebuilding communities must be trained to keep their ears on the ground and their eyes on the horizon, and see the signs and respond in time before it is too late. This is done through raising awareness about each society's fault lines and

and learning to manage the fault lines to avoid escalation to violence.

Fault lines can be defined as a society's natural difference that carries a potential for contradiction, friction and violence potential.

In this session, the question we asked the participants was the following:

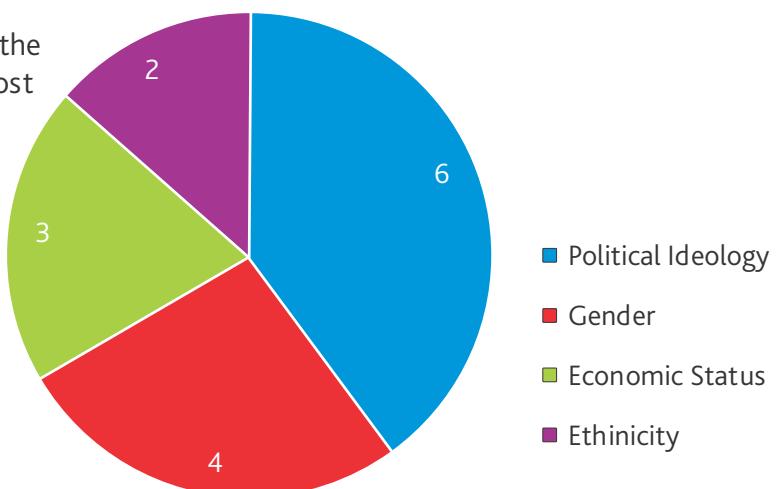
"What are the most sensitive areas of this community that you must handle with care?"

Area	Faultline	Cases
Bulawayo	Ethnicity (2)	Pick n Pay and Mthwakazi Republic
Mwenezi	Political ideology (6)	Partisan distribution of food
Plumtree	Gender (4)	Gender-based violence
Gwanda	Political ideology	Intimidation
Nketa	Economic status (3)	No access to clean portable water
Cowdray Park	Political ideology	Political violence

KEY FINDINGS

The following are the main fault lines in the selected areas along which conflict is most likely to escalate.

Faultlines:
Factors Most Likely to Trigger Violence



01

Political Ideology/Affiliation

In the areas covered, political ideology or affiliation is most likely to trigger violent conflict. This concern featured in all the 6 areas covered. In other areas it came out subtly when participants were discussing access to food aid. It would then become clear that while the situation that necessitated economic inequalities was economic, food was then distributed along political lines making it also an issue of political ideology/affiliation. The polarising effect of this ended up also including traditional leaders. This instilled fear in communities and undermined confidence in traditional leaders.

02

Gender

It may be surprising that gender comes second to politics. This fact is corroborated by figures released by the police in the area which show high cases of domestic violence in at least 4 of the areas covered by this report.

The actual figure could be higher than reported because studies have shown that many victims of domestic violence do not report the violence. For every one report made, 5 are unreported.

03

Ethnicity

This is featured in Bulawayo and Mwenezi reports. In Mwenezi, certain ethnic groups are accused of witchcraft which may lead to violence being meted at them. In Bulawayo, the issue raised was that of how Pick n Pay was accused of overlooking local ethnic groups on employment.

04

Economic Status

In two areas, participants noted that inequality was causing an increase in violence with crime increasing in high density areas that had no gainful economic activities.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Polarisation

Polarisation is a big issue generally in Zimbabwe. There is need to first fix our national politics to build tolerance for divergent political views. This can be done through increasing civic education

on tolerance. It is also important to design inclusive social programmes that bring together different political actors. As the reports from communities show, victims of polarization are usually members of the opposition, real or

imagined. This is supported by impunity as people who perpetrate violence are not brought to justice. There is need in this aspect to work with traditional leaders and restore trust in the institution as a unifying institution as opposed to the current polarisation.

Gender based violence

The meetings reported that there are many NGOs already working on the issue of gender-based violence. Such outreach work must continue. New approaches like creating community structures for detecting domestic violence must be pursued to ensure that more cases, including the unreported are detected and dealt with. Participants complained that perpetrators were bribing the police and cases were being dropped without trial. There is need to open a dialogue platform with local police stations on how to combat corruption and ensure that perpetrators of domestic violence face justice.

Ethnicity

Bulawayo is an area that remains tense due to the legacy of Gukurahundi. The main case reported here involved the business community. There is need to consider running a programme in Business and Human Rights targeting such areas, to sensitize businesses on the conflict potential and sensitivities in the areas they operate and promote empathy. Any business that operates in Matebeleland must train its staff on the history of the community so as to develop an awareness of the woundedness of the society and how the business can help the cause of healing.

Address Inequality

There is need for the government to ensure live sustaining economic systems that lift the poor and provide social safety nets for the most vulnerable. Local NGOs can initiate a campaign targeting local companies to be involved in the fight against inequality.



Chapter 4

Community Peace Potential

Community Peace Potential

In many communities, the state of peace is a product of circumstances and not design. Beyond merely being aware of the threats to peace, peacebuilders must be aware of the causes of peace in their communities. The causes of peace are those existing assets that create a peace potential in that community.

Each community must know its strengths as a carpenter knows his tools, or as a physician knows the instruments at her disposal.

To develop this awareness, there is need for the community to carry out a regular inventory of the changes in their society, carefully documenting everything that may assist the building of a peaceful society.

In the selected areas, the following were identified as the community's peace potential.

Developmental Activities by NGOs

Asked what is it that happened in their community in 2021, that contributed to the preservation of peace, many groups cited activities by NGOs. In 2021 alone, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) reported that NGOs brought into the country around 900 million United States Dollars. These funds go into health, clean water and sanitation. Participants also mentioned the drilling of community boreholes, the building of hospitals, provision of food aid among others.

Legal Support to Victims of Human Rights Violations

The communities reported that they felt that peace was promoted when NGOs provided legal support to pursue perpetrators of human rights violation.

In addition, human rights organisations are carrying out civic education programmes raising awareness in communities around human rights violations.



Community Engagement

The participants in Cowdray Park and Nketa reported that community-initiated projects were bringing an improvement in the area. They reported that the community has built a foot bridge on their own. In Gwanda, the community reported that they meet regularly to reflect on the issues in the area and find solutions. Dialogue was an important part of their way of life in 2021. They reported that communication among community members was 'civilised'.

Enforcement of the Rule of Law

In two areas, Gwanda and Plumtree, the police increased their patrols, a development that saw

perpetrators being brought to book and violence reducing. This good record however was tainted by the murder of a citizen that was perpetrated by the police in Gwanda. The matter has not been satisfactorily addressed. Plumtree reported that they believed that rule of law existed in the area as the police were fully engaged.

The Work of Independent Commissions

The participants applauded the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) whose work they believe contributed to advancing peace in their communities.

KEY FINDINGS

01

The role of civil society in peacebuilding

This discussion showed that civil society is still dominating community spaces. This is through awareness campaigns, legal support and development projects.

02

Locally driven process

The report finds that while there is a long culture of community engagement, most of the work is done by external actors like NGOs coming from the cities. Out of the 6 areas under focus, only 1 area Nketa reported a locally driven initiative of building a footbridge.

03

Policing and maintenance of peace

Communities depend a lot on the role of police in maintenance of peace.

Out of the six area under focus, only 2 mentioned the role of the police in the positive light.

04

Business and peace

The role of business in promoting peace is very limited in the communities. Where businesses were mentioned, it was in relation to complaints by the communities with members feeling that the businesses that deny them use of local currency demanding foreign currency were promoting inequality. In one case in Plumtree participants applauded the business community for making donations to the community.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Stimulate local initiatives

Local peacebuilders must work with the communities to stimulate local initiatives. This is more sustainable than depending on external actors.

Increase proactive participation by business

Local peacebuilders must treat businesses as part of the peacebuilding community. Initiatives for regular engagement on important matters like environmental rights can be established with the business society.

The missing peace commission

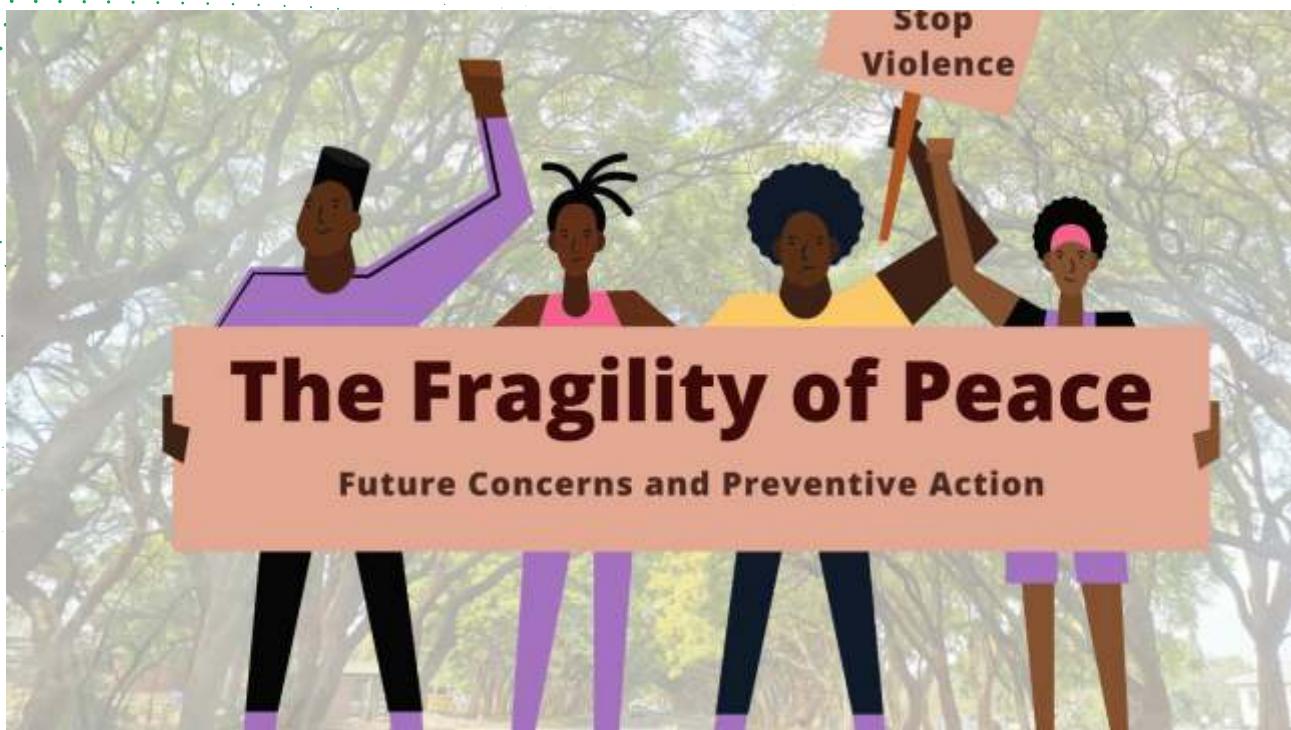
Throughout the meeting, there was no mention of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) creating the impression that the NPRC is invisible in the communities.

There is need for the NPRC to increase its community outreach since it has the constitutional mandate to support peacebuilding in the communities. Peacebuilders in the areas have to reach out to the NPRC to ensure that some of the local issues raised are dealt with the NPRC.



Chapter 5

The Fragility of Peace: Future Concerns and Preventive Action



Fragility of Peace: Future Concerns and Preventive

$$\text{Peace} = \frac{\text{Equity} \times \text{Harmony}}{\text{Trauma} \times \text{Conflict}}$$

There are mainly four ingredients to peace, according to Johan Galtung.

a. Equity

Building structures that promote equality.

c. Trauma Healing

Helping heal the wounds of the past.

b. Harmony

Empathy for others. Sorrow at other's sorrow and joy at other's joy.

d. Conflict Transformation

Taking steps to transform existing conflicts.

From this formula, we learn that building sustainable peace is more than just stopping the violence but building structures, institutions, cultures and practices that promote harmonious living, cooperation for equal and mutual benefit. Failure to do this creates only negative peace.

Negative peace is fragile. Assessing the state of peace thus requires peacebuilders to delve into a future search exercise. We asked the simple question, what are you worried about, your fears and your concerns?

The responses are summarized below

Elections

The leading cause of concern for the participants in the selected areas for the near future are elections in Zimbabwe. In all 6 areas, participants said elections give them a lot of worry mainly because they are characterized by violence and intimidation. In addition to the violence that accompanies elections, 4 of the areas believed that the elections will not reflect the will of the people hence it will be a waste of resources.

table. In Mwenezi they noted that government social programmes providing food aid would be hijacked by ZANU PF local structures hence the food aid would not get to the most deserving people. They said cases of child marriages would increase because of the diet. Violent crime would increase because food insecurity makes people desperate.

Poor Service Delivery

Participants anticipated that poor service delivery will continue. They noted that there was no end in sight to the current water and electricity challenges. Local government does not seem to have a plan how to improve its services to the communities. This would lead to a lot of people suffering from diseases and continue to overwhelm an already broken health care system.

Impunity

The year 2022 will see strengthening of impunity. With elections coming, a lot of money will be set aside for violence and the perpetrators will be protected. This will lead to impunity for human rights violations. With the PVO Bill in place, many organisations that document violence will have been shut down or intimidated into silence.

Economic situation will deteriorate

The economic situation will deteriorate. The Zimbabwean dollar will continue to collapse, wiping off savings and income. Prices will continue to rise pushing the cost of living beyond the reach of many. Businesses will start to overcharge. Council rates will be increased, and many residents will struggle to meet their obligations.

Food insecurity

2022 will be characterized by food insecurity. Community members felt that there was no adequate water supply hence most people would not be able to grow enough food for themselves. With the skyrocketing cost of living, many families would struggle to put food on the

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

The communities reflected on these threats to peace and reflected on some possible actions to combat these threats. The following issues were highlighted:

Peace monitoring

Peacebuilders to work on monitoring the situation and designing early response mechanisms to mitigate violence and its effects on the communities.

Violence prevention/mitigation programmes

Peacebuilders are encouraged to initiate programmes on violence mitigation. The communities suggested doing a detailed violence mapping exercise based on past experiences, understanding the actors and working at community level to dismantle the pillars of violence.

Youth engagement programmes

Young people constitute the majority in communities. Engaging young people in peacebuilding interventions will help build sustainable peace.

Engaging business stakeholders

With the economy failing in general, it is possible for the communities to engage local business leaders to consider partnering with local actors to promote local business investments in local actions. Established businesses can work with local communities to ensure that local communities benefit from their economic activities.

Dialogue with local political leaders

The communities reflected on how to ensure that food aid reaches the marginalized communities. Suggested actions including commencing early dialogue processes with the relevant government departments to review the procedures and hold leaders to account who violate the distribution channels.

Dialogue on the role of the traditional leaders in advancing peace

The dialogue must address the key issues which include allegations that traditional leaders are polarising communities and that some of them are participating in human rights violations.



Chapter 6

Conclusion

The process of compiling this edition of the state of peace report was very engaging, giving the communities an opportunity to engage with their past, present and the future. The outcome is thus not merely a report on the state of affairs but also an action plan on the possible interventions which communities can pursue to gradually see a change in their communities.

As is clear from this report, peace is not accidental. Without targeted interventions, the status quo will continue. By using the action report with tools in the peacebuilding manual, communities are able to transform their conflicts without violence and build more peaceful societies. The manual in identifying the key areas of intervention, become a resource not only for the ZimRights teams, but all actors with an interest in the areas identified. Accompanying this report are the data sets from where this report was based on. This is to allow readers who need more information to refer to those data sets and design more targeted interventions. What however is very clear is that the areas covered by this report are not enjoying real peace. These are societies that are living in fear and depending mainly on handouts and interventions by NGOs. More work needs to be done to stimulate local creativity.

Additionally, communities will need a deeper appreciation of their rights and responsibilities so that they hold all stakeholders to account.

In engaging businesses, the actors documented here felt like the businesses in their communities were doing them a favour through corporate social responsibility. The businesses as well did not show that they know their obligations in the communities in strengthening relationships and taking care of the environment. In this report, it turns out that a lot of effort has been put in raising awareness of individual people without including organisations and businesses that operate in the area. While villagers are overtrained in conflict transformation, businesses in the area seem to believe this is none of their business. Awareness of corporate obligations regarding building peaceful communities is a priority.

At the end of it all, the 2021 State of Peace Report challenges peacebuilding actors to go beyond the traditional territories and build a critical mass, inclusive of various sectors to converge and work towards dismantling the pillars of violence and uprooting its roots.

Annexures

Cowdray Park and Nketa State of Peace Data

1. What do you call peace in your local language? Cowdraypark

- a. Runyararo
- b. Ukuthula
- c. Peace

2. What is your definition of peace?

- a. Runyararo kumunhu wose (Peace to everyone)
- b. ukuhlala kuhle (living peacefully)
- c. ukuhlalisana kungela ngxabano (staying in peace where there is no conflict)
- d. Ukuhlalisana ngenhlonipho (to live in respect)
- e. Ukuphila Labantu kuhle emphakathini (to live in harmony in the community)
- f. Ukukhululeka emphefumulweni wakho lokuhlala kuhle ukhululekile

3. Name one thing that happened in 2021 that in your opinion in your area contributed the most to maintaining peace in your community?

- a. The construction of a foot bridge by the community
- b. Community meetings by NGOs

4. Name one thing in your area that contributed to the breakdown of peace in 2021?

- a. intimidation
- b. Political factional fights between parties
- c. Political intolerance amongst citizens
- d. The lockdown brought about thieves in our community and chid pregnancies
- e. Covid 19 restrictions contributed to drug abuse amongst children
- f. Giving less privileged food and everyone around the ward wanted to benefit despite the beneficiaries' status
- g. When the people were set to meet up with the commission on compensation, it never happened as they were told the term of office for the people, they were supposed to meet with had explored and that brought a lot of pain
- h. People refusing to pay the neighbourhood

5. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you are most worried about that could cause the breach of peace?

- a. Political party campaigns
- b. Drought
- c. Increase in prices for basic commodities
- d. Unemployment people end up engaging in illegal activities
- e. Murdering of people in the community next thing you see the perpetrators moving around
- f. Water shortages
- g. Increase or hike of the ambulance causing people to use other people's addresses

6. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you think can help your community to preserve and enhance peace?

- a. Equal or fair distribution of food
- b. Voting for leaders that represent the will of the people our current councillor does not care about citizens
- c. Police patrols

7. What do you call peace in your local language? Nketa

- a. Runyararo
- b. Ukuthula
- c. Peace
- d. Kugara Zvakanaka nevamwe

8. What is your definition of peace?

- a. Runyararo kumunhu wose (Peace to everyone)
- b. ukuhlala kuhle(living peacefully)
- c. ukuhlalisana kungela ngxabano (staying in peace where there is no conflict)
- d. Ukuhlalisanga ngenhlonipho (to live in respect)
- e. Ukuphila labantu kuhle emphakathini (to live with others in harmony)
- f. Ukukhululeka emphefumulweni wakho lokuhlala kuhle ukhululekile)
- g. Ukuziphatha lokuzihlonipha lokuezhlisa
- h. Yikuhlalisana kuhle labanye
- i. Kugara zvakanaka nevamwe

- j. Ukuhlala kuhle labanye emphakathini loba elizweni
- k. Kutaura nekubvumira kuita zvaunoziva nezvawunoda asi zvakanaka usina kumbundikidzwa
- l. Ukuzizwa ulokuthula enhlizweni kungekho okukuhlukuluzayo
- m. Akula msindo kumbe ukulwa kumbe ubudlwangudlwangu
- n. Kugadzukana pfungwa
- o. Ukuhlalisana kuhle kungela kukhulumisana kubi
- p. Ukungaphambaniseki ekuhlaleni kwakho lokunga hlukumezwa
- q. Yikubambana lokuhlalisana kuhle lomphakathi
- r. Ukuhululeka
- s. Unity

9. Name one thing that happened in 2021 that in your opinion in your area contributed the most to maintaining peace in your community?

- a. The drilling of community boreholes in Engamwini
- b. Churches
- c. The formation of neighbourhood watch by men in our community
- d. Humanitarian assistance from donors
- e. The court dropped charges of our councillor Batsirai , this brought peace in the community
- f. Police raiding shabeens
- g. UKUTHULA TRUST conducted meetings for victims /survivors of Gukurahundi to meet with the Government so that they can discuss the kind of compensation they want
- h. Resident meetings

10. Name one thing in your area that contributed to the breakdown of peace in 2021?

- a. Political violence
- b. Burglary
- c. Political factional fights between parties
- d. Boreholes brought peace and harmony
- e. Shabeens bringing a lot of chaos in the community
- f. Political intolerance amongst citizens
- g. The lockdown brought about thieves in our community and child pregnancies
- h. Kwana lobuqili ngemali yama organisation befuna ukudla imali
- i. Shortage of water and being denied to fetch water at the nearest school

- j. The recalling of MPs and councillors causing division and disharmony in the community
- k. Hunger
- l. Covid-19 restrictions contributed to drug abuse amongst children
- m. Giving less privileged food and everyone around the ward wanted to benefit despite the beneficiaries' status
- n. When the people were set to meet up with the commission on compensation, it never happened as they were told the term of office for the people they were supposed to meet with had elapsed and that brought a lot of pain
- o. People refusing to pay the neighbourhood watch committee

11. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you are most worried about that could cause the breach of peace?

- a. Water cuts
- b. The hiking of prices ie fuel and basic commodities
- c. Crime may escalate
- d. Political intolerance and observation of human rights has to improve
- e. Hunger because in 2021 there was poor rainfall
- f. Unemployment
- g. Drug abuse
- h. House breakings because of drought
- i. Employment, after graduation parents expect me to get a job and help them
- j. The ruling party can rob the opposition that the majority are supporting
- k. Hot sitting in schools
- l. Unemployment, we will end up loitering around the community & engaging in drugs
- m. Are we going to ever get leaders that stand for people's rights?
- n. Failure by police service in arresting robbers, corrupt people
- o. Teachers not doing their work because of poor remuneration
- p. Increase in bills, school fees
- q. By elections will not end well

12. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you think can help your community to preserve and enhance peace?

- a. Human rights monitoring
- b. Children to attend school every day
- c. There is need for people to unite

- d. Ukufaka isikhathi sokungahamdi ebusuke (putting curfews)
- e. Kumele sithole uncedo kunhlanganiso ezincedisayo njalo kungakhetwamuntu (there is need for people to get assistance from organisations and they should not discriminate)
- f. Yikubambana lokuhlala ngokuthula (Unity and living in peace)
- g. Sicela ama dona ancedise njengoba kulendlala (NGOs to assist since there is drought this year
- h. Kutshintswe uhulumende (change of government)
- i. Employment creation especially for youths
- j. Government to subsidise fuel
- k. City council to reduce rates
- l. Political parties to be taught on the importance of peaceful campaigns
- m. Everyone to vote
- n. Price controls
- o. Food aid
- p. Peaceful rallies all political parties to be allowed to campaign peacefully
- q. Jobs and projects opportunities
- r. Restrict places that sell alcohol
- s. Revive neighbourhood watch especially at night to protect people and property
- t. If government can provide assistance like food humpers
- u. Creation of employment,having certain spaces being reserved for the youth and training them on life skills to avoid youths engaging in drugs
- v. Full time plain cloth police patrols at schools and during the night to curb theft and fights
- w. If the campaign can be peaceful that will help us a lot
- x. Patrols by police and residents
- y. Introducing some activities for the youth
- z. Vote wisely for their MPs and Councillors
- 1. Opening of the Bulawayo industry

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Human Rights	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to stability in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Churches - Community based organisations - Community leaders 	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to the breakdown of peace in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water shortages - Electricity tariff hikes - Unemployment - Hiking of school fees - Unaffordable medication - Hate speech by political parties - Unfair treatment by police - Political divisions - Covid 19 regulations - Shortage of food - Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police to protect the community. - Political candidates not to cause violence to campaign peacefully. - More community meetings. - Hate speech to be barred. - Awareness campaigns.
Corruption	<p><i>Are there factors that are helping you reduce corruption?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dialogue Meetings - Awareness campaigns to stop corruption - Roadshows IEC materials helped to reduce corruption - Community leaders Bupra (Bulawayo progressive residence association) - Churches 	<p><i>Is corruption a factor in the breakdown of peace in your community /What can you do about it?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes for example police taking bribes. - Nepotism in workplaces and tribalism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrest corruption individuals even those in top leadership because that is where it starts. - Educate people about corruption. - Whistle blowers. - Reporting corruption. - People to refrain from bribing.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Human Resources	<p><i>Are there individuals who are helping make your community better socially, economically, politically?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childline - ZimRights education the community about human rights - Members of Parliament / Resident Rep - Churches 	<p><i>Is your community suffering from brain drain?</i></p> <p>Yes due to lack of employment, trained personnel tend to leave the country in search of better opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of jobs by opening industries
Social and political Relations	<p><i>Comment on the positive state of social relations? e.g do people support each other dealing with social issues?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident associations like BUPRA makes people to interact more often. - Community associations like Uzibuthe especially when there is a funeral in the community, we assist each other (Community burial societies). - Buying and selling from each other - Community WhatsApp groups communication with MP and Councillor 	<p><i>Comment on the negative state of social relations, eg do people accuse each other of witchcraft? what can you do about it?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes some children steal from neighbours. - Drug and hate speech among the youths. - Yes witchcraft is real as people accuse each other of that in the community. - There is need to encourage the use of ZINATA. - Have church crusades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer educators to be availed especially for the youths that abuse drugs. - There is need for organisations like ZimRights to educate people on their rights especially political rights so that people can tolerate each other regardless of political affiliations.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Access to information	<p><i>Is information readily available in your community?</i></p> <p>Yes, through whatsapp groups with our local leadership, neighbour - hood watch, Churches, NGOs</p> <p>Partly there</p>	<p><i>Is lack of information causing instability?</i></p> <p>Yes because of lack of interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data process to be reduced. - Awareness campaigns to continue. - Support proposed constituency information centers. - Have public periodic elections for residents community associations. - Hold capacity trainings sessions for community leaders.
Business Environment	<p><i>Are your local businesses contributing to peace building?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes because they sometimes provide employment. - They build a car park and that has reduced on the theft of cars. - Donations from business people to the poor. 	<p><i>Are your local business contributing to violence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes night clubs. - Discrimination on selling goods to certain individuals especially when there are shortages. - Creating artificial shortages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Night clubs should close at stipulated times. - Educate business people on city by laws.
Service Delivery	<p><i>Is there good service delivery?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repairing of burst pipes Partly roads are not in a good state, shortage of medication in clinics, sometimes there are instances when there is no electricity. 	<p><i>Is service delivery causing problems and instability?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes not enough schools in the community. - Bad roads leading to accidents. - Lack of waste collection and medical shortages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gvt to ensure hospitals and clinics have adequate medication. - Construction of schools. - Construction of more clinics, project centre and construct a proper police base that will be

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
			fully resourced Initiate accountable meetings with local authority and councilors/other stakeholders.
Resource Distribution	<i>Are resources being distributed equitably in your community?</i> No because there is unfair distribution.	<i>Is there equal access to resources in your community?</i> - Resources are distributed in partisan lines and some of the inputs go missing and converted to personal use. - Yes there is too much corruption.	- Policy makers to change their way of action through the way they distribute resources. - Everyone should be included no to discrimination. - Engage local churches, resident minister ,political parties.
Independent Commissions	<i>Are independent commissions or any other government agencies active in preventing violence?</i> The Zimbabwe human rights is making some strides in the communities, electoral commission and the NRPC.	<i>Are independent commissions or any other government agencies causing violence /instability?</i> - Not attending to reported cases. - We feel they accept bribes from law breakers. - Too much corruption.	- NGOs to assist in making commissions more visible in our communities. - Lobby government to open district offices.

Plumtree State of Peace Data

1. What do you call peace in your local language?

- a. Runyararo
- b. Ukuthula
- c. Kunyalala
- d. Kugara Zvakanaka nevamwe

2. What is your definition of peace?

- a. Runyararo kumunhu wose (Peace to everyone)
- b. ukuhlala kuhle (live peacefully)
- c. ukuhlalisana kungela ngxabano (stay in peace where there is no conflict)
- d. Ukuhlalisanga ngenhlonipho (to live in respect)
- e. Ukuphila labantu kuhle emphakathini (to live with others in harmony)
- f. Ukukhululeka emphefumulweni wakho lokuhlala kuhle ukhululekile)

3. Name one thing that happened in 2021 that in your opinion in your area contributed the most to maintaining peace in your community?

- a. Curfews and ZRP patrols at night
- b. Water connections
- c. Trainings on conflict transformation
- d. Tolerating each other in the community
- e. Enforcement of laws in a community
- f. Having residents becoming part of the combined residence association

4. Name one thing in your area that contributed to the breakdown of peace in 2021?

- a. GBV
- b. Drug and substance abuse during the lockdowns leading to a number of child pregnancies cases

5. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you are most worried about that could cause the breach of peace?

- a. The ruling party can rob the opposition although the majority are supporting it
- b. No jobs
- c. Drought as there were no rains this may lead to shortage of mealie-meal or a hike in prices
- d. By elections there is likely to be violence

6. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you think can help your community to preserve and enhance peace?

- a. Awareness campaigns
- b. GBV campaigns
- c. Creation of employment opportunities /opening of industries

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Human Rights	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to stability in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGOs helping raising awareness in communities. - Council by providing services. - Right to health. - The formation of peace committees in the community (ZimRights). 	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to the breakdown of peace in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of movement due to lockdown restrictions. - Dirty water sometimes coming out of taps. - Unfair distribution of food as it is politicized. - Right to identity by not issuing IDs properly as supposed. - Unfair privileges economically being gained by a few. - Infringement of the right to education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People should get enough they need and human rights must be respected. - Awareness campaigns. - Posters or pamphlets. - Petition. - Approaching relevant authorities.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Corruption	<p><i>Are there factors that are helping you reduce corruption?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of neighbourhood watch in the community. - ZACC hotline numbers Suggestion boxes. 	<p><i>Is corruption a factor in the breakdown of peace in your community /What can you do about it ?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes it is a factor. - We need to name and shame the perpetrators. - Firing and dismissal of perpetrators. 	Approaching the local government and NGOs so they can be the voice of the voiceless.
Human Resources	<p><i>Are there individuals who are helping make your community better socially, economically, politically?</i></p> <p>No</p>	<p><i>Is your community suffering from brain drain?</i></p> <p>To a greater extent the educated migrate to other countries and cities in search of better jobs.</p>	Creation of employment.
Social and political Relations	<p><i>Comment on the positive state of social relations? e.g do people support each other dealing with social issues?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We do support each other especially during funerals. - Social clubs. - Sporting events that bring even people from different political parties 	<p><i>Comment on the negative state of social relations, eg do people accuse each other of witchcraft? What can you do about it?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fights due to witchcraft. - Misunderstandings because of language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evangelism - Equality and unity of people of the same community.
Access to information	<i>Is information readily available in your community?</i>	<i>Is lack of information causing instability?</i>	Information should be shared with everyone regardless of age.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
	<p>It is there but not accessible Information does not reach every one leader are sometimes selective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes it is causing some instability. 	
Business Environment	<p><i>Are your local businesses contributing to peace building?</i></p> <p>Yes because sometimes they make donations to the community.</p>	<p><i>Are your local business contributing to violence?</i></p> <p>Choosing other currencies to our own local currency.</p>	<p>They should accept all modes of payment.</p>
Service Delivery	<p><i>Is there good service delivery?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor water supply. - There is no service delivery because it is poor. 	<p><i>Are your local business contributing to violence?</i></p> <p>No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council to invest in buying the right chemicals to clean water. - Replace electricity copper cables with those that are not easily stolen.
Resource Distribution	<p><i>Are resources being distributed equitably in your community?</i></p> <p>NGOs to distribute resources equally within the community.</p>	<p><i>Is there equal access to resources in your community?</i></p> <p>Some resources are politicised and only a few have access.</p>	<p>Have committees that stand up for people so that everyone benefits from the allocated resources.</p>
Independent Commissions	<p><i>Are independent commissions or any other government agencies active in preventing violence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes ZACC awareness campaigns have 	<p><i>Are independent commissions or any other government agencies causing violence /instability?</i></p> <p>No</p>	<p>They need to improve on accessibility and visibility.</p>

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
	<p>contributed to peace building as a community it helped us to realise the importance of peacebuilding because there was a lot of changes as soon as the campaign ended.</p> <p>Not available we only see police.</p>		

Gwanda State of Peace Data

1. What do you call peace in your local language?

- a. Runyararo
- b. Ukuthula
- c. Peace
- d. Kugara Zvakanaka nevamwe

2. What is your definition of peace?

- a. Runyararo kumunhu wose (Peace to everyone)
- b. ukuhlala kuhle (live peacefully)
- c. ukuhlalisana kungela ngxabano (stay in peace where there is no conflict)
- d. Ukuhlalisanga ngenhlonipho (to live in respect)
- e. Ukuphila Labantu kuhle emphakathini (to live with others in harmony)
- f. Ukukhululeka emphefumulweni wakho lokuhlala kuhle ukhululekile

3. Name one thing that happened in 2021 that in your opinion in your area contributed the most to maintaining peace in your community?

- a. Police patrols
- b. Community engagement meetings
- c. Civilised talking among residents

4. Name one thing in your area that contributed to the breakdown of peace in 2021?

- a. Water shortages and we had to access water from a public tap
- b. The use of public toilets by residents as most houses do not have toilets
- c. Council not responding well to residents pleas on water cuts
- d. Water and zesa challenges
- e. Improper dumping of waste
- f. Killing of people in the community yet the perpetrators are walking scot free

5. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you are most worried about that could cause the breach of peace?

- a. Looming power harvest and the incoming elections which will cause instability
- b. Elections campaigns as politicians will intimidate people
- c. Peace awareness campaigns
- d. Creation of peace committees that will also ensure people engage in a civilised manner
- e. Neighbourhood watch
- f. Constant engagements with the community
- g. Fair access /distribution of resources
- h. Employment creation

6. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you think can help your community to preserve and enhance peace?

- a. The distribution of food relief and less political unrest including also youth awareness programs to end alcohol and drug abuse
- b. Putting of towerlights to improve on security
- c. Deployment of police in mostly affected areas and remote areas
- d. Commissions like ZHRC to reach out
- e. Closure of shabeens
- f. Educate people about their rights
- g. Road development

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Human Rights	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to stability in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of peace makers eg law enforcers - Religious organisations - Heath institutions - Human Rights awareness - Community resident associations. 	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to the breakdown of peace in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Night clubs - Tribal conflicts - Gold panning - Drug and alcohol abuse - Poverty - Lack of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitation centres for drug abuse within the province. - Creation of projects to reduce unemployment. - Police to patrol during the night to maintain peace re-enforcing of the law by more visible policing.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
		- Stigmatisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community awareness programs. - Establishment of youth friendly centres. - Equality - Grants to sponsor the unemployed.
Corruption	<p><i>Are there factors that are helping you reduce corruption?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zimbabwe anti-corruption commission Social media to circulate pictures and videos of such acts. - Whistle blowers. - Dialogue meetings . 	<p><i>Is corruption a factor in the breakdown of peace in your community /What can you do about it?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, it is for example police taking bribes. - For one to get a residential stand one needs to bribe an official. - Unroadworthy vehicles operating all because they bribe the officials. - Criminals walking Scot free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-corruption authorities should work more efficiently. - Accountability by relevant authorities. - People need to report cases. - Whistle blowers. - Engage relevant authorities. - Capacitate the public to speak out. - Empowerment of women introduce more programs.
Human Resources	<p><i>Are there individuals who are helping make your community better socially, economically, politically?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Church leaders - Business people - Councillors, MPs - Oasis hardware donated cement and paint to schools. 	<p><i>Is your community suffering from brain drain?</i></p> <p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approaching business people to assist if there is need in the community. - Transparency in employment. - Prioritise people from that area.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Politicians assisting the community through projects – chicken rearing and other. 		
Social and Political Relations	<p><i>Comment on the positive state of social relations? E.g do people support each other dealing with social issues?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, during funerals, we see communities coming together and contribution where necessary. - Local business people painting schools. 	<p><i>Comment on the negative state of social relations, eg do people accuse each other of witchcraft? what can you do about it?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discrimination in churches. - People go missing in the community and after they are found dead it is blamed on rituals. - Economic status and competition can lead to accusations of witchcraft and therefore neighbours don't talk to each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbourhood watch. - Capacitate people on ignoring superstitious beliefs. - Unity. - Engage community and religious leaders of there is such a case in the community.
Access to Information	<p><i>Is information readily available in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information is readily available to those with data. - It is available for example there is use of loud speakers (Umajahunda). - Social Media - Posters and community radios stations. 	<p><i>Is lack of information causing instability?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes language barriers. - High data bundle costs. - Poor network challenges. - People become violent after discovering that officials have made decisions without informing them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More community radio stations. - Cheaper print media. - Community meetings to update on developments regularly - Finding cheaper ways of circulating information. - Interpreters. - Reduction of data costs.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propaganda. - False accusations and divisions in the community. 	
Business Environment	<p><i>Are your local businesses contributing to peace building?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, job creation - Goods easily accessible. - Peace in homes because people can easily access basic commodities. - They create employment. - No there is nothing tangible at the moment. 	<p><i>Are your local business contributing to violence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes alcohol sales even through brothels thereby exposing people to drugs. - Building accommodation for prostitutes. - Night clubs contribute to domestic violence and public fights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Night clubs to close early - Engagement with business people where there are issues affecting the community. - Police patrols and neighbourhood watch. - Acceptance of local currency and payment in forex.
Service Delivery	<p><i>Is there good service delivery?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes to a certain extent, water, schools. - There is no efficient service delivery, water problems, refuse is not collected properly. - Councillors not working with the community to ensure the community is safe. 	<p><i>Are your local business contributing to violence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, if refuse is not collected litter is spread everywhere, diseases might be prevalent. - Usage of one toilet by over 400 residents in a community in Gwanda. - Discrimination. - Inconsistent billing by council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve service delivery by local authorities. - Introduce up-to-date billing techniques. - Refurbishment of roads. - Servicing of stands before building.
Resource Distribution	<p><i>Are resources being distributed equitably in your community?</i></p>	<p><i>Is there equal access to resources in your community?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepaid water meters - Fair allocation of resources.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No some communities in Gwanda are better resourced eg better roads, better sanitation. - Some distribution happens through partisanship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, mostly distribution through partisanship. - If you are popular, you get resources. - Corruption by local authorities. - Water shortages in ward 9. - Access to health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusivity - Drilling of boreholes to deal with water shortages in the community. - Transparency and accountability by relevant authorities.
Independent Commissions	<p><i>Are independent commissions or any other government agencies active in preventing violence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No organisation helping in that department. - NGOs say no to violence and offer counselling. 	<p><i>Are independent commissions or any other government agencies causing violence /instability?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes army - The police with their corruption acts of bribery acceptance eg when you have been axed the accused may walk scot free and even beat the victims again without anything being done to the accused. - Government through ZUPCO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish local independent commissions which can include religious leaders. - More engagements to be done by ZACC.

Mwenezi State of Peace Data

1. What do you call peace in your local language? Mwenezi Neshuro Growth point.

- a. Runyararo
- b. Rugare
- c. kugadzikana

2. What is your definition of peace?

- a. Runyararo
- b. Rugare
- c. Kusarwisana munzvimbo
- d. Kusashungurudziwa

3. Name one thing that happened in 2021 that in your opinion in your area contributed the most to maintaining peace in your community.

- a. The community work done by NGOs food distribution
- b. Community meetings by different NGOs

4. Name one thing in your area that contributed to the breakdown of peace in 2021?

- a. Partisan distribution of government inputs and aid by elected officials and traditional leaders
- b. Political victimisation, Mwenezi is a highly charged polarised area.
- c. Breakdown in community income due to covid 19
- d. Drought people fighting for the available little resources
- e. Child marriages due to drought
- f. High council rates, people are failing to pay council bills
- g. Business over charging goods because of the inflation and also the desire to more money

5. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you are most worried about that could cause the breach of peace?

- a. Political violence, elections are near
- b. Lack of disposable income, people can't pay for school fees for their children, hospital bills and buying food for the family
- c. Drought
- d. Crime rate will increase due to lack of employment
- e. Lack of services delivery

6. As we start the year 2022, name one thing that you think can help your community to preserve and enhance peace?

- a. Political tolerance
- b. Respect of human rights
- c. Equal and fair distribution of government aid and inputs
- d. Reduction in council rates and bills
- e. More drought relief from NGOs

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Human Rights	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to stability in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community meetings held by NGOs, Church's, and local CBOs. - Some traditional Leaders are pro-democracy therefore they are helping in the human rights space. 	<p><i>What 3 human rights issues are contributing to the breakdown of peace in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political Intimidation, eg hate speech. - Politization of government aid and resources. - High council rates people can not afford to pay. - Drought. - Unfair food distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perpetrators of political violations to be reported to the chapter 12 commission and the police. - Press statement against political violence to be done - Community to engage Mwenezi Council to communicate with the community before increasing rates. - ZimRights and the community to speak out against unfair food distribution.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Corruption	<p><i>Are there factors that are helping you reduce corruption?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights meetings from different NGOs. - Church preaching about good norms in society. 	<p><i>Is corruption a factor in the breakdown of peace in your community /What can you do about it?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corruption is a problem in Mwenezi, police taking bribes, the local hospital making people to pay for service which should not be paid for. Village leaders abusing the government aid and inputs for political gain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report all those involved in corruption to the police and the anti-corruption commission. - Name and shame via social media all those doing corrupt activities. - Awareness raising meetings against corrupt activities.
Human Resources	<p><i>Are there individuals who are helping make your community better socially, economically, politically?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre democracy NGOs and CBOs. - Some traditional leaders. - Some Church leaders. - Some local business people. - Some MPs - Some councillors 	<p><i>Is your community suffering from brain drain?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, in Mwenezi the youth is going to South Africa in pursuit to greener pastures. - Some are also moving to bigger cities, like Masvingo, Harare , Gweru again for employment and better opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The is need for the government to create an enabling environment for employment creation and better opportunities for people to make money which they can use to upgrade themselves and their communities.
Social and political Relations	<p><i>Comment on the positive state of social relations? E.g do people support each other dealing with social issues?</i></p>	<p><i>Comment on the negative state of social relations, eg do people accuse each other of witchcraft? what can you do about it?</i></p>	<p>There is a need for the communities to be capacitated on the right to religion.</p>

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The social relationships are to a larger extent better as compared to the political relations. - People attend most of the different community gatherings. - The only challenge is the lack of political tolerance among the ruling party members and the opposition members. 	Yes, the issue to do will witchcraft is a major challenge in most if not all rural communities in Zimbabwe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some people feel that if one does not want to attend, the witchcraft cleansing ceremonies they are witches the opposite is also true. - In that regard the is need for ZINATA to hold awareness meetings in the different rural and urban communities speaking about witchcraft.
Access to Information	<p><i>Is information readily available in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information is not readily available in most of these rural community. They relay on information from their elected official and NGOs and CBOs. The danger is that if those sources do not communicate whatever information the Mwenezi community will be in an information blackout. - The Mwenezi community relays on South African Radio and TV station for information. 	<p><i>Is lack of information causing instability?</i></p> <p>Yes, because the community is easily abused and intimidated because they do not have the correct and the current information affecting them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Push the elected officials to go back to their communities and feed back. - Advocate for community Radio and TV stations. - NGOs to share information through different social media platforms Data process to be reduced.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Business Environment	<p><i>Are your local businesses contributing to peace building?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, some employ the locals therefore the aids to employment creation. - Some donate to the local institutions like the police, clinics for better services delivery. - Some fundraise and look after the less privileged 	<p><i>Are your local business contributing to violence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, some shops over charge the community. - Some who run fast foods outlets have been accused of stealing people livestock to boast their businesses. - Some businesses do not accept the local RTGS and the Eco cash money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate business people on the laws of the land. - Report all the businesspeople abusing the rights of the community to the relevant authorities.
Service Delivery	<p><i>Is there good service delivery?</i></p> <p>The services delivery has gone down the drain, bad roads, no water, high council rates, no medicine at clinics and hospital, electricity challenges, poor services by duty bearers, very few school which the community members can't afford to pay school fees.</p>	<p><i>Is service delivery causing problems and instability?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, because if all the listed bad services delivery are not address it will cause problems and instabilities. 	<p>Proposed Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council to provide the required services. - Government to make sure that all the clinics and the hospitals have the proper equipment and the medicine. - Duty bearers to always engage the communities and agreeing on how to resolve their conflicts. - Government to ensure hospitals and clinics have adequate medication. - Construction of schools - Residence and community feedback meetings.

Category	Issues Contributing to Peace	Issues Contributing to Violence	Proposed Actions
Resource Distribution	<p><i>Are resources being distributed equitably in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No most resources are distributed along political lines. One needs to be politically correct to receive government aid and input, - Only the NGOs are distributing their resources fairly through research and information from community leaders. 	<p><i>Is there equal access to resources in your community?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No as previously noted, resources are distributed in partisan lines and some of the inputs go missing due to corruption. - Only NGOs are trying to be fair in their distribution programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is need for the country to come up with laws that punish people who distribute government aid and resources in a partisan manner. - The people distributing government aid or whatever resources should sign a code of conduct which says if they violate it they can be arrested and brought to court and answer to the charges levelled against them. - Government to engage local church leaders and other reputable people to help it in food and aid distribution.
Independent Commissions	<p>Are independent commissions or any other government agencies active in preventing violence?</p> <p>In Mwenezi no government agencies and independent commission are active in the prevention of violence. We only have NGOs like ZimRights doing that role.</p>	<p>ion</p> <p>All those agencies are no present in Mwenezi</p>	<p>Government agencies and chapter 12 commission to visit rural communities like Mwenezi and work actively in preventing violence. Commissions to open district offices for them to easily access the communities. NGOs to keeping working intensively in the rural community in a bid to prevent violence and other forms of conflicts.</p>

About ZimRights

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) is an indigenous non-profit, non-governmental organisation registered under the Private Voluntary Organisation Act. It was formed in 1992 and registered in 1993 for the sole purpose of insuring that Zimbabweans are ensured of their rights as citizens and are equipped and empowered with the knowledge to defend their rights.

