



**Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Alternative Report to the First Periodic Report
of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe Under the
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child**

2023

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACERWC

: African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the
Child

ACRWC	: African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AJ	: Administrative Justice
AMTO	: Assisted Medical Treatment Orders
BEAM	: Basic Education Assistance Module
CHI	: Complaints Handling and Investigations
CSO	: Civic Society Organization
DAC	: Day of the African Child
ECD	: Early Childhood Development
EPRA	: Education, Promotion, Research and Advocacy
GoZ	: Government of Zimbabwe
HRE	: Human Rights Education
MoHCC	: Ministry of Health and Child Care
MPSLSW	: Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
MoPSE	: Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
M&I	: Monitoring and Inspections
NAP for OVC	: National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
NDP	: National Disability Policy
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
NHRI	: National Human Rights Institution
RG	: Registrar General
SI	: Statutory Instrument
TWG s	: Thematic Working Groups
UN	: United Nations
UNICEF	: United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
VFU	: Victim Friendly Unit
ZHRC	: Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
ZIMSTAT	: Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
ZPCS	: Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service
ZRP	: Zimbabwe Republic Police
ZWL	: Zimbabwean Dollar

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the First Alternative Report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC). The report is a product of input from an internal team of experts, multi-stakeholder consultations, child representatives and communities. Since 2016, there has been progress in the alignment of laws and policies affecting children to the Constitution. However, the ZHRC notes that the full implementation of these laws has not been achieved. In addition, progress towards alignment of these laws to the Constitution has been slow.

ZHRC through its Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), monitoring, investigations and public awareness initiatives noted gaps that negatively impact the full enjoyment of children's rights. Some of these gaps include non-alignment of some laws to the Constitution, limited political will, inadequate funding for child related interventions and limited enforcement of laws and policies that seek to protect children. This is due to factors such as a volatile economic environment, the COVID -19 pandemic and harmful religious and cultural practices.

The ZHRC has made a number of recommendations to improve the welfare of children in Zimbabwe. These include child- friendly budgeting, expediting and finalising the alignment of laws to the Constitution, awareness raising on child rights issues, mainstreaming of child rights and policies in government programmes and projects as well as enforcement of the existing laws.

Methodology

For the development of this report, a mixed methods approach was adopted. These included desk, qualitative and quantitative research. Secondary data was collected through review of documents on the situation of children in Zimbabwe from 2017 to June 2023. Primary data was gathered through key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) is the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) for Zimbabwe established in terms of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act of 2013. The ZHRC is one of the Independent Commissions Supporting Democracy as stated in Section 232 (b) of the Constitution. Further, section 242 and 243 of the Constitution provides for the establishment and functions of the ZHRC. The ZHRC is an affiliate member of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee).
- 1.2. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act [Chapter 10:30] is the enabling legislation for the ZHRC. The work of the Commission on Children's Rights is streamlined across the four (4) programme departments namely Complaints Handling and Investigation and Administrative Justice (CHI &AJ), Education, Promotion, Research and Advocacy (EPRA) and Monitoring and Inspections (M&I).
- 1.3. In addition, Paragraph 7 of the First Schedule of the ZHRC Act provides for establishment of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) which include the Children's Rights, Special Interest Groups, Gender Equality and Women's Rights among other TWGs. Section 243 (1) (c) of the Constitution provides that the ZHRC as one of its functions, monitors, assesses and ensures the observance of human rights and freedoms. This involves promotion, monitoring and reporting on the effective implementation of regional and international human rights standards that Zimbabwe is party to.
- 1.4. This Alternative Periodic Report was drafted in a consultative manner involving stakeholders in the TWGs mentioned above and consultations involving communities and children.

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER

The ZHRC commends the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) on the following achievements:

- a) Enactment of the harmonized Marriages Act (Chapter 5:17) of 2022
- b) Amendment of the Guardianship of Minors Act (Chapter 5:08) to align it with the Constitution of Zimbabwe
- c) Amendment of the Education Act (Chapter 25:04) of 2019
- d) Rollout of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (2021) extended to children 12-17 years of age
- e) The launching of the National Disability Policy of 2021
- f) The Mass National Mobile Registration exercise conducted from April-September 2022
- g) Positive Judicial decisions on children's rights e.g.:
 - i. *Mudzuru and Tsopodzi v the Minister of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs [CCZ12/15] which set the age of marriage at 18 years thereby outlawing child marriages .*
 - ii. *S v Chokuramba 2014 [HH 718/14] which abolished corporal punishment as a form of sentencing.*
 - iii. *Kawenda v Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and 2 Others (3 of 2022) [2022] the Court declared sections 70, 76,83 and 86 of the Criminal Law Code which set the age of consent to sexual activities at 16 to be unconstitutional and ordered them to be set aside*

PART II: AREAS OF CONCERN AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General measures of implementation

Recommendation 5:

The ZHRC notes the enactment of the General Laws Amendment Act No.3 of 2016, which sought to align numerous pieces of legislation to the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act 2013. However, these amendments did not make substantive changes to important primary legislation that protect the rights of children such as the Child Justice Bill has taken too long to be enacted into law.

The ZHRC acknowledges the decision in the case of *Kawenda v Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and 2 Others* (3 of 2022) where the Court declared sections 70,

76, 83 and 86 of the Criminal Law Code which set the age of consent to sexual activities at 16 to be unconstitutional and ordered them to be set aside. However, ZHRC notes that the Criminal Law Code needs to be aligned with the Constitution of Zimbabwe in line with the judgement

Recommendations

The ZHRC therefore urges the GoZ;

- a) To prioritise and expedite the enactment of the Child Justice Bill.
- b) To align the Criminal Law Code to the Constitution regarding the age of sexual consent.

Recommendation 6:

The ZHRC notes that children's rights programmes continue to be coordinated by different government ministries; in particular, the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare (Department of Social Development) as well as the Ministry of Health and Child Care, which houses the National Programme for Children. This weakens accountability in the implementation of children's programmes as well as the timeous preparation and submission of state party reports on children's rights.

The ZHRC notes that the National Child Rights Policy is still outstanding

Recommendations

The ZHRC therefore urges the GoZ;

- a) To strengthen coordination of programmes on children's rights by ensuring that they do not straddle across ministries.
- b) To finalise the National Child Rights Policy
- c) To timeously submit State party reports to regional and international treaty bodies, in particular those on children's rights.

Recommendation 8:

The ZHRC acknowledges the support of the GoZ towards the operationalisation and execution of its mandate. However, it has taken too long for the Commission to decentralise so as to be more accessible to the public. As of May 2023; it had only managed to decentralise to four (4) out of ten (10) provinces countrywide, since inception in 2014. Moreover, challenges with manpower started to be addressed in 2023 as the ZHRC continues to receive the least budget amongst other independent commissions.

The ZHRC continues to submit its reports to Parliament through the Executive which impinges on its independence.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To continue to disburse adequate funds to facilitate the process of decentralisation to all provinces.
- b) To amend the ZHRC Act so as to enable the Commission to submit its reports directly to Parliament.

PART III: DEFINITION OF A CHILD (ARTICLE 2)

Recommendations 11, 12 & 13:

The ZHRC acknowledges the efforts of the GoZ in aligning some of its legislation to the Constitution of Zimbabwe and Article 2 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. According to the 2013 Constitution, section 81 a child is, “every boy and girl under the age of 18 years...” In 2022 the GoZ enacted the new Marriages Act [Chapter 5:15], which sets the minimum age for marriage at 18, thereby criminalizing child marriages. However, there is still need to harmonise the definition of the child in all laws including the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act [Chapter 9:23] amongst other pieces of legislation.

The Child Justice Bill is the piece of legislation which proposes to amend the Criminal Law Code to alter the criminal responsibility age from 7 to 12. However, as reported earlier the enactment of the law has taken too long.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To facilitate and expedite the harmonisation of the definition of the child in all pieces of legislation especially the Criminal Law Code.
- b) To expedite enactment of the Child Justice Bill.

PART IV: GENERAL PRINCIPLES (ARTICLE 3, 4, 5 & 26)

Non-Discrimination

Recommendation 14 & 15:

With regards to the principle of non-discrimination, the ZHRC notes the progressive amendment of the Education Act [Chapter 25:04] through the Education Amendment Act Number 15 of 2020, to prohibit corporal punishment, exclusion of pregnant girls from school, expulsion of pupils for non-payment of school fees and levies in public schools. In addition, the law provides for infrastructural developments to accommodate pupils with disabilities. Furthermore, the ZHRC acknowledges the progressive provisions of the Marriages Act towards the abolition of child marriages and raising the statutory age of marriage to 18, in line with the Constitution.

However, there are still challenges in implementation of these laws as noted by ZHRC through its monitoring and public outreach work. For example, dropping out from school by the girl child as a result of societal negative attitudes towards pregnancy whilst still at school; support for corporal punishment and the expulsion of pupils from school for non-payment of school fees. There are still challenges with enforcement of laws concerning ending child marriages and other harmful cultural and religious practices amongst some apostolic religious groups¹. In addition, discrimination on the grounds of economic status still exists as evidenced by the inaccessibility to e-learning facilities for most of the pupils in rural areas and high-density urban suburbs at the height of COVID-19. There is also physical inaccessibility of infrastructure for children with reduced mobility.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To enforce implementation of the amended provisions in the Education Act and the harmonized Marriages Act.
- b) To embark on awareness raising as a way of transforming societal perceptions and attitudes towards corporal punishment and the right to education for pregnant pupils.
- c) To increase funding for school development grants and monitoring of usage of funds
- d) To expedite the completion and adoption of free and compulsory basic education.

The Best interests of the Child**Recommendation 16:**

The ZHRC notes that the Guardianship of Minors Act [Chapter 5:08] was amended to address the issue. The staff attrition and inadequate resourcing of the Department of Social

¹ These include Initiation ceremonies into womanhood and manhood

Development (DSD) continue to hamper the implementation of the principle of the best interest of the child in some administrative and judicial decisions that affect children.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To improve conditions of service for Social workers and avert brain drain.

The Right to Life, Survival and Development

Recommendation 17:

ZHRC acknowledges government efforts to ensure that the rights to life, survival and development of children are upheld. These include programmes that have been implemented such as vaccination programmes against the six child killer diseases² and COVID-19. However, the ZHRC is concerned about the recurrent outbreaks of child killer diseases.

Despite specific dietary provisions for children accompanying³ their mothers in prison ZHRC noted that children in prison often have the same food as their mothers. The implementation of the dietary provisions remains a challenge.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To adequately equip health care facilities, improve the working conditions and remuneration of health care personnel
- b) To adequately fund Social Protection Programmes for children.
- c) To enforce universal immunisation of children as a way of addressing resistance by some apostolic religious groups.

PART V: CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS (ARTICLE 6-10 & 16)

Name and Nationality

Recommendation 21 and 22:

The ZHRC conducted a comprehensive National Inquiry on Access to Documentation in Zimbabwe. This was in response to registration concerns raised at outreaches, monitoring and by way of complaints lodged through the Commission. The inquiry findings established root

² Measles , Poliomyelitis,,Deptheria, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Pertussis

³ Statutory Instrument 60 of 2014

causes of challenges experienced in accessing national civil documents and proffered recommendations to improve citizens' access to national documents. The challenges were worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic that led to scaling down of service delivery by the Civil Registry Department. ZHRC applauds the GoZ for implementing the National Mobile Registration "Blitz" from the 1st of April to the 30th of September 2022 to clear the backlog. This exercise, to a greater extent, increased access to documentation but the challenges still remain.

The High Court ruling in *Tashu vs the Registrar General (2021)* allowing fathers to facilitate registration of birth without the participation of unwilling or uncooperative mothers is a welcome development. However, its operationalisation by the Civil Registry Department depends on the amendment of the Births and Deaths Registration Act to incorporate the new position. The ZHRC also notes the lack of enforcement of Section 27 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, which prescribes penalties for non-compliance with registration. In addition, the limited use of digital platforms to synchronise registration information further frustrates clients in accessing civil registration documents.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To prioritise alignment of the Births and Deaths Registration Act to the Constitution.
- b) To conduct regular mobile registration exercises.
- c) To enforce maximum utilization of digital platforms for registration.

Protection against Abuse and Torture

Recommendation 26:

The ZHRC notes positive developments that occurred in the protection against abuse and torture in Zimbabwe during the reporting period. These include judicial decisions such as:

- a) A landmark ruling given in the case of *Pfungwa and Another v Headmistress of Belvedere Junior Primary School and Others HH 148/17*. An order was granted to outlaw the imposition of corporal punishment and any form of physical punishment to children in schools. Following this ruling, corporal punishment in schools has been abolished through Section 68 A (5) of the Education Amendment Act No 15 of 2020.
- b) In *S v Chokuramba*, the act of judicial corporal punishment was considered to be *ultra vires* Section 51, 53 and 81 of the Constitution.

The ZHRC is concerned with the delays in the enactment of outstanding legislation that ensures the protection of children from abuse and torture such as the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act [Chapter 5:06] and Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act [Chapter 9:23]. Although at judicial level, torture has been prohibited, in practice investigating officers and security personnel are still applying torture to solicit information from children in conflict with the law. The ZHRC noted that although corporal punishment has been outlawed, in practice there are still reports of it being practised in some schools. ⁴

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To finalise the process of enacting the Child Justice Bill.
- b) To train investigation officers and security personnel on modern ways of investigation and inclusion of Social workers when investigating.
- c) To harmonize provisions in legislation in relation to corporal punishment
- d) To strengthen measures to ensure compliance with the provisions prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in schools.

Recommendation 27:

The ZHRC commends the government for setting up Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) within the ZRP crime reporting systems that allows the police to utilise the criminal justice system in a child sensitive manner. Victim Friendly Courts have also been established to cater for the special needs of children in the justice delivery system.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To allocate more resources to VFU systems.
- b) To provide a 24-hour VFU rapid response service
- c) To continuously train and capacitate VFU Officers

PART VI: HEALTH AND WELFARE

Children with Disabilities

Recommendation 34:

⁴ S v Mutero (178/2023) [2023] ZWHHC 178

ZHRC applauds the GoZ for legislative and policy frameworks that address the human rights of Children with Disabilities. The GoZ developed and adopted the National Disability Policy in 2021 which provides for disability mainstreaming and inclusion across all sectors. The government is also providing social protection safety nets for children with disabilities including monthly grants, drought relief, Assisted Medical Treatment Orders and assistive devices.

Despite these positive developments, the ZHRC remains concerned with the following:

- a) Accessibility to public transport and physical environment for Persons with Disabilities.
- b) Delays in the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill affect the alignment of disability issues to the Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- c) Limited awareness and funding for implementation of the NDP.
- d) Inadequate data on the number of children with disabilities. The 2022 Census did not capture data for children with disabilities under the age of five thereby affecting the design and implementation of social protection safety nets.
- e) Complex processes in the procurement of assistive devices

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To expedite the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill
- b) To establish a one stop centre for assessment and provision of assistive devices in order to do away with bureaucracy in the procurement process. To establish local centres for production of assistive devices
- c) To provide adequate funding for implementation of the NDP.
- d) To create a database with statistics on children with disabilities.
- e) To simplify processes in procurement of health assistive devices
- f) To ensure there is timely and adequate disbursement of funding for assisted medical treatment orders (AMTOs).

Health and Services

Recommendations 35, 36, 37 and 38:

ZHRC notes the positive strides that have been made by the GoZ to ensure access to health care services. However, the issue of inadequate resources in public hospitals has remained a huge concern. The GoZ allocated a budget of about 11.3 per cent⁵ of the total National Budget, which is inadequate and falls below the Abuja Declaration where African member states agreed to 15 per cent. There is also an outcry that the allocated funds in the national budget are not disbursed timeously to the public institutions.

The ZHRC acknowledges the efforts made by the GoZ in capacity building of health workers with regards to the management of pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria. However, recently it has been noted that there is an exodus of health workers to other countries in search of greener pastures. This has negatively impacted on service delivery since it negatively affects the health worker to patient ratio.

ZHRC commends the strides being made by the GoZ to reduce child and maternal mortality.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To fully comply with the Abuja Declaration and put internal measures that monitor the disbursement and utilisation of funds.
- b) To enforce participation by all religious groups in the child vaccination programme.
- c) To intensify the monitoring and implementation of humanitarian assistance programmes so that there is equality and non-discrimination.
- d) To enhance training of health care personnel on human rights and disability inclusion.
- e) To decentralise facilities that assist with chronic illnesses such as cancer and subsidise the treatments.
- f) To improve working conditions and remuneration for health care providers.

PART VII: EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Recommendations 39, 40, 41, and 42:

ZHRC acknowledges government programmes which promote the right to education as provided for in section 75 of the Constitution and the efforts on introducing the ‘second chance’ to education for teen mothers. In addition, disadvantaged children have benefitted from the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), school feeding programs and primary healthcare programmes. However, ZHRC notes with concern the following gaps:

⁵ Zimbabwe National Budget 2023.

- a) Parents are not aware of the special BEAM which targets children with disabilities.
- b) The Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) is not benefitting the most disadvantaged children to fulfil the right to Education guaranteed in Section 75 of the Constitution.⁶
- c) The Department of Social Development has the statutory obligation to administer the BEAM programme. However, views from stakeholders during the ZHRC's 2023 1st quarter Children's Rights Thematic Working Group meeting suggested that the BEAM Programme should be a multi-sectoral programme involving inter-ministerial collaboration or an independent mechanism targeting the most vulnerable children for the programme.⁷
- d) Stakeholders in the education sector continue to raise concerns about the increase in the rate of school dropouts due to teen pregnancies, increase in school fees and levies and lack of birth certificates for some children. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened the problem.
- e) School-based social protection measures such as school feeding programmes and primary health care interventions in schools continue to experience funding constraints.
- f) Facilities, infrastructure and curricula in some schools are not fully adapted to adequately address the special needs of learners with mental, physical, sensory and learning disabilities. They do not fully address the full range of disabilities.
- g) Most education centres are losing special needs teachers due to brain drain.
- h) Some public facilities, both government and municipal facilities designed to promote children's right to leisure such as playgrounds, sports fields, youth centres and indoor sporting facilities are dilapidated and in urgent need of rehabilitation to mainstream disability.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To ensure adequate funding and timely disbursement of BEAM funds.
- b) To broaden the scope of the BEAM programme to cover stationery, uniforms and other learning materials.

⁶ Child Rights Advocacy Strategy

⁷ Minutes from 2023 1st Quarter CRTWG meeting held on 31 January 2023

- c) To enforce provisions of the National Disability Policy (NDP) regarding reasonable accommodation for learners with special needs.
- d) To facilitate the rehabilitation of public recreational facilities to promote children's rights.

PART VIII: PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN MOST VULNERABLE SITUATIONS (ARTICLE 13, 22-23 and 25)

Children in Conflict with the Law

Recommendation 44 and 45:

ZHRC commends the GoZ for adopting measures to protect the privacy of children in criminal trials such as concealing the name and identity of an accused child. The trial is concluded in camera.

As reported above, the ZHRC is concerned with the delays in the enactment of the Child Justice Bill which should have the effect of raising the age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 12 years, establishing separate child justice systems for children in conflict with the law and compelling courts to seal all court records involving minors. The Bill was first approved by Cabinet in July 2021 giving it ample time to have been concluded.

ZHRC is further concerned with the detention of children accused of committing crimes in the same remand prison as older people attending trial. Some of these older inmates would be repeat offenders who may hamper rehabilitative efforts. Some of the conditions in the remand prisons are also improper for young children as there is often overcrowding which fuels the spreading of diseases and other challenges.⁸

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To prioritize and expedite the enactment of the Child Justice Bill.
- b) To prioritize budget allocations towards building prisons which are in line with the Mandela Rules so as to separate juveniles from adult inmates.
- c) To encourage alternative methods to juvenile detention.

Children of Imprisoned Mothers and Care givers

⁸ Shurugwi M&I Prison Report (attached)

Recommendation 46:

ZHRC commends the government for setting up the Marondera Female Prison which ensures that children accompanying their mothers in prison are well taken care of. A Statutory Instrument on the Dietary Scale for Children accompanying their mothers in prison has also been introduced and it is being adhered to in the open prison. The ZHRC however, notes with concern that implementation of the SI in other prisons remains a challenge due to lack of funding. Furthermore, the ZHRC noted that children accompanying their mothers stay longer than the stipulated 2 years which exposes them to adverse prison conditions.

Recommendations

The ZHRC urges the GoZ;

- a) To increase funding to the ZPCS to enable them to provide a conducive environment in line with international standards for children accompanying their mothers in prison.
- b) To establish more female open prisons in Zimbabwe
- c) To ensure that Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services engages the DSD on the removal of children above 2 years to guardians or residential care centres.

Sexual Exploitation and Child Abuse**Recommendation 48:**

As reported earlier, the ZHRC acknowledges the outlawing of child marriages in the harmonised Marriages Act which set the legal age of marital consent to 18, bringing it in line with Section 78 of the Constitution. The ZHRC further acknowledges the criminalisation of sexual acts against children by some provisions of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. However, ZHRC notes that some apostolic group continue to sexually abuse children with impunity. Moreover, there are still gaps in law as the Criminal Code still needs to be amended to raise the legal age of sexual consent to 18 and bring it in agreement with the Constitution and harmonised Marriages Act.

Recommendations

The ZHRC therefore urges the GoZ;

- a) To align the Criminal Law Code to the Constitution regarding the age of sexual consent.
- b) To effectively enforce laws against child labour and sexual exploitation of children.
- c) To ensure that there is mandatory minimum sentence for perpetrators of child abuse.

- d) To strengthen its inspection mechanism regarding the ages of those employed by private individuals.

PART X: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHILD (ARTICLE 31)

Recommendation 50:

The ZHRC acknowledge the efforts of government in incorporating children's rights and responsibilities in the new education curriculum. The ZHRC has been complementing the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in integrating Human Rights Education in schools through jointly developing the strategy on human rights education in schools, supporting human rights-based quiz competitions in schools and developing guidelines for human rights school clubs.⁹ In all these efforts emphasis was placed on rights and responsibilities of children.

Recommendations

The ZHRC therefore urges the GoZ;

- a) To raise awareness on the responsibilities of the child as enshrined in the African Charter.

Conclusion

The ZHRC applauds the significant strides made by the Government to uphold fundamental rights and freedoms of the child through the adoption of progressive legislative and administrative measures. However, it is worth noting that the monitoring, resourcing and reviewing of some policies and legislation are still lagging behind. ZHRC urges the GoZ to report timeously on progress made in implementation of ACRWC.

⁹ Education, Promotion, Research and Advocacy (EPRA) Strategy on Integration of HRE in schools 2023, Child Rights Advocacy Strategy 2023 and the Brochure on Child Rights 2023.