



ZNCWC News Letter

Karumazondo Outdoor Centre Child and Youth Led Groups Conference

ZNCWC with the support of TDH, Save the Children, RNYCPT and other partners successfully held an eight day national conference for child and youth led or organisations in Marondera. The conference was a follow up of the April conference at which the zero draft was drafted. This conference aim to draft the First draft in the process that would culminate with the final draft that would be sent to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERW). This conference was getting the participants one step closer to making the final draft that would be sent to the committee of experts. The first draft would be key in the process of making the final draft.

The conference was also a chance to teach the groups about and enhance their knowledge of child rights and this was the focus of the first



LOOKING BACK TO
LOOK AHEAD
THE STATUS OF
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
IN ZIMBABWE

#ZNCWC@50

ZNCWC Celebrates Golden Jubilee

Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children hosted an awards night on the 12th of April 2018 at Holiday Inn to commemorate its 50th anniversary. The event ran under the theme "Looking Back to look ahead: the status of Children's Rights in Zimbabwe. Approximately 200 delegates including CRNSA members from South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia and Kenya attended the event. The

objectives of the awards night were to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization's existence; examine how ZNCWC seeks to address the threat of child rights violations in the country; establish the relationship of the organization and its partners in achieving the objectives set out in the SDGs; identify and evaluate the present state of child rights and their violations in the context of Agenda 2030 and to highlight ZNCWC's achievements in the

last 50 years of existence. The former Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Petronella Kagonye officiated the event. She was accompanied by other government officials from the ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Various organisations, corporates, media partners and ZNCWC staff were awarded for their unwavering support to ZNCWC to ensure the fulfilment and promotion of Children's Rights in Zimbabwe



ZNCWC

Strengthening Civil Society's Role in demanding for the protection and promotion of children's Right in Zimbabwe Project Kicks off

VZNCWC is implementing a n I M S w e d i s h Development funded project in M a s h o n a l a n d , Manicaland and Masvingo regions. The project kicked off in July 2018 and will come to an end in December 2018 with high hopes of attaining another 2year grant 2019-2020. The project seeks to strengthen child rights civil society organizations to effectively advocate for the rights of children in a c o o r d i n a t e d and collaborative manner that ensures consolidation of children's rights issues. This is in line with IM Swedish Development Partner's strategy for the Zimbabwe Program, which seeks to empower marginalized groups in communities, particularly women, girls, children and youth, to have access and become aware of their rights. So far, the p r o j e c t c o v e r s Mashonaland, Manicaland and Masvingo regions in Z i m b a b w e . Issues affecting rchildren in the regions have been identified and CSOs have come up with a road map to address the key issues.



session.

The sessions then moved on to the presentation of data gathered by the child and youth led groups from their communities. The groups presented on numerous issues and child rights violations in their communities and the most common issues raised include:

- Child labour
- Sexual exploitation
- Early child marriages
- Harmful cultural and religious practices
- Parental protection
- Right to leisure
- Nationality and identity

After these presentations the AY were then tasked with choosing 2 representatives from each group who would help in compiling the first draft report. They would be assisted in the discussion by 4 facilitators who would help them in the general discussions and guide them through the requirements of the report and making sure they understood what was being

required of them. They were however, going to choose the issues and examples they would use in the report on their own.

The conference was a success as the first draft was compiled and the children and youths drew a step closer to compiling their final report.

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ZNCWC Hosts a National Child Rights Coalition Conference

The Child rights coalition through coordination of ZNCWC successfully held a national child rights conference on the 10th and 11th of October 2018 at Golden Peacock Hotel in Mutare. The conference ran under the theme "Leave No Child Behind for Zimbabwe's Development." The following are the key issues that came out of the conference:

- No clear priority of Children on national budget. Absence of Child friendly Budgeting (allocation of adequate resource, disbursement, monitoring mechanism),
- Lack of alignment of laws (Children's Act, Marriages Act, Customary Marriages Act, Criminal

Law (Codification and Reform Act),

- Child Rights Policy (Lack of coordination, collaboration among ministries),
- Child Participation (are children really participating? are they effectively engaging with the parliament? Where are other groups of children e.g children living with disabilities, children in alternative care and children living in the streets?)
- Very low and declining rates of Birth registration, existence of legal and administrative barriers, harmonisation of births and registration act)
- Definition of Child, (Contradiction

of various laws, corporal punishment (what are the realities on the ground)

- Disability (special protection and needs),
- Education- shortage of school, shortage of books
- Children in conflict with the law (Justice Bill, children of imprisoned mothers,
- Child Marriages
- Children on the move
- Sexual exploitation of Children. Children in sec in Southern Africa including Zimbabwe are highly vulnerable to HIV
- Government's position in terms of implementing the COR is not clear

ZNCWC joins the world in commemorating 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

The Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) joined Zimbabwe during the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children. This year the campaign ran under the theme "End Gender Based Violence in the World of Work!" This is the time to put collective efforts to safeguard our society against this cycle of abuse. To mark the commemorations, ZNCWC in partnership with Plan International Zimbabwe had a breakfast meeting with honorable members of parliament as well as a Public Indaba with Zimbabwe Republic Police to lobby for safer cities for women and girls. The Public Indaba was graced by Senior Assistant Commissioner Charity Charamba and Assistant Commissioner Bonyongwe in charge of the Victim Friendly Unit. Concerns on violence in public spaces were raised so that these decision makers could take action to ensure safer cities for women and girls.

BMZ Project Kicks off

ZNCWC in partnership with Plan International Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Association is implementing a BMZ project entitled "Child Participation and Disability Inclusion". The project is being implemented in 8 wards, 6 rural comprising of Silobela (Msokeli- Ward 25, Batanai- Ward 18 and Inhlangano- Ward 28; Zhombe (Tongogara- Ward 12, Gwesela West- Ward 9 and Zhombe Central- 10) and 2 urban in Redcliff comprising of Rutendo and Torwood of Kwekwe District. The target group is composed of three sub-groups. The first group are 1200 girls and 900 boys (5% children with disabilities) at 13 secondary schools, which are active in junior assemblies, school clubs or junior parliamentarians, as well as 26 mentors from the teaching body, school directors and 3 District Education officers. The second group are 15 local CSOs. The third group are 30 parents of children with

disabilities and 40 community volunteers that work in awareness raising for disabilities in the communities. A focus of the project is the networking and interaction of these three groups. Indirect target group: As a crosscutting measure, the project will interact with 20 political decision makers from the respective ministries (education, health, social welfare and justice) and local authorities. Overall on top of the 2100 children and youth that are active in different school platforms another 3900 school children (total of 6000) and teachers at the 13 schools will benefit indirectly through the project. More than 22 000 people will be reached through local awareness rising campaigns in the communities and through activities example 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)' and Day of the African Child commemorations.



Director's Note

The Child Rights Sector grew tremendously in 2018. Government is beginning to address the alignment of Children's laws that we have been advocating for all along. 2019 is the year of reporting to the African Charter so let's all work together. I will wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2019

Upcoming Events

- **Child Rights Coalition Conference.**

Masvingo Venue to be announced

- **Commemorations of the Day of the African Child.**

Venue to be announced.

- **Child Rights Coalition Quarterly Meetings.**

Venue to be announced.

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