



PRESS STATEMENT TO COMMEMORATE AFRICA HUMAN RIGHTS DAY (AHRD) ON 21 OCTOBER 2025

1. Today, 21 October 2025, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) joins the African continent in commemorating Africa Human Rights Day (AHRD). AHRD is observed annually on 21 October by member States of the African Union (AU) to celebrate the coming into force of the **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)** in 1986 after adoption by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now the AU, yet the day goes unnoticed.
2. The ACHPR is a landmark legal instrument because it is the founding treaty of the African Human Rights System. In that regard, the ACHPR is Africa's Bill of Rights outlining the fundamental rights and freedoms that African States must protect, promote and safeguard.
3. To change the silence around the day, in March 2025, the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Ms. Fungai Jessie Majome successfully lobbied with the Network for National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) Steering Committee for member states of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) to accord more prominence than before to the observance of Africa Human Rights Day. In May 2025, the ZHRC Chairperson took the motion to the meeting of the African Commission on Human and People (ACHPR).
4. AHRD commemorations celebrate the uniqueness of African human rights principles grounded in African values and customs that uphold not only individual rights but collective or group rights as well as duties and responsibilities of every person in indigenous African contexts.
5. The theme for AHRD 2025 is **"Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations"**. The theme underscores the AU's enduring desire and push to ensure historical injustices suffered by Africans and people of African descent under slavery, colonialism, imperialism, apartheid and systemic discrimination are remedied through reparatory justice.

6. In Zimbabwe, the 2025 AHRD theme resonates with ongoing efforts to address historical injustices and imbalances in governance, ownership of natural resources and enjoyment of human rights for all Zimbabweans.
7. ZHRC commends the Government of Zimbabwe for implementing the rights provided for in the ACHPR and other human rights treaties by incorporating most of them in the Declaration of Rights which is Chapter 4 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe as well as in national laws and policies. More recently in 2024, the Government of Zimbabwe ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security in 2022.
8. ZHRC therefore calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to safeguard the Constitution which is the Supreme law of the land that provides an effective framework for democratic governance, the rule of law and protection of human rights. Furthermore, ZHRC reaffirms its commitment to the principles enshrined in the ACHPR and calls for collective action to ensure that justice is accessible to all as the struggle for reparatory justice is a shared responsibility.

ZHRC CONTACT DETAILS:

Harare Head Office

144 Samora Machel Ave
Harare
P. Bag 7759 Causeway
[Tel: +263 242 703 569/701 811](tel:+263242703569701811)
Email: info@zhrc.org.zw
Website: www.zhrc.org.zw
Facebook Page: @zhrc.zw
Twitter: @zhrc365
Hotline: +263 77 183 8656/771838654

Bulawayo Office

Number 46 Park Road
Suburbs
Bulawayo
Tel: +263 292 232 205
+263 292 230 825
+263 292 232 207
Hotline +263 78 005 1684

Manicaland Province Office

5 Arcadia Road, Morning Side
Mutare
Hotline: +263 71 963 5068
Tel: +263 202 021 628/+263 202 021
753/ +263 202 021 855/+263 202 021
697/+263 202 060 030

Masvingo Province Office

9 Shuvai Mahofa/ Hellet Street
Masvingo
Tel: +263 292 618 14
+263 78 250 9152
+263 78 350 9185

**Matabeleland North Province
Office**

Lubhancho House

F35/36 Lwendulu

Number One

Hwange

Tel: +263 8128 29431

Hotline: +263 77 183 8685

**Mashonaland West
Province Office**

Office 24, Block Number 2

Chinese Complex

Chinhoyi

Hotline: +263 77 183 8656