

What is the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission?

- ❖ The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) is an independent commission created to curb the violation of human rights according to the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of Zimbabwe and thus protect to the sovereignty and interests of the people. It is established in terms of Chapter 12, Part 3 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

When and how was it established?

- ❖ The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission members were sworn in on the 24th of February 2016 by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The establishment of ZHRC is conducted in accordance to the Constitution of Zimbabwe which outlines ZHRC's powers, functions and objectives.

What are the functions of ZHRC?

- ❖ Section 243 of the Constitution stipulates that ZHRC has the following functions;
 - a) to promote awareness of and respect for human rights and freedom at all levels of society;
 - b) to promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights of human rights and freedoms;
 - c) to monitor, asses and ensure observance of human rights and freedoms;
 - d) to receive and consider complaints from the public and to take such action in regard to the complaints as the Commission considers appropriate;
 - e) to protect the public against abuse of power and maladministration by State and public institutions and by officers of those institutions;
 - f) to investigate the conduct of any authority or person, where it is alleged that any of the human rights and freedoms set out in the Declaration of Rights has been violated by any that authority or person;
 - g) to secure appropriate redress, including recommending the prosecution of offenders, where human rights or freedoms have been violated;
 - h) to direct the Commissioner-General of Police to investigate cases of suspected corruption and to report to the Commission on the results of any such investigation;
 - i) to recommend to Parliament effective measures to promote human rights and freedoms;
 - j) to conduct research into issues relating to human rights and freedoms and social justice; and
 - k) to visit and inspect-
 - I. prisons, places of detention, refugee camps and related facilities; and
 - II. places where mentally disordered or intellectually handicapped persons are detained; In order to ascertain the conditions under which persons are kept there, and to make recommendations regarding those conditions to the Minister responsible for administering the law relating to those places.

Does the ZHRC collaborate with other agencies or institutions?

- ❖ Yes, 243 (1)(h) of the Constitution stipulates that, one of ZHRC's functions is to direct the Commissioner General of the Police to investigate suspected criminal violations of human rights or freedoms and to report to the Commission on results of any such investigation. S 243 (1)(i) recommends collaboration with the Parliament as well as prisons and other similar detention facilities.



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Who can report to the ZHRC?

- ❖ Any person or organisation (the Public) can report to the ZHRC as long as it is a case of the violation of human rights and freedoms

Where can they be located?

- ❖ 144 Samora Machel Avenue

Harare

www.zhrc.org.zw

: (04) 251077 /251079 /251085 /701811 /703596

How can we, as citizens benefit from a Human Rights Commission?

- ❖ An independent and strengthened Anti-Corruption Commission provides a platform for citizens of Zimbabwe to report allegations of human rights violations and receive redress thereof.
- ❖ The existence of an Anti-Corruption Commission can ensure that the Declaration of Rights is upheld thereby promoting the rule of law and enabling the economic and social development of the country.

Is there a link between corruption and human rights and does Zimbabwe really need a Human Rights Commission?

- ❖ Yes, the fight against corruption is a major challenge to human development as corruption fuels inequalities, increases poverty and undermines fair access to socio-economic services whilst violating attendant human rights. As a result Zimbabwe needs a functional, independent Anti-Corruption Commission to close this gap. Such a body working hand in hand with the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) can not only ensure the prevention of corruption but it can also promote the attainment of human rights and freedoms.

TIZ is a research based organisation, its broad mandate is to fight corruption and related vices through networks of integrity in line with the Global Strategy. TIZ believes corruption can only be sufficiently tackled by all citizens including people at grass root level. TIZ does this through lobbying for anti-corruption policies and legislation, providing free legal aid services to victims and witnesses of corruption-related cases and advocacy.

For more information and Legal Advice



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