



Pakasipiti Zimbabwe

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Pakasipiti is an organization committed to promoting a Zimbabwean LBT community that enjoys equality and visibility.



Hands of Hope Organization

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Hands of Hope is an LGBTI led organization which evolved from being a support group to improving the quality of life of key populations through facilitating access to health and other services.



Afrika Kiburi

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Pivoted on Aspiration number 6 of the African Union, Afrika Kiburi is posed as a movement to amplify the voices of women and youth in the achievement of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Zimbabwe Autonomy Collective

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The Zimbabwe Autonomy Collective is a national platform that consists of individuals and organisations that identify as LBQ in Zimbabwe and is premised on feminist ideology, seeking too address issues of bodily autonomy through advocacy, SRHR awareness

Keywords: criminalisation of SOGIE; bodily integrity; self-determination; violence against women; women human rights defenders; sexual orientation, gender Identity and expression; sexual and reproductive health and rights

Executive summary

1. This report has been jointly prepared by Pakasipiti, Hands of Hope, The Zimbabwe Autonomy Collective, and Africa Kiburi on behalf of the Zimbabwe lesbian, bisexual and queer women (LBQ) community. It seeks to highlight the existing and ongoing barriers to the attainment and enjoyment of human rights by LBQ due to restrictive and punitive laws and policies in Zimbabwe. It also outlines Zimbabwe's responsibility to the provision and protection of rights through various national and international mechanisms, including the previous cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the relevant recommendations.
2. The Constitution of Zimbabwe guarantees enjoyment of human rights and freedoms on the principle of equality of all Zimbabweans before the law. This is reinforced through the ratification of The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women: the Government of Zimbabwe has committed to protect and safeguard the rights of all women. However, LBQ women are still disenfranchised when it comes to fulfilling their social, economic, and cultural rights.
3. Social and religious prejudice exclude diverse sexualities by labeling them as un-African and against the teachings of religion. Since both religion and culture inform the values and attitudes of Zimbabwean society, marginalised women and LGBTIQ persons find themselves excluded socially, culturally, religiously, economically, and politically – and face stigma and violence. LGBTIQ persons are forced out of school, dismissed from workplaces, evicted from places of accommodation or shelter, endure forced migration, internal displacement, arbitrary monitoring, surveillance, search, arrest and detention, physical and mental abuse, torture and rape because of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
4. Though the current legislative framework under the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform Act (Chapter 9:23)¹ does not criminalize women who have sex with other women, it does not remove the threat of women being arrested and detained by police for acts they label as 'indecent'. LBQ persons are often detained and released without proper documentation of the arrest or notice of the actual crime committed other than the discretion of the arresting officer. LGBTIQ persons generally live in fear, and they accept these arrests and detentions without seeking redress thereafter. Similarly, the criminalisation of sex work leads to arbitrary arrests and detentions for loitering and solicitation. Experiences of criminalisation by both LGBTIQ persons and sex workers show a clear example of how consensual sexual activities of marginalised communities come under scrutiny and denies them the right to personal liberty and equality before the law. Arrests and unlawful detentions are designed to act as a deterrent to homosexuality and sex work. The impacts of these violations are multiple and complex including social exclusion and isolation; physical, emotional, and mental trauma; lack of access to basic socio-economic rights such as food, shelter, work, education and health. The media also plays a big role in pushing hate language, stigma and discrimination.
5. Sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions are inextricably connected to class, race, geography, age, gender, sexuality, and disability. As such, we make links between civil and political rights and social and economic rights, and ensure that solidarity and collective action across movements are built in recognition of the common oppressions faced by those of us on the margins. There is a crisis based on the rights to bodily autonomy, freedom, dignity and equality and the body is a key site of struggle and power in this crisis. Hence, we are concerned about the realities of sex

¹ <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4c45b64c2.pdf>

workers, women and other people living with HIV, young women's sexuality [age of consent issues] and sexual exploitation [e.g., through forced marriage].

Equality and Non-discrimination

6. In the previous UPR cycle, Zimbabwe rejected all 11 recommendations related to equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression including:
 - Prohibit discrimination against persons because of their real or imputed sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and ensure adequate protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, sex workers, and other marginalized groups (Canada)
 - Adopt urgent measures to make progress on the elimination of all forms of discrimination, stigmatization and violence against people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity and to promote the respect of the rights of all persons by society (Chile)
 - Enhance efforts to promote gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination, including those on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy).
 - Make progress, both at the legislative level and in practice, in ensuring the rights and fundamental freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Argentina)
 - Take measures to prevent and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by decriminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Brazil)
 - Eliminate discrimination, stigmatization and violence against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity and, through public dialogue, promote tolerance and a culture of non-discrimination (Czechia)
 - Adopt measures to prevent discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, both by State officials and non-State actors, and allow the change of gender markers on government-issued documentation (Israel)
7. At the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2018, when asked for his position on LGBTQ rights, President E.D Mnangagwa responded that LGBTQ groups were free to advocate and lobby for their rights. Due to this, LGBTQ advocacy groups have seen a slight shift in the operating environment, and CSO spaces have opened up to being tolerant and inclusive, leading to some collaborative efforts in their programming.
8. However, stigma, discrimination and violence against marginalised women and LBQ persons in Zimbabwe continues to persist especially for those who are "masculine presenting". While "feminine presenting" people are sometimes arrested, it is often because they were in the company of "masculine presenting" individuals. LBQ persons have expressed that they suffer from public humiliation and verbal attacks because of their appearance or their perceived orientation, especially in public places. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only fueled public violence, but newly implemented regulations have also caused LBQ persons to lose their source of income, employment and housing and shelter, LBQ persons, and women working in the informal sector have lost all sources of income. While Section 56:1-3 of the constitution states that all persons are equal before the law, it offers no protection towards the moral basis of which gay people are discriminated against in both the informal and formal sector; as experienced by LBQ persons who have lost employment or harassed at their work places.
9. The current context in Zimbabwe is characterised by poverty, unstable fiscal policies, religious fundamentalisms, culture and traditional norms that perpetuate stigma and discrimination against women generally and LBQ persons in particular. This is also fueled by the existence of the Criminal

Law (Codification and Reform Act)² chapter 4, part 3 section 73. This is interpreted to mean that any acts deemed homosexual, linked to sex work or “indecent” by law enforcement agents will be considered illegal, giving way for law enforcement agents to arrest, harass and detain LBQ persons at will on real or perceived sexual orientation and in places of informal trade, abuse and harassment can be reported without fear from the violated party. These vague stances on the rights of Zimbabweans based on sexual orientation perpetuate violence against LGBTQ persons.

10. The lack of human rights public education and clear definition of individual rights is a barrier in accessing justice through public mechanisms such as reporting to the police if an LBQ person has been assaulted or harassed. In the case of Kudakwashe Bhasopo³, in the article she is placed as an immoral abuser who forced herself on another woman shows evidence of the fear⁴ in which LBQ persons exist. The fact that the article was premised on the violation of her privacy rights was not addressed even after the article was published. Without resources for private legal representation, most LBQ persons find themselves at the mercy and discretion of the law enforcers and a dysfunctional justice system.
11. There is selective application of the law and the judicial system is severely compromised by state influence. Recently, activists and human rights defenders have been arrested for demonstrating and calling for release of detained activists being held for prolonged periods without fair trial. The cases of Hopewell Chin’ono, Tsitsi Dangarembga and Fadzayi Mahere highlight these injustices. There are limited safe spaces for women in general, and marginalised women and LBQ people in particular to participate in political processes. The existing spaces thrive on ableist, homophobic⁵, sexist and misogynistic rhetoric, which attracts public outcries against LBQ persons on the basis of morality and western influence; dismissing and ignoring the calls from women and LGBTQ persons who are fighting for human rights, using stigma, discrimination and violence to gain political mileage. There have been direct homophobic attacks on human rights defenders who openly challenge and speak out on equality on social media platforms, particularly on Twitter, a space which is widely used for political discussions in the country. The Twitter space has become a battle ground for state supporters who oppose divergent views to those of the state, further closing constructive discussions on issues of national development. In the case of Fadzayi Mahere and the Twitter thread that directly attacked her around her position on the law and homosexuality,⁶ issues of morality came up including the fact the government has never supported the homosexual agenda.
12. Gendered violence in political spaces is characterised by abductions, torture and being ridiculed. This has been widely reported on by the media and confirmed by women who sit in the upper house through the proportional representation quota system⁷.
13. Militarisation through the presence of armed soldiers and law enforcement personnel. and the continued existence of roadblocks within the country has increased the vulnerability of women and LBQ persons. The COVID- 19 pandemic has exacerbated violence, intimidation and harassment toward marginalised women and LBQ persons due to travel and movement restrictions.. Producing identity documents at check points has caused a risk /threat to transgender persons particularly if one presents differently from their identity documents.either are they keen to protect LBQ citizens from

² <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4c45b64c2.pdf>

³ <https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-107046.html>

⁴ <https://genderlinks.org.za/news/zimbabwe-gays-living-openly-despite-homophobia/>

⁵ <https://iharare.com/lasizwe-stands-with-zimbabwe-but-attacked-in-return/>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/advocatamahere/status/1044222853137207297?lang=en>

⁷ <https://www.zimlive.com/2020/06/11/zimbabwe-re-arrests-mdc-three-accuses-them-of-faking-abduction-torture/>

violence, stigma and discrimination regardless of that fact that the person's life might be under threat. In most instances at these checkpoints, they are the aggressors.

Recommendations

14. Under section 56:3 of the Constitution, broadened the listed protective grounds to include non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) based on real or perceived sexual orientation⁸. The definition should be expanded on all policy documents to include equality on the basis of SOGIES.

Freedom of association, expression and assembly

15. In the previous UPR cycle, Zimbabwe accepted all recommendations related to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of association, including:
 - Repeal and amend legislation that infringes on the right to freedom of expression in line with the international obligations and Constitution of Zimbabwe, such as the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act and the Public Order and Security Act (New Zealand)
 - End human rights violations and abuses against civil society, the media and political opposition; repeal the ban on public demonstrations; and ensure individuals are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, free from intimidation and harassment (Canada)
 - Ensure that upcoming legislation will not limit citizens' rights to engage in free and private exchanges of information on social media (Norway)
 - Review and update the Public Order and Security Act and the Private Voluntary Organizations Act to be in line with international human rights standards (Norway)
 - Ensure that its legislation is in line with the new Constitution and the rights concerning freedom of expression and freedom of media therein, repeal the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Public Order and Security Act, and license independent broadcasters (Sweden)
 - Continue its efforts in enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials in the field of the rule of law and human rights through increasing training activities (Libya)
16. These accepted recommendations have only been partially implemented. The new Freedom Of Information Bill⁹ was signed into law on 1st July 2020. There was also the enactment of the Zimbabwe Media Commission Act¹⁰ in April 2021 which led to the establishment of the Zimbabwe Media Commission through Constitutional Amendment 19 of 2009 and the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Bill of 2019. While these steps are meant to be progressive, they in fact have not changed and maintain the violation of people's right to information, freedom of assembly and association and government control over people and spaces. The lack of enforcement of media regulations allows the media to report biased, prejudicial information concerning women and marginalised groups including LGBTQ people.
17. Freedom of association continues to be under threat, impacting not only civil society organisations , but all human rights defenders, due to proposed constitutional amendments to the Private Voluntary

⁸ <https://www.hmetro.co.zw/soldier-in-gay-storm/#:~:text=A%20FEMALE%20soldier%20is%20reportedly,leaking%20of%20their%20WhatsApp%20conversations.>

⁹ <http://www.theopc.gov.zw/index.php/566-aippa-scraped-new-freedom-of-information-bill-signed-into-law>

¹⁰ <https://misa.org/blog/analysis-of-the-newly-enacted-zimbabwe-media-commission-act/>

Organisation (PVO) Act and the Patriotic bill¹¹, in continued efforts to systematically close CSO spaces¹². Proposed amendments which give the Minister powers to pass regulations to designate any CSO they deems to be high risk or vulnerable to be misused for purposes of funding terrorism, terrorist organizations or terrorist causes; are controlling and monitor CSOs operations which pose a security threat to CSO's¹³. Changes to fiscal policies have also hindered CSOs from receiving funding for programmatic and operational work.¹⁴

18. In 2019, a large number of HRDs were arrested, mostly women,¹⁵ on charges of treason after they had returned from a training for non-violent action and strategies in the Maldives. This was facilitated through the application of a combination of colonial and post-independence laws such as Maintenance of Peace and Order Act (MOPA)¹⁶ and Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA)¹⁷ which succeeded the Public Order and Security Act (POSA).¹⁸ These laws impact the existence and the autonomy of the work of human rights defenders.
19. There are high levels of abuse by state and non-state actors after public/ private expression of differing political views and/or criticism of the government. The mandate of the proposed Patriot Bill is to promote and guard the countries national interests through criminalising acts that campaign against Zimbabwe, in particular, "prohibits any Zimbabwean citizen from wilfully communicating messages intended to harm the image and reputation of the country on international platforms or engaging with foreign countries with the intention of communicating messages intended to harm the country's positive image and/or to undermine its integrity and reputation"¹⁹. The Patriot Bill will further shrink civil society space and control media content. An analysis of the bill by MISA Zimbabwe further clarifies that a campaign like the previous #ZimbabweanlivesMatter would have been politicised and interpreted as sanctioned illegal conduct intended as a campaign to undermine the country's reputation²⁰.
20. Public gatherings and peaceful demonstrations have been restricted under the guise of protecting public safety and national interest. In the past, acts such as the Public Order and Security Act required that all gatherings be approved through notification to the police. The onset of COVID-19 however, created an opportune environment for this enforcement,²¹ contradicting the constitutional provisions on the freedom to assemble and demonstrate. In some cases this has also led to the countrywide shutdown of the internet. The state has used the COVID-19 situation to close civil society spaces²². In a letter to all NGOs, the Provincial Development Coordinator of Harare Province told all the Directors of NGOs to pay him a courtesy visit as well as provide him with work plans and monthly reports so as

¹¹ <https://www.humanrightspulse.com/mastercontentblog/the-patriot-bill-a-threat-to-freedom-of-expression>

¹² <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/govt-cracks-whip-on-ngos-demands-monthly-reports-on-activities/>

¹³ <https://www.crisisim.org/post/civil-society-consults-on-the-new-government-order-to-restrict-ngo-operations>

¹⁴ <http://veritaszim.net/node/3461>

¹⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr46/0450/2019/en/>

¹⁶ Maintenance of Peace & Order Act - http://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/maintenance%20of%20peace%20bill.pdf

¹⁷ Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act - <https://www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/publications/zimbabwe-aippa-report.pdf>

¹⁸ POSA- <https://zimlil.org/zw/legislation/num-act/2002/1/Public%20Order%20and%20Security%20Act.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/04/mnangagwas-proposed-patriotic-bill-whither-zimbabwe-at-41/>

²⁰ <https://zimbabwe.misa.org/2020/10/14/zimbabwes-looming-patriot-bill-cause-for-great-concern/>

²¹ <https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/06/covid-raises-stakes-zimbabwes-civil-society-movement>

²² <https://www.crisisim.org/post/civil-society-consults-on-the-new-government-order-to-restrict-ngo-operations>

to ensure that the NGOs are not in breach of their MOUs.

21. The Cyber Security and Data Protection Bill⁶ which is vague in nature as to what constitutes a violation, has seen the infringing on the rights to privacy and expression in the virtual spaces. The Cyber security and Data Protection Bill²³ should clarify how data is collected and shared and how the state will have access to said data, also the legislative policies and guidelines must be adopted to guide the acquisition of, transfer and storage of data in Zimbabwe. However the bill fails to provide data subject rights and data retention periods and that these will not be under the control of the national data center. The bill further compromises protection against state and does not set parameters for redress in the event of privacy infringement.

Recommendations

22. Mandate human rights training for law enforcement, especially on the current human rights violations and protection mechanisms.
23. Expand Constitutional provisions on the freedom of expression, assembly and association to ensure protection for LGBTI persons. Investigate and address violence and arbitrary arrests and detention by law enforcement.
24. Amend laws and policies to ensure independent media, and establish independent media monitoring mechanisms and bodies .

Gender-Based Violence

25. During the previous UPR cycle, Zimbabwe accepted all 6 recommendations related to discrimination against women, including:
- Continue efforts to strengthen gender equality (Syrian Arab Republic)
 - Ensure more effective enforcement of policies and legislation to address discrimination against and marginalization of women, and take measures to promote equal access for boys and girls to basic education (Thailand)
 - Continue taking legislative action to eliminate the marginalization of women from socioeconomic and political spheres and strengthen mechanisms for protection against gender-based violence (Maldives)
 - Continue to address the marginalization and exclusion of women in the economic, social and political spheres, with special attention paid to eliminating the harmful practice of child marriage (Republic of Korea)
26. The accepted recommendations have only been partially implemented. Through the First Lady's office, the Government has set up several initiatives such as the national GBV response hotline²⁴ to help with the fight against GBV.²⁵ Through the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Zimbabwe joined the Spotlight Initiative campaign²⁶ "I am #WithHer Are you?" which has set out to ensure that all women benefit from adequate legislation, policies and gender responsive institutions at national and sub-national levels and also the setting up of more centres in various districts that offer

²³ http://veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/Cyber%20Security%20and%20Data%20Protection%20Bill.pdf

²⁴ <https://www.herald.co.zw/fighting-gbv-first-lady-unveils-call-centre/>

²⁵ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202105030293.html>

²⁶ <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/spotlight-initiative-raises-awareness-gender-based-violence-among-peer-educators-zimbabwe>

psycho-social support.

27. The definition of gender in Uganda is narrow and heteronormative. It excludes transgender persons, gender non-conforming persons and others outside the prescribed genders. Although the Criminal Codification and Reform Act of Zimbabwe does not mention criminalisation of sexual acts between women, this faux silence renders LBQ persons invisible, vulnerable and at risk of violence; with little or no legal and social recourse in addressing Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). The current GBV Act/ Domestic Violence Act of 2007²⁷ does not explicitly protect violence perpetrated against LBQ persons as it does not include marginalised persons in its definition of the complainant. The act is widely interpreted to mean violence between men and women only. Furthermore, the language of gender, as used in the Zimbabwean context speaks to issues related to women's equality and equity and not the full spectrum of what gender entails. As such, the language of gender itself has become a form of violence in the way in which it nullifies and dismisses women's issues and expression of anger/ discomfort, more so, women who appear other than the norm.²⁸
28. State supported structures like safe houses are non-existent and it is time for the government to consider establishing such infrastructure in all provinces. While we acknowledge efforts such as the establishment of the Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) in all police stations and GBV hotlines, they do not have sufficient knowledge and capacity to support or protect women and LBQ⁹ persons who have suffered physical, emotional, financial or sexual violence. Law enforcement and state agents are also perpetrators of violence; especially towards the vulnerable women, including LBQ people. This can be attributed to limited understanding of gender, sexuality, human rights and the varied interpretation of the constitution.
29. The COVID 19 pandemic has escalated cases of forced displacements, family violence, forced marriages, violent living conditions and rape, which fall within the scope of GBV.²⁹ No mechanisms have been put in place to address violations in society at large.³⁰

Recommendations

30. Create mechanisms for the equal protection and security of all GBV survivors without discrimination, through consultations and partnerships with CSOs and NGOs with existing networks and structures such as safe houses in the fight against GBV and IPV.
31. Ratify, domesticate and implement CEDAW recommendations.

Right to Bodily Autonomy and SRHR

32. During the previous UPR cycle, Zimbabwe accepted the following recommendations:

- Ensure sufficient health budget, full and equal access to health services, in particular adolescent, reproductive and family planning services and relevant education (Ukraine)
- Amend all discriminatory provisions and administrative regulations relating to family, marriage and divorce (Belgium)

²⁷ https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/eoir/legacy/2013/11/08/domestic_violence.pdf

²⁸ <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/seven-human-rights-defenders-facing-judicial-harassment-after-attending-advocacy-training>

²⁹ forced displacements, family violence, forced marriages, forced violent living conditions and corrective rape.

³⁰ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/193/96/PDF/N2019396.pdf?OpenElement>

33. Neither of these recommendations have been implemented. The country's health strategy ZINASP 4 has included “key populations:” namely sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender persons in the sexual minorities and/or marginalised category. However, LBQ persons are not recognised as a key population and are not included in the implementation program. There has been a slight increase in programs for menstrual health in Zimbabwe, with the government also removing tax on menstrual products.
34. Reproductive services in Zimbabwe are expensive and limited to oral contraceptives pills and injectables. There are insufficient choices for women in terms of variety, affordability and technological advances. There is little or no mention of other contraceptive methods including, diaphragm, contraceptive ring and intrauterine device. The services provided do not offer solutions to unwanted pregnancies or eliminate that prerequisite that a woman has to be married in order to access In-vitro fertilisation (IVF). One's ability to build a family should not be determined by economic status, sexuality, gender or biology. Reproductive methods and technologies should not be limited to men and women in a union or only for those with substantial wealth as is the current case. As most women are relegated to working in the informal sector, their ability to access such services is limited to financial resources.
35. Parenting and guardianship rights are limited for LBQ women due to the definition of “family” limited to only a man, a woman and children. According to section 80:2 of the Constitution and Births and Deaths Registration Act, women have the same rights as men regarding custody and guardianship of children; however, the section also states, with regard to exercising rights related to custody and guardianship, that an Act of parliament may regulate how those rights are to be exercised. Fathers are deemed the legal guardians of a minor and their consent is required for women to travel across international borders with their children.³¹ This is a precarious position for women as they are usually the caretakers and caregivers. This Act creates a false distinction between gendered roles, where women are subordinate, needing 'permission' from men. Similarly, the same rhetoric is used to deny unmarried women access to in-vitro fertilisation (IVF); women are not considered valid parents without male approval. Various diverse families exist such as child-headed families, relations-based families and single mother-headed families, but none of them are recognised under the law or within administrative processes. Birth certificate sections should not be limited to the biological mother and father but should take the evolving nature of family units into consideration.
36. The discourse on the right to bodily autonomy is highly compromised by the push for “morality” from the state, society and the existence of religious fundamentalist. Although unwritten, social norms and customs are effective rules by which a society controls women's sex, gender, sexuality and reproductive choices, all of which are rooted in patriarchy. The idea that women are highly emotional beings and incapable of making sound decisions is a patriarchal notion that plays out in many government operations including the women's quota system. There are no government supported public spaces for dialogue on issues related to self-determination in regards to SRHR, and language around women's bodies, bodily autonomy, choice and control. We note the Gender Commission as the site for these discussions, however, the Commission only has representatives of women over 35 years of age and there is no representation of young women. The state through all its mechanisms, controls and polices women's bodies. Women who are active and vocal in political spaces are attacked in the media³² on the basis of their bodies and their sexuality. Vocal women are labelled ‘whores’ as in the case of Priscilla Misihairambwi³³ a member of the Senate who was ridiculed and attacked for bringing pads and underwear in parliament to emphasise the need to remove tax on sanitary wear.

³¹ <https://www.kanokangalawfirm.net/parental-consent-to-travel-affidavit-in-zimbabwe>

³² <https://www.herald.co.zw/priscilla-bedroom-and-a-bad-alliance/>

³³ <https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-local-byo-138010.html>

37. There have been no deliberate efforts, programming and studies on specific SRHR issues for women in all their diversities. Recently, the Vice President who is also the Minister of Health, banned the use of contraceptives for young people,³⁴ a move seen by women's rights groups as regressive in the wake of increased teenage pregnancies since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. SRHR efforts are not informed by the current lived realities of women, and little to no resources are invested in the Women's Affairs department.³⁵

Recommendations

38. Create spaces for meaningful consultation, collaboration, evidence-based research and information sharing by groups supporting the LBQ community. Furthermore, make accessible, affordable, friendly and inclusive reproductive health services for women in all their diversity to better understand their challenges and to strengthen advocacy on SRHR.
39. Amend chapter 5:02 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act after meaningful consultation with civil society organisations to remove strict restrictions on registration. and, include a legal guardian on birth registrations as this will expand the definition of family and view family outside the heteronormative framework.
40. The government should take into account the many tragedies that have rendered the traditional family obsolete in the definition of family, and allow for persons to have the right to find and define boundaries of their own families. A family can be made outside of the set heteronormative definition of a husband and a wife.
41. Provide safe, affordable and accessible SRHR services for all women, including abortion, IVF, surrogacy and adoption. Ensure that the LBQ community is able to practice their right to found a family.

³⁴ <https://www.herald.co.zw/vp-chiwenga-shoots-down-contraceptives-for-teenagers/>

³⁵ <https://n20/193/96/PDF/N2019396.pdf?OpenElementhttps://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/>