

The illustration features two stylized figures walking towards the viewer. The figure on the left has long, wavy black hair and is wearing a pink coat with four buttons, black leggings, and yellow shoes, carrying a pink handbag. The figure on the right has short, wavy black hair and is wearing a teal button-down shirt, black pants, and blue shoes. They are walking on a path that transitions from orange to blue. The background is white with several colorful curved lines in purple, yellow, and green. A large brown circle with an orange border is centered behind them, containing the word 'Lalela!' in white. To the left of the figures is a teal ladder-like structure with a pink circle at its base. To the right is a teal circle with a pink dot above it.

Lalela!

**The LGBTQ Charter of Zimbabwe**

“Lalela”

## PREAMBLE

We, the LGBTQ persons of Zimbabwe bound by common purpose and vision:

**WORRIED** that Zimbabwean LBT persons still suffer inequalities in all spheres of human efforts and this has continued to hamper development and exclusion

**CONVINCED** that gender accountability in its broader sense is critical to social justice, fairness and equity;

**RECOGNISING** that the Zimbabwean Constitution guarantees equal rights for men and women and prohibits nondiscrimination.

**AFFIRMING** that Zimbabwe in 2013-2017, adopted the National Gender Policy with a goal to build a society without discrimination that also promotes women and girl’s health, education, socioeconomic and political well being;

**RECALLING** that LGBTQ rights have been recognized and guaranteed in some international human rights instruments,

**RECALLING** further that Zimbabwe enacted the Domestic Violence Act of 2006 to ensure protection against GENDER (In its true sense) based violence

**Hereby adopts the Charter of Demand of the  
LBT persons of Zimbabwe**

**"LALELA"**

We the LGBTQ persons of Zimbabwe stand irrespective of our race , culture , ethnicity, religion, age, ability , sexual orientation or gender identity and expression ,bring the desire and aspirations of every LBT persons from the margins to the center of discussion.

We decry injustice, inequality, and discrimination in any form. Therefore, we have come together as a community and full citizens of Zimbabwe to make our voices heard

**As LGBTQ persons:**

We recognize that we are not a homogenous category. We are marked by

Differences and diversities, which gives us strength .

We aim to build knowledge and awareness amongst ourselves and with others

We encourage those who have in the past enforced practices that endanger LBT persons lives overtly or otherwise to desist therefrom.

We will work in sisterhood and solidarity towards the elimination any harmful of hurtful practices infringed upon us

We commit to building structures and processes to enable us track the delivery of our 'demands' and to review our charter as necessary.



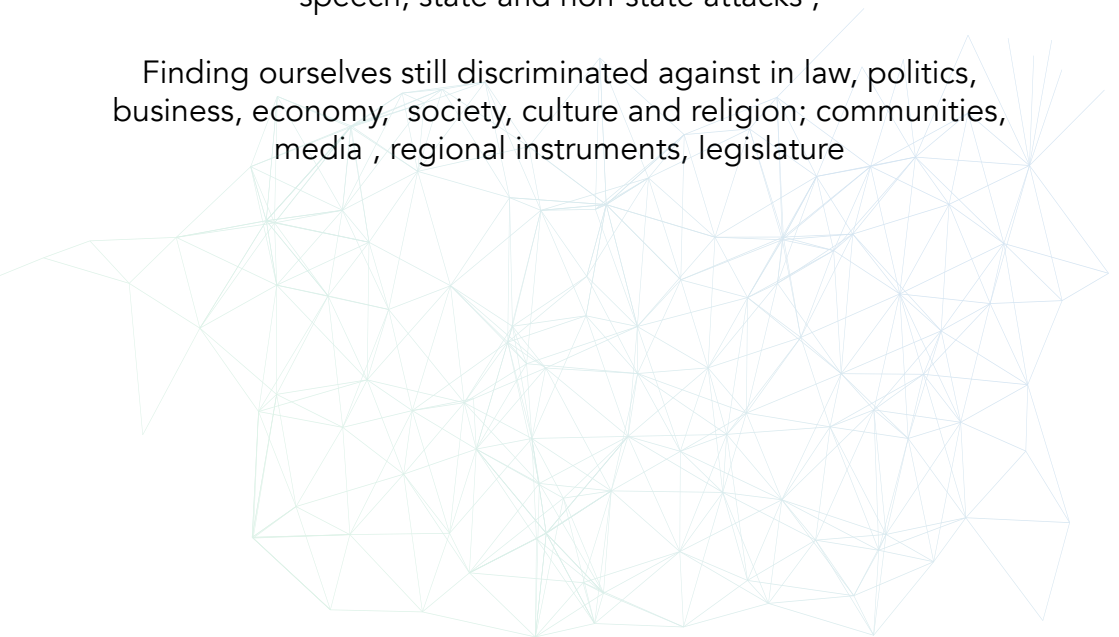
We, the women of Zimbabwe, as full citizens making up over half  
the Zimbabwean people;

Claiming the birth right of every human being to have freedom  
and equality;

Having contributed equally to the development of the nation

Having suffered oppression through patriarchy, custom and  
tradition, male-dominated spaces, religion, tradition, media hate  
speech, state and non-state attacks ;

Finding ourselves still discriminated against in law, politics,  
business, economy, society, culture and religion; communities,  
media , regional instruments, legislature



## RIGHTS AND RECOGNITION THE 14 POLITICAL DEMANDS ARE:

### a. **Right to education;**

- LGBTQ persons should have a right to safe education free of stigma and discrimination for LGBTQ learners and educators
- A curriculum for educators that is inclusive of SOGIE and non discrimination.

### b. **Right to health;**

- Comprehensive and inclusive health services should be made available for LGBTQ persons acknowledgement and recognition
- CSE should be introduced in health training facilities
- Rights to reproductive services including safe abortions and pre and post-natal treatment should be made available
- Health service insurance should be inclusive and non-discriminatory and accept gender markers
- Safe and accessible Trans-men specific health facilities and services that are free from stigma and discrimination

### c. **Right to work/Labour laws;**

- Opportunities to work in formal and non formal sectors to be opened and accesses free of stigma and discrimination by and for LGBTQ persons
- Abuses in the work place based on sexual orientation and gender identity should be punishable and measures taken to ensure protection in the work place/ sexual harrasement
- Inclusive(including other identities) gender policies to be implemented in companies that ensure equal participation and treatment.
- A guided "Human rights Act" should be rolled to to ensure all are protected according to state policies

### d. **Right to social security;**

- All citizens including the LGBTQ persons have social protection

in private and public spaces.

- If LGBTQ people are assaulted due to their sexuality the police should be in a position to treat that case as any ordinary assault case.

**e. Right to Property and inheritance;**

- LGBTQ persons should have a right to co-habit and also ensure no loss of property in the event of death or separation of a partner
- A clause recognizing the rights of LGBTQ to be together persons should be included under partnership agreements

**f. Right to Housing;**

- Housing authorities should protect and not evict LGBTQ persons from eviction
- House owners can refuse to have LGBTQ persons staying in their houses but should not evict LGBTQ persons for their sexuality.
- Property rights of women not tied to a husband or father
- Inheritance laws that are inclusive

**g. Cultural rights and;Other economic, social and cultural rights that could be relevant**

- NON DISCRIMINATION of LGBTQ persons in all aspects of the ESCR,
- Non discrimination and acceptance in religious spheres
- ESCR should not promote hate (language, music, media, speech)
- LGBTQ persons should be protected against involuntary cultural practices aimed at correcting them.
- Social and cultural protection for LGBTQ practices

**h. Law and administration**

- LGBTQ persons should have a right to adopt, access IVF or surrogacy and laws should be put in place to facilitate this.
- LGBTQ persons should have the right to found a family and families with LGBTQ parents should be recognized as a family unit

accorded all the rights and benefits that a family has including insurance, medical aid, funeral assurance etc.

- The Domestic violence act should specifically mention the protection of LBTQ persons from “punitive/Corrective” rape and a separate law should be included for this provision
- The GBV law should also recognize and protect LBTQ persons from intimate partner violence .
- The law should provide a provision for protection and also create safe spaces for GBV victims within the LGBTI community (Safe Houses) Safe houses and counselling, to be included within the Victim friendly unit
- More information and education on issues of SOGIE should be provided for the police and lawyers and should be included in their training manual

#### **i. Mental Health provisions**

- Psycho-social support should be provided for the LBTQ persons including intersex /Transpersons persons and mental health facilities should protect and care for the community.
- Support for transpersons who are pre and post transitioning and more research to be done on Trans issues and transitioning
- Psycho social support for the children of LBTQ persons
- More information and educated should be provided for health service workers and issues of SOGIE to be included in their training manual including mental health issues.

#### **j. Media/Hate speech**

- More information and educated should be provided for journalists and issues of SOGIE to be included in their training manual including mental health issues.
- Media houses/publication houses should stop publishing hate articles about SOGIE issues and correct and relevant terminologies should be used when publishing, Punitive regulations should be put in place for hate speech in articles and on social media
- Journalists should desist from fictional publications with no ev-



idence that put the lives of LGBTQ persons in danger and should be held accountable

- Stiffer laws should be implemented for defamation of character cases or cases that will endanger the lives of the LGBTQ persons.

### **k. Family Violence**

- The domestic violence act should protect especially LGBTQ persons from family violence perpetrated under the guise of curing one from homosexuality that includes rape, abuse by traditional healers or female genital mutilation
- LGBTQ persons should have a right to shelter and housing and be protected from family evictions and violence because of their sexuality.
- LGBTQ minors should be protected from abuse by family members on the basis of their SOGIE

### **l. Punitive Rape**

- Separate harsher and stiffer sentences should be introduced for perpetrators of corrective rape

### **m. Political Participation**

- LGBTQ persons should also have a right to political participation and access to political platforms as equal citizens of Zimbabwe
- LGBTQ should be more visible in the policy and decision making platform to push our agenda within.
- SOGIE should not be a basis for exclusion in political processes

### **n. Gender Based Violence**

- Non-discrimination and protection from gender based violence especially targeted at "Transmen"
- Laws should recognise violence between same-sex partners and interventions against SGBV should be all inclusive





# Intersectionality with other groups

## Asylum-seekers and stateless persons;

- No specific protection of LBTO persons who are seeking asylum



## Elderly people

- No initiatives protecting LBTO elderly

## Women's Groups & Movement

Stigma and discrimination and exclusion in the women's agenda on issues affecting LBTO persons depending on the agenda

## Children & Adolescents

- No dialogue or data existing on challenges facing children and adolescent person who identify as LBTO
- Engaging with schools on issues of children and adolescents
- Legal and social protection against bullying directed at LBTO children

## People with Disability

- Not many initiatives on LBTO persons with disabilities even within the disability movement
- Rights that stipulates the norms and standards for removal of discriminatory barriers that promote the exclusion and segregation of the LBTO persons with disabilities
- To strengthen the voice of the LBTO with disability within the broader disability movement.

## People living with HIV

- Invisibility of the LBTO voice in the HIV discourse and agenda especially the Global Fund Process, only selective engagement
- Epidemiological study on HIV and STIs among LBTO persons

## Human Rights Defenders

- Selective engagement with LBTO persons on different agendas usually only on donor driven spaces



## DATA COLLECTION/ RESEARCH

### EDUCATION

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2010/08/2010-08-04-cops-question-pupils-over-lesbianism/>  
<http://nehandaradio.com/2009/12/26/bulawayo-school-kicks-out-lesbian-students/>  
<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2018/09/26/tempers-flare-at-st-john-s-school/>  
<https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-146098.html/>  
<https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-health-byo-10473-article-‘homo-phobia+and+corruption’+lead+to+student+nurse+suicide.html>

### HEALTH

<https://catalogue.saf aids.net/sites/default/files/publications/LGBTI-Hand-book.pdf>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/710187/Zimbabwe-SOGI-CPIN-v3.0.e\\_May\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710187/Zimbabwe-SOGI-CPIN-v3.0.e_May_2018.pdf)  
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/07/govt-adopts-gays-sex-workers-treatment-manual/>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5435254/>  
<http://www.saywhat.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Zimbabwe-National-HIV-and-AIDS-Strategic-Plan-III-1.pdf>  
<https://voicesofafrica.co.za/zimbabwe-lgbti-communitys-struggle-health-care-access/>  
<http://theconversation.com/zimbabwes-lgbt-community-why-civil-rights-and-health-issues-go-hand-in-hand-90546>

### RIGHT TO WORK/ EMPLOYMENT

<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2018/09/26/tempers-flare-at-st-john-s-school/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-45665906>  
<https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-health-byo-10473-article-‘homo-phobia+and+corruption’+lead+to+student+nurse+suicide.html>  
<https://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/call-to-discuss-homosexual-teachers/>  
<https://www.voazimbabwe.com/a/zimbabwe-sexual-orientation-sex-marriage-unconstitutional/3024732.html>  
<http://hmetro.co.zw/soldier-in-gay-storm/>

<http://theobserver.co.zw/mighty-warriors-player-dropped-because-she-is-a-lesiban/>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/710187/Zimbabwe-SOGI-CPIN-v3.0.e\\_May\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710187/Zimbabwe-SOGI-CPIN-v3.0.e_May_2018.pdf)

[https://www.medico.de/fileadmin/\\_migrated\\_/document\\_media/1/galz-lgbti-rights-violations-report-2011.pdf](https://www.medico.de/fileadmin/_migrated_/document_media/1/galz-lgbti-rights-violations-report-2011.pdf)

<http://kubatana.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Violations-Report-Final-Actus.pdf>

<https://www.parlzim.gov.zw/acts-list/sexual-offences-act-9-21>

<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/zim127325.pdf>

<https://263chat.com/same-sex-marriage-not-a-priority-in-zimbabwe-mnangagwa/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2012/08/27/zimbabwe-end-attacks-lgbt-people>

## **PROPERTY AND INHERITANCE**

## **CULTURAL RIGHTS AND OTHER ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

<http://theconversation.com/zimbabwes-lgbt-community-why-civil-rights-and-health-issues-go-hand-in-hand-90546>

[http://hrp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/Zimbabwe\\_6.23.09.pdf](http://hrp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/Zimbabwe_6.23.09.pdf)

## **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

<https://www.outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/559-1.pdf>

[https://zimlil.org/zw/journal/2016-zelj-01/%5Bnode%3Afield\\_jpubdate%3Acustom%3AY/reflection-domestic-violence-act-chapter-516](https://zimlil.org/zw/journal/2016-zelj-01/%5Bnode%3Afield_jpubdate%3Acustom%3AY/reflection-domestic-violence-act-chapter-516)

[https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/eoir/legacy/2013/11/08/domestic\\_violence.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/eoir/legacy/2013/11/08/domestic_violence.pdf)

## **NON DISCRIMINATION**

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/07/govt-adopts-gays-sex-workers-treatment-manual/>

<http://theobserver.co.zw/mighty-warriors-player-dropped-because-she-is-a-lesiban/>

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2009/05/zimbabwe-recognise-rights-of-gays-and-lesbians/>

## **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

<https://galz.org/constitutional-submissions/>



<http://www.ipsnews.net/2009/05/zimbabwe-recognise-rights-of-gays-and-lesbians/>

## **IDENTITY AND RECOGNITION**

<http://www.southernafricalitigationcentre.org/wp->

<https://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/what-its-like-being-transgender-in-zimbabwe/>

## **MEDIA EFFECTS**

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2010/08/2010-08-07-gays-is-this-learned-or-in-born-behaviour/>

## **ZIMBABWE CONTEXT**

<https://www.sida.se/globalassets/sida/eng/partners/human-rights-based-approach/lgbti/rights-of-lgbt-persons-zimbabwe.pdf>

<https://www.outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/559-1.pdf>





**In partnership with**



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