



## **Zimbabwe Human Rights Capacity Development Programme 2019-2021**

*Main implementing partners: Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University, Sweden; Centre for Applied Legal Research, Harare, College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance at Africa University, Mutare; Faculty of Law at Midlands State University, Gweru; Herbert Chitepo School of Law at Great Zimbabwe University, Masvingo; Faculty of Law at University of Zimbabwe, Harare; Faculty of Law at Ezekiel Guti University, Bindura, Council for Legal Education in Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service*

In March 2019, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) entered into an agreement with the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe on a cooperation programme entitled *Zimbabwe Human Rights Capacity Development Programme* for the period 2019-2021. The Programme, which in full is financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), takes its starting point in the RWI Zimbabwe Human Rights Capacity Development Programme 2016-2018 and is an extension of this Programme at the same time as it also expands on the same in volume by including additional components/activities and partners.

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to *enhanced enjoyment of constitutional rights in Zimbabwe, through legislation, policies, practices and decision-making being increasingly informed by international human rights standards and principles.*

The Programme seeks to approach human rights change in Zimbabwe from a long-term perspective, and in order to achieve its overall objective, the Programme has identified two high-level strategies which are to: 1) *strengthen the capacities among main stakeholders to promote, respect, protect and fulfil human rights within their respective mandate; 2) enhance the means and space for main stakeholders to constructively engage with each other.*

In pursuing these strategies, the Programme approaches human rights change in the complex Zimbabwean context from a long-term perspective seeking to strengthen the human resource base for such change in a sustainable manner and looking at the development and strengthening of neutral platforms for more effective and structured collaboration on strategic human rights reform issues, primarily between main stakeholders, which have been identified as academia, independent research centres (IRCs), civil society organisations (CSOs), government institutions, independent commissions, traditional leadership and media.

In order to give effect to these strategies for intervention, the Programme primarily focuses on cooperation regarding:

1. Development of human rights education at academic partner institutions, including programme, course and curricula development and teaching methodology, with a particular focus on clinical legal education
2. Scholarships for human rights studies at academic institutions in Zimbabwe
3. Development of library resources at academic institutions, among others
4. The carrying out and publication of policy-oriented research in support of the overall Programme objective
5. Delivery of cross-sectoral professional training programmes on various aspects on human rights, which will bring together representatives of academia, IRCs, CSOs, government institutions, independent commissions, traditional leadership and media, to discuss and share experiences particularly on reform relevant issues and how to apply human rights standards in practice

6. Sectoral human rights professional training and capacity development programmes for identified strategic partners

Gender equality and human rights of women and the relationship between corruption and human rights, particularly the role of human rights in the fight against corruption, are given specific attention as cross-cutting priority issues, reinforcing the human rights based approach embraced by the Programme.

It is expected that the Programme will contribute to participating institutions being better equipped to contribute to reforms and related initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights and to an increased structured dialogue and joint initiatives on key human rights issues in Zimbabwe.