



**Zimbabwe Election
Support Network**
Promoting Democratic
Elections In Zimbabwe

Press Statement

ZESN Celebrates International Human Rights Day 2025

10-December-2025 - As the world commemorates International Human Rights Day, the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) calls on all stakeholders to uphold and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms that are essential to everyday life. Human rights apply to all people regardless of nationality, gender, ability, or social status as affirmed in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”*

International Human Rights Day marks the adoption of the UDHR on 10 December 1948, a milestone that cemented the global commitment to dignity, justice, equality, and freedom for all. These rights encompass the right to life, health, education, personal security, participation, and freedom of expression, among others.

This year’s theme, “Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials,” underscores the reality that human rights are not abstract ideals but daily necessities that shape people’s wellbeing, safety, and ability to participate fully in society. The theme resonates strongly with ZESN’s work in promoting inclusive, transparent, and democratic electoral processes where every Zimbabwean woman and man, youth and persons with disabilities can engage meaningfully as voters, observers, candidates, polling staff, and civic actors.

The commemorations come at a time when ZESN continues to lobby government, Parliament, and key electoral stakeholders for policies and practices that safeguard civil and political rights, prevent disenfranchisement, and strengthen democratic governance. Zimbabwe is bound by its Constitution and regional and international frameworks including the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which collectively promote universal values, human dignity, and respect for human rights.

Democracy is strengthened when every person can freely exercise their rights without structural barriers, discrimination, or gender-based violence (GBV) including digital violence, harassment, intimidation, and other forms of coercive practices that may emerge during different stages of the electoral cycle. By proactively addressing these violations, societies reduce inequalities, advance human rights for all.

ZESN therefore urges all stakeholders to prioritise the protection and fulfilment of human rights as everyday essentials, ensuring that every person enjoys safety, dignity, and equal access to democratic participation. ///ENDS

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE

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