



Call for Research Grant Proposals Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe

*The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (hereinafter “RWI”), Lund, Sweden, in collaboration with its academic cooperation partners under the Zimbabwe Human Rights Capacity Development Programme 2024-2026 (see enclosed Programme summary below), is launching a call (hereinafter “Call”) for research grants proposals. Grants under the Call are awarded to research projects relevant to the theme “**Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe**”. Academic faculty members and researchers from Zimbabwean universities, independent research centres, independent commissions and civil society organisations are eligible to apply both individually and jointly. Research projects must be carried out during the period **12 May – 10 October 2025** and result in a paper and short policy brief for presentation and publication. Financial support to RWI for the research grants is provided by the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe.*

The closing date for submitting a research grant proposal is 15 April 2025.

A. CALL OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY AREAS OF RESEARCH

The 2025 call for research grant proposals builds on the 2024 Call, and is centred on the interlinkages and nexus between the environment, climate change and human rights.

Human survival is intricately linked to the environment. As such, environmental threats are not only ecological concerns but also profound challenges to human rights, peace, security, and sustainable development. The multiple planetary crises of this age—including environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change—disproportionately impact communities whose livelihoods, traditions, and cultural identities are deeply tied to their surrounding ecosystems. These crises exacerbate multidimensional poverty, inequalities, and societal fragility (UNDP, 2022), leaving many vulnerable populations at heightened risk.

The realization of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is therefore not just an environmental imperative but a human rights necessity. Strengthening environmental governance and climate action is essential for addressing poverty and inequality while ensuring the long-term well-being and resilience of local populations (UNEP, 2022; UNDP, 2022). Indigenous and rural communities rely on forests, rivers, and land for their material sustenance, cultural heritage, and spiritual practices. When these natural resources are degraded or lost, their fundamental rights—including the right to food, water, health, and cultural identity—are directly undermined. Recognizing and securing land rights for Indigenous Peoples and Rural Communities is thus a key strategy for poverty eradication and sustainable development, as land is not only an economic asset but also a cornerstone of cultural survival (Fuentes, 2021).

The United Nations General Assembly’s 2022 recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment marks a significant step in reinforcing global and domestic responses

to these interconnected crises. This recognition builds upon legal developments in numerous jurisdictions worldwide, including Zimbabwe's own constitutional framework. Section 73 of the Constitution (Amendment 20) of 2013 explicitly enshrines the right to a clean and healthy environment, placing environmental protection and climate action at the heart of the nation's development goals. However, significant gaps remain in the legal and institutional frameworks necessary to fully integrate human rights, environmental law, and climate governance.

Given this context, this year's Call is open for research grant proposals under the theme "Environment, Climate Change, and Human Rights in Zimbabwe." We particularly encourage research that examines the intersection of human rights and environmental sustainability, with a focus on the strengthening of the rights of local communities who depend on their surrounding environment for survival, cultural continuity, and socio-economic well-being. Among other topics, we encourage research related to the following areas:

1. Environment

This sub-theme explores the interdependencies between environmental protection and human rights, emphasizing how environmental degradation directly threatens fundamental rights such as life, health, food, water, and cultural survival. It examines how legal and policy frameworks can safeguard both ecological integrity and human dignity, particularly for marginalized and indigenous communities whose livelihoods and cultural identities are tied to natural resources.

Research should investigate how environmental safeguards influence human rights enjoyment and how international human rights law shapes national environmental policies and climate action initiatives. Studies on substantive and procedural environmental rights within broader human rights frameworks are encouraged, as well as analyses of biodiversity loss, pollution, large-scale development projects, and environmental degradation and their impact on human rights. Proposals might focus on:

- a. The influence of international human rights law in environmental law and/or climate action: justifications and application
- b. The relationship between substantive and procedural environmental rights and other human rights
- c. Environmental issues affecting human rights e.g biodiversity loss, pollution, development projects, environmental degradation, etc

2. Climate Change

This sub-theme explores the human rights implications of climate change, particularly for vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe. Climate-induced disasters such as droughts, floods, and cyclones are increasingly threatening food security, water access, health, housing, and sanitation, deepening poverty and inequality.

Research should examine how human rights frameworks can strengthen climate resilience, ensuring that mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage strategies prioritize those most affected. Studies on regional and subregional African climate governance and its relevance to Zimbabwe's legal frameworks are encouraged, as well as research on climate-induced migration and

displacement. Additionally, proposals exploring international accountability mechanisms for climate loss and damage in Zimbabwe are welcome.

By adopting human rights-based approaches to climate action, Zimbabwe can develop just and sustainable policies that protect both the environment and human dignity. This sub-theme seeks research that not only analyzes the challenges posed by climate change but also offers practical solutions and policy recommendations for addressing them. Proposals might focus on:

- a. The relationship between climate change and the enjoyment of specific human rights such as the right to health, right to food, right to water and sanitation, right to adequate housing
- b. The importance of regional and sub regional developments in Africa on human rights, environmental rights and climate change law, and its relevance to Zimbabwean domestic law
- c. Planned relocation of communities in response to climate change
- d. Loss and damage assessments and accountability

3. Environmental governance

This sub-theme explores how climate change and human rights considerations can be effectively integrated into Zimbabwe's multi-sectoral development framework. It seeks research that examines how government authorities at national, provincial, and local levels can adopt human rights-based approaches in climate and environmental governance while advancing development goals.

Research should investigate practical mechanisms for ensuring that environmental and climate policies respect human rights principles, promote equity, and enhance inclusive participation and accountability.

Additionally, studies should assess the effectiveness of current adaptation strategies, identifying ways to strengthen institutional capacity, improve cross-sectoral coordination, and develop more responsive climate policies. Priority will be given to research offering concrete policy recommendations for regulatory bodies, policymakers, and stakeholders working on climate action and environmental protection in Zimbabwe. Proposals might focus on:

- a. Exploring human rights based approaches to environmental governance at national, provincial and local levels
- b. Interrogating the role of institutional mechanisms in responding to environmental problems
- c. Climate adaptation and environmental management in practice at national, provincial and local levels

4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This sub-theme explores the interconnection between environmental protection, climate action, and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Zimbabwe. It seeks research examining how environmental rights can drive climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable economic development at both national and local levels.

Research should investigate sustainable resource management models that balance economic growth with environmental protection, as well as the role of climate-resilient agricultural practices in poverty reduction. Studies on climate change impacts on the tourism sector and sustainable approaches to chemical and waste management are also encouraged.

Priority will be given to research that provides practical policy recommendations for integrating environmental governance with sustainable development objectives, ensuring that climate action promotes social justice and protects vulnerable communities. Projects should generate actionable insights to guide policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders in advancing both environmental sustainability and socio-economic resilience. Proposals might focus on:

- a. Conservation
- b. Sustainable agricultural practices
- c. Poverty eradication
- d. Tourism
- e. Waste management
- f. Other specific Goals and Targets under the SDGs

5. Business

This sub-theme examines the role of businesses—both formal and informal—in shaping environmental sustainability and human rights in Zimbabwe, with a particular focus on the extractives industry and natural resource governance. Research should investigate how corporate activities impact forestry, fisheries, wildlife, and land, as well as their effects on local communities' rights and livelihoods. Attention can also be drawn to activities within the informal sector.

Priority will be given to studies that propose practical solutions and policy recommendations to mitigate conflicts between resource exploitation, environmental preservation, and human rights protection. Research should explore strategic policies that promote climate justice and sustainable development, ensuring that business operations contribute to a just and environmentally responsible future. Proposals might focus on:

- a. Extractives industry in Zimbabwe
- b. The role of businesses in climate change action and the protection of human rights (corporate social accountability)
- c. Private sector engagement with natural resources governance, including forestry, fisheries, wildlife, land, etc.
- d. Relationships between environment and informal sector activities
- e. Balancing potential conflict of interests between pursuing sustainable development, the exploitation of natural resources, the protection of the environment and the safeguards of the human rights of the local communities.

6. Mitigation Projects and Green Transition

This sub-theme explores the intersection of human rights and the transition to green energy, focusing on policies and legal frameworks that promote sustainability while ensuring social justice. Research should examine human rights considerations in developing carbon market regulations, ensuring equitable participation and benefits for all stakeholders.

Studies on energy security in rural areas, as well as the human rights implications of resettlement of communities due to green energy projects, are encouraged. Additionally, research on green trade, procurement, and technology should assess how these mechanisms can mitigate climate change while upholding ethical labor and environmental standards.

Priority will be given to research that provides practical solutions and policy recommendations to ensure that the green energy transition is fair, inclusive, and aligned with human rights principles. Proposals might focus on:

- a. Carbon market legal framework
- b. Green trade
- c. Green procurement, green technology
- d. Green energy security especially in rural contexts
- e. Resettlement of communities away from areas where green energy or other mitigation projects will take place

7. Disaster risk reduction and management

This sub-theme explores the critical link between disaster risk reduction (DRR) and human rights, emphasizing the need for rights-based approaches in prevention, response, and recovery. Research should investigate how early warning systems, evacuation plans, temporary shelters, and technological innovations can be designed to uphold human dignity and ensure equitable access to protection.

Studies examining the human rights implications of sectoral DRR approaches in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, and land management are also encouraged, with a focus on inclusive and sustainable strategies.

Priority will be given to research that provides practical solutions and policy recommendations to ensure that DRR efforts contribute to climate resilience while safeguarding human rights. Proposals might focus on:

- a. Human rights based approaches to disaster risk reduction - prevention, response and recovery mechanisms; early warning mechanisms, evacuation, temporary shelter and humanitarian relief
- b. Human rights dimensions of technology in DRR
- c. Human rights implications to sectoral approaches to disaster risk reduction, e.g agriculture, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, land, etc
- d. Disaster risk reduction governance and human rights – with particular emphasis on multi-level, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder dynamics

8. Gender Equality

This sub-theme explores the intersection of gender equality, climate action, and human rights, recognizing that climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Climate-related challenges such as water scarcity, food insecurity, and displacement are exacerbated by gendered divisions of labor, unequal resource access, and limited decision-making power.

Research should examine how climate policies can better protect women and girls by integrating gender-responsive measures into adaptation, mitigation, and resilience strategies. Studies on women's participation and leadership in climate governance, the impact of climate-induced displacement on women's rights, and access to climate finance and technology for women-led initiatives are particularly encouraged.

Priority will be given to research that highlights best practices and provides policy recommendations for embedding gender equality into climate action at all levels, ensuring that climate responses are inclusive, effective, and equitable. Proposals might focus on:

- a. Human rights-based gender perspectives on climate action and environmental protection
- b. Women's participation and leadership in climate governance at local, national, and international levels
- c. The impact of climate-induced displacement/migration on women and girls
- d. Access to climate finance and technology for women-led initiatives

9. Climate justice and the courts

Courts play a critical role in advancing climate justice by interpreting and enforcing environmental laws and holding state and non-state actors accountable for environmental protection.

This sub-theme invites research on the evolving role of courts in environmental rights litigation, exploring how legal frameworks can strengthen climate action. Studies should examine the relationship between constitutional environmental rights and stakeholder duties, as well as the impact of global climate litigation trends on local jurisprudence. Research on the balance between environmental protection and Indigenous rights, including the role of Indigenous knowledge systems, is particularly encouraged.

Additionally, this sub-theme welcomes research on the emerging discourse on animal rights and the rights of nature, analyzing their implications for sustainable development and potential conflicts with community livelihoods. Priority will be given to studies offering practical legal insights and policy recommendations that enhance the role of courts in promoting climate justice and environmental accountability. Proposals might focus on:

- a. The role of courts in advancing environmental constitutionalism for climate action
- b. The relationship between constitutional environmental rights and duties of state and non state actors
- c. Exploring the influence of the growing (global) jurisprudence on climate litigation in our jurisdiction
- d. Balancing the protection of the environment with the rights of Indigenous and traditional communities, including the recognition of indigenous knowledge and management of natural resources
- e. The exploration of the emergence of animal rights and the rights of nature, within the context of environmental protection and sustainable development, and their potential

conflicts with the human rights of communities that depend on exploiting these resources for their sustainable survival

10. Sustainable Climate Financing

Equitable access to climate finance is essential for protecting vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by climate change, including low-income populations, indigenous groups, and rural communities. Effective financial mechanisms must address structural inequalities while promoting sustainable development and climate resilience.

This sub-theme invites research on sustainable climate finance strategies in Zimbabwe, focusing on resource mobilization, allocation, and utilization at national, regional, and international levels. Studies should explore access to global climate funds for marginalized communities, corporate accountability in climate finance, and innovative financial instruments such as debt-for-climate swaps, climate taxation frameworks, and public-private partnerships.

Priority will be given to research that analyzes the role of international financial institutions, assesses the fairness and accessibility of climate finance mechanisms, and offers policy recommendations to improve transparency, efficiency, and equity in climate funding. Proposals might focus on:

- a. Resource mobilisation, resource allocation and resource utilisation at national, regional and international level
- b. Debt swaps for climate resilience
- c. Corporate accountability in climate finance
- d. Access to climate finance for marginalized communities
- e. Climate and taxation frameworks
- f. Public-private partnerships for sustainable climate investments
- g. The role of international financial institutions in climate financing

11. Public Health

This sub-theme focuses on the critical intersection of climate change, environmental degradation, and public health, highlighting the disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations and the need for a human rights-based approach. Climate change exacerbates existing health inequities through rising temperatures, air pollution, extreme weather events, and the spread of vector-borne diseases, leading to increased healthcare burdens. Water scarcity and food insecurity, driven by climate change, further threaten public health, contributing to malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and inadequate sanitation.

Research should explore the cascading effects of climate change on public health, particularly air quality, water scarcity, and food security, and how these factors exacerbate health disparities. Special emphasis should be placed on the rising prevalence of climate-sensitive diseases and the critical role of healthcare systems in addressing climate-induced health crises. Mental health effects, including climate anxiety and the psychosocial impacts of environmental displacement, should also be examined. Additionally, studies assessing the role of healthcare systems and policies in ensuring access to healthcare for marginalized communities and advocating for environmental rights are encouraged.

The sub-theme calls for actionable recommendations on integrating public health considerations into climate adaptation and resilience strategies, with a particular focus on the right to health and its intersection with climate justice. This research aims to ensure that all individuals, especially marginalized communities, have access to clean air, safe drinking water, and adequate healthcare in the face of climate-related health risks. Proposals might focus on:

- a. The impact of air pollution, extreme heat, and climate change on the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and other human rights, such as the right to work
- b. The relationship between water scarcity, sanitation, and public health outcomes from a right to water, right to health, or other human rights perspective
- c. Food security, nutrition, and climate-induced malnutrition
- d. The rise of climate-sensitive diseases (e.g., malaria, cholera, dengue) and public health preparedness
- e. The role of healthcare systems in addressing climate-related health crises
- f. Environmental justice and access to healthcare in vulnerable communities
- g. The intersection of mental health, climate anxiety, and environmental displacement
- h. The role of public health policies in advocating for environmental rights
- i. Pandemics and epidemics from the perspective of disaster risk reduction and management

12. Technology

This sub-theme highlights the essential role of technology in climate action, offering innovative solutions for climate adaptation, mitigation, and environmental management. Technologies such as renewable energy systems, precision agriculture, and satellite monitoring can enhance resilience and reduce environmental harm. However, the uneven access to these technologies, particularly in low-income regions, exacerbates global inequalities, while the deployment of emerging technologies—such as climate surveillance, AI in environmental monitoring, and geoengineering—raises ethical concerns around privacy, data security, and unintended environmental or social consequences.

Research in this sub-theme should explore the contributions of technological innovations to climate resilience, while critically assessing potential risks and ethical issues from a human rights perspective. This includes examining barriers to equitable access to climate technologies, such as intellectual property restrictions, high costs, and inadequate infrastructure in developing regions. The role of digital tools in disaster preparedness and response, the impact of AI-driven climate surveillance, and the effectiveness of renewable energy innovations in reducing carbon emissions are key areas for investigation.

Additionally, researchers should evaluate the potential risks of geoengineering and other experimental climate interventions. A human rights-based approach is central to ensuring that technology is deployed equitably, transparently, and responsibly, and that it aligns with human rights principles. The sub-theme prioritizes research that offers actionable policy recommendations for making climate technology accessible and ethically deployed, supporting both climate action and the protection of human rights in the context of climate change adaptation. Proposals might focus on:

- a. The role of technology in climate mitigation and adaptation strategies
- b. Access to climate technology as a human right—barriers and solutions
- c. The ethical implications of climate surveillance and AI-driven environmental monitoring
- d. The role of digital tools in disaster preparedness and response
- e. Renewable energy innovations and equitable access to clean energy
- f. The impact of technological advancements on environmental conservation and biodiversity protection
- g. Intellectual property rights and technology transfer in the context of climate resilience
- h. Potential risks and benefits of geoengineering and other emerging climate technologies

B. ELIGIBILITY

Academic faculty members and researchers from Zimbabwean universities, independent research centres, independent commissions and civil society organisations are eligible to apply both individually and jointly. Proposals must demonstrate necessary support by the applicant's dean/director (or equivalent).

Prospective applicants are encouraged to submit only one application. Should multiple applications be received from the same applicant, only one proposal will be considered.

Previous research grant recipients are not eligible.

C. SCOPE OF RESEARCH GRANTS

Fifteen research grants¹ will be awarded to successful research proposals. Grants will be offered to applicants wishing to conduct research and to engage in desk/field research within Zimbabwe.

D. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Peer and mentorship support is offered to all research grant recipients throughout the research. Grant recipients are requested to participate in an *online* research methodology workshop expected to take place **12 – 23 May 2025**.

As a final output of the conducted research, each grant recipient is required to produce and submit an advanced draft of the paper (6 000 to 10 000 words), together with a short policy brief (1500 words), no later than **10 October 2025**. Grantees are expected to present and discuss their papers at a two-day **National Symposium** on “*Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe*”, expected to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe **5-6 November 2025**. Grantees are also expected to present and discuss their policy brief in a workshop that will be held immediately after the symposium, that is, on **7 November 2025**. Grantees are expected to submit their **final** paper and short policy brief on or before **28 November 2025**.

E. COSTS COVERED BY THE RESEARCH GRANT

The amount of the grant will be decided by the Selection Committee in light of the supplied simplified budget. In addition, the identified scope and needs of the research and other relevant

¹ RWI reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of research grants awarded based on the scope and content of and costs associated with the selected proposals and in light of available budgetary resources.

factors of the project will be taken into consideration. As a point of reference, the budgets for individual research projects should not exceed USD 1000 and for a team of two on a research project USD 2000.

With regard to attendance at the National Symposium and Policy Brief Workshop expected to be held 5-7 November 2025 in Harare, all grant recipients who do not live in Harare or its vicinity will be provided with compensation for transportation costs, as well as accommodation and a fixed daily allowance, in accordance with standard rates applied by RWI.

Financial support to RWI for the research grants is provided by the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe.

F. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please attach and e-mail the following documents by **14 April 2025** to RWI on harare@rwi.lu.se

- 1. Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV)**
- 2. Research proposal (800-1500 words)** – A short description of the research to be conducted so that it may be presented in the form of an advanced draft of a paper and short policy brief at the national symposium in Harare 5-7 November 2025. The research proposal should contain: (1) a brief description of the research problem addressed by the research proposal in relation to the theme of the Call; (2) a short account of the main research question(s) and method(s) that are planned to be used; (3) an explanation of how the research is relevant to the overall theme of the Call: *“Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe”*; (4) a description of the novelty and necessity of the research; (5) the practical relevance of the research in light of the overall objectives of the Call; and (6) an account of the feasibility of conducting and finalising the research and submitting an advanced draft of a paper and short policy brief for presentation at the national symposium.
- 3. Motivation letter (200-600 words)** – A personal statement explaining your interest to human rights (personally and/or professionally), why you should be chosen as a grant recipient and what you hope to achieve through this initiative.
- 4. Research plan** – Briefly outline when and where the different components of the research project shall be carried out in relation to desk study, field research, study visits, etc.
- 5. Simplified budget** – Please provide a budget outlining each cost associated with carrying out the research project and a rationale for each expenditure (e.g. travels and field research within Zimbabwe, relevant to the research project, study visits, materials, etc.).

An email confirmation that your application has been received will be sent to all applicants. If you have not received said confirmation within one or two business days, please resend your application until a confirmation is received.

G. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

All research grant proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee comprised of RWI staff and Zimbabwean academic partners having relevant research, human rights and contextual expertise. The following factors, among others, will be taken into consideration when evaluating proposals: quality of the written proposal, i.e. clarity, organisation and design; relevance and benefit in relation to the objectives and theme of the Call; feasibility of the research project (scope, time, qualifications of applicant(s) and budget, etc.); and potential for broader dissemination and impact to different relevant audiences in Zimbabwe. Researchers/Scholars that did not previously

benefit from these grants will be given priority in the selection process, together with the assurance of gender balance among the grantees. Decision of the Selection Committee is final.

H. TIMELINE

1. Closing date for submitting a research grant proposal: **14 April 2025²**
2. Notification to applicants of the Selection Committee's decision: on or before **2 May 2025**
3. Participation in the *online* research methodology workshop: **12 - 23 May 2025**
4. Submission of an advanced draft policy brief on or before **10 October 2025**
5. Presentation of a draft policy brief in the *online* policy brief workshop: **15 -17 October 2025**
6. Submission of an advanced draft research paper and policy brief: on or before **24 October 2025**
7. Presentation of an advanced draft research paper and policy brief at the national symposium and policy brief workshop: **5-7 November 2025**
8. Submission of the final paper and short policy brief: **28 November 2025.**

² RWI reserves the right to extend the deadline if a sufficient number of applications has not been received. This will also entail an extension of the decision notification date. Should the just said be warranted all concerned parties will be duly notified via email and the Call updated.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ZIMBABWE

Introduction

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is an independent academic institution, founded in 1984 and affiliated with Lund University in Sweden. In legal terms, the Institute is a trust under Swedish private law, governed by a board of trustees.

The mission of the Institute is to contribute to a wider understanding of and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The vision of the Institute is just and inclusive societies with effective realisation of human rights for all. In light of this, the Institute contributes to strengthening structures, systems and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights at all levels in society through:

- Multi-disciplinary research and analysis to create new knowledge on core human rights issues to support relevant policy processes, education and the practical application of human rights law
- Implementation of and support to Human Rights in Higher Education, primarily in cooperation with academic institutions and human rights centres around the world
- Support and Advice, in the form of cooperation with organisations and institutions, including across sectors, to improve the practical application of human rights, through advice, professional training, curricula development, establishment of resource centers, exchange programmes, etc.
- Outreach, bringing together key stakeholders to share insights and information on human rights to build relationships and strengthen connections, including by means of roundtables, conferences and expert meetings.

RWI operates under four thematic and inter-connected priority areas which are: non-discrimination & inclusion, access to justice, human rights & business and human rights & environment. In addition to a special focus on these areas, anti-corruption and gender perspectives form an integrated part of all the Institute's programmes.

More general information about RWI and its activities can be found on its website: www.rwi.lu.se

International Cooperation

Since the early 1990s, RWI has been engaged in cooperation to further the promotion and protection of human rights with a wide number of institutions and organisations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The overall objective of these programmes is to advance the practical application of human rights and humanitarian law. By emphasising the implementation of international human rights standards as a means and goal for development, the programmes seek to contribute to an environment supportive of people living in poverty's own efforts to improve their quality of life.

The programmes, which primarily have been funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), focus on building and developing knowledge, skills, tools, resources and systems aimed at strengthening individual and institutional capacity to promote, respect, protect and fulfil human rights. All interventions are designed based on their contextual relevance and in relation to the particular challenges existing for the development of societies based on a human rights culture. By applying a human rights-based approach to development, the programmes seek to involve and promote participation of all relevant stakeholders without discrimination, from initiation to implementation and evaluation of activities, in a transparent manner seeking to strengthen means and mechanisms for accountability. The cooperation is characterised by being based on mutual trust, long-term commitments and achievement of common objectives.

In addition to the headquarters in Lund, the Institute has offices in Harare, Jakarta, Nairobi, Phnom Penh, Stockholm and Yerevan, and maintains activities and cooperation in approximately 45 countries. RWI maintains a presence in Zimbabwe since October 2019 and in October 2020 the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law – Harare Trust (RWI-Harare), was established to facilitate programme coordination, with backstopping from the head office in Sweden.

Zimbabwe

RWI has been supporting human rights initiatives in Zimbabwe since 1992, primarily with funding from Sweden, but since 2021 also with funding from the European Union. Cooperation in Zimbabwe has over the years included human rights capacity development for several sectors, including government departments, justice sector institutions, independent commissions, academic institutions and civil society organisations. The Institute has also with funding from Sida awarded scholarships to Zimbabweans for participation in the Master of International Human Rights Law Programme, organised by RWI in cooperation with the Faculty of Law at Lund University.

The Sida-funded Cooperation Programme

The Sida-funded RWI Zimbabwe Human Rights Capacity Development Programme 2024-2026 takes its starting point in the Sida-funded Zimbabwe programme for the period 2019-2023, building on efforts, results and partnerships under that programme, aiming to contribute to an increased enjoyment of constitutional rights in Zimbabwe. The Programme has been developed in consultation with partners³ and other stakeholders.

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to *a just and inclusive society in Zimbabwe*. To achieve its objective the Programme will seek to consolidate and deepen existing partnerships with a view that partner institutions will more effectively promote, protect and respect human rights in accordance with their respective mandates. This applies not only to continued institutionalisation of human rights education, research and outreach at academic institutions, but also to the institutionalisation of the practical application of human rights in the work of independent commissions and justice sector institutions; while structured dialogue and joint initiatives among and between partner institutions and other main stakeholders⁴ on human rights issues, including on human rights of women and gender equality, also would be enhanced.

To achieve its objective, the Programme has two high-level strategies of intervention, which are to:

- *Strengthen the capacities among main stakeholders to promote, respect, protect and fulfil human rights within their respective mandate*
- *Enhance the means and space for main stakeholders to constructively engage with each other on key human rights issues*

In pursuing these strategies, the Programme approaches human rights reform from a long-term perspective seeking to strengthen the institutional base for such change in a sustainable manner. The Programme also looks at the development and strengthening of platforms for more effective and structured collaboration on strategic human rights issues, primarily between main programme stakeholders.

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

³ The main implementing partners are, the College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance and the Faculty of Law at Africa University, Mutare; the Faculty of Law at Midlands State University, Gweru; Herbert Chitepo School of Law at Great Zimbabwe University, Masvingo; the Faculty of Law at University of Zimbabwe, Harare; the Faculty of Law at Ezekiel Guti University, Bindura, the Centre for Applied Legal Research, Harare; the Council for Legal Education in Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission; Zimbabwe Gender Commission; Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service.

⁴ Other main stakeholder have broadly been defined as institutions within academia, the public sector, independent commissions and civil society organisations not being direct programme partners

- Development of human rights education at academic partner institutions, including on programme, course and curricula development and teaching methodologies, with a particular focus on clinical legal education.
- Scholarship opportunities for human rights studies at academic partner institutions.
- Development of human rights library resources at academic partner institutions and independent commissions.
- Support to strengthened human rights research capacity among main stakeholders
- Support to development and publication of textbooks and policy-oriented research in support of the overall Programme objective.
- Delivery of cross-sectoral thematic professional training programmes on various aspects on human rights, bringing together representatives from min stakeholders to discuss and share experiences particularly on reform relevant issues and how to apply human rights standards in practice.
- Individual professional training and capacity development programmes, primarily for Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service
- Roundtables and expert meetings in support of the overall programme objective.

The Programme is underpinned by a theory of change providing also for a strong results-orientation in terms of expected change, whereby 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.

Gender equality aspects and human rights of women is given specific attention as a cross-cutting priority issue in the Programme, reinforcing the clear human rights-based approach embraced by the Programme. The Programme moreover maintains a focus on university-going youth and is designed to inherently preclude the influence of corruption by operating within the framework of international human rights standards in terms of both processes and expected results.

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