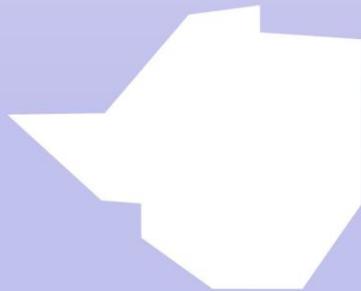




ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT



# MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT





## Unchartered Waters

### Introduction

Against the backdrop and a reflection on electoral administrative issues and intra-party violence, as has been reported thus far, the pre-poll election period is still marred with a lot of ambiguities in respect of realising a peaceful election scheduled for July 30. The explosion recorded at the White City rally further exacerbated this complete electoral disorder and administrative confusion coupled with intra-party chaos as will be explored further in this report.

### Zimbabwe's pre-poll 2018 electoral landscape

The explosion on 23 June 2018 that shook White City Stadium during a Zanu PF rally addressed by President Emmerson Mnangagwa contributes to chaos prior to elections and further threatens peaceful and credible elections. Two people subsequently died succumbing to the injuries they sustained while more than 45 were injured, including prominent members of Zanu PF. The scenario and the way it was carried out reflects a systematic, well-calculated and organised crime. Intimidation and harassment is still rampant with more violations recorded in rural areas albeit authorisation by those at the top echelons of power in the ruling party. However, the leadership seems to be ignoring the violations thus one might be inclined to argue that they are behind the perpetration of the violations. The Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) exercise continues to be mired in controversy with some reports pointing to the ruling party threatening the electorate if found on the wrong side after the elections. Threats are also in the form the 'runoff mantra' which to the general populace implies facing violence to the scale recorded prior and post the 2008 presidential run off.

*The organisation was founded in 2000 by church-based and human rights organisations. The current members of ZPP are Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).*

*ZPP was established with the objective of monitoring, documenting and building peace and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. The Zimbabwe Peace Project seeks to foster dialogue and political tolerance through non-partisan peace monitoring activities, mainly through monitors who document the violations of rights in the provinces. The monitors, who at full complement stand at 420, constitute the core pool of volunteers, supported by four Regional Coordinators. The Regional Coordinators relate with the national office headed by the National Director and programme officers in various units.*





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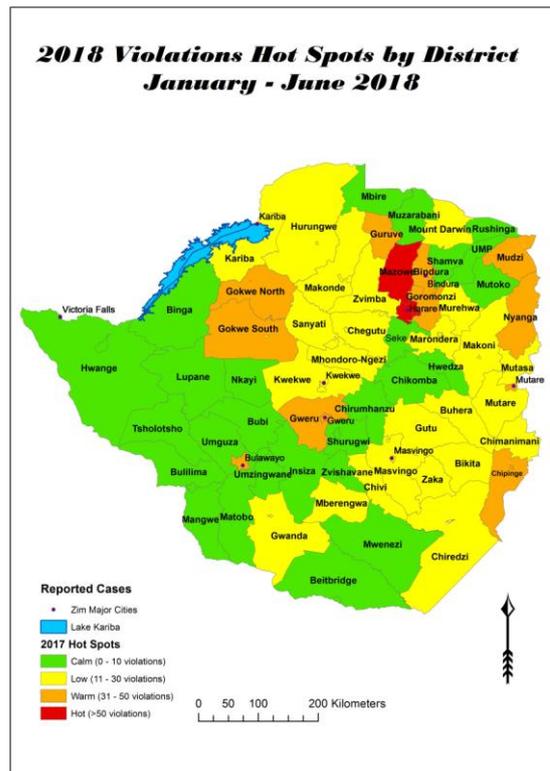
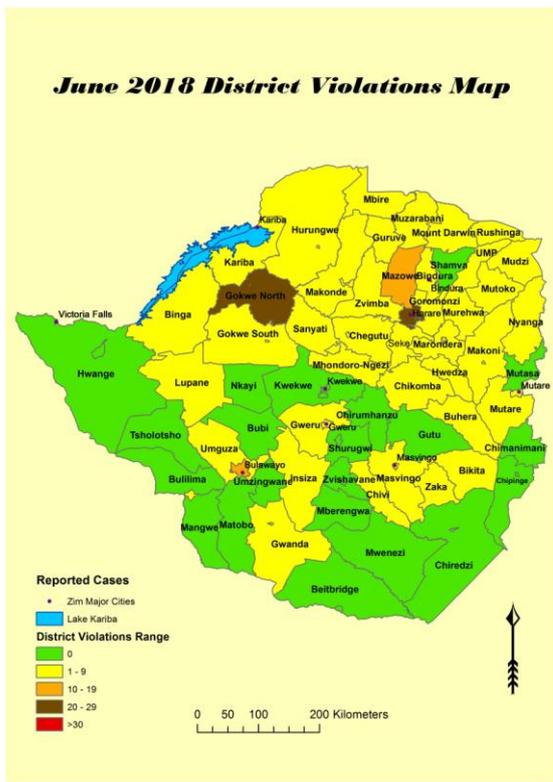
## Breakdown of the Cases and Violations Recorded for June 2018

	Byo	Hre	Manica land	Mash Central	Mash East	Mash West	Masvingo	Mat North	Mat South	Midlands	Total Cases	Total Recorded Violation s
Intra Party violence	*****	***** *****	*****	*	**		**		*	**	31	44
Inter Party violence		*		*****	**		*	*		***	13	20
Incitement/Hate speech							*				1	1
General violence	*				*						2	2
Corruption	*				*					*	3	3
Victimisation/ Intimidation			***	***** *****	***** *****	***** *	*****	***	****	***** ****	61	111
Right to Education				**	*	*	*				5	5
Discrimination/Food aid					*						1	2
Criminal conduct					*						1	1
Right of the child												
Coercion				**	**	***	*				8	15
Right to health												
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>204</b>



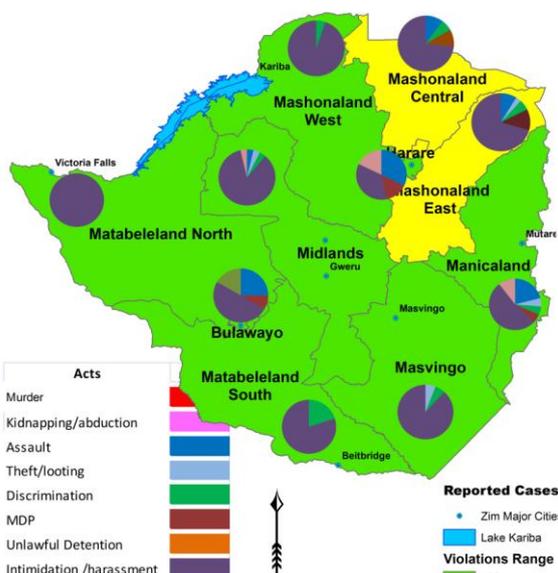


### Dashboard of Incidents

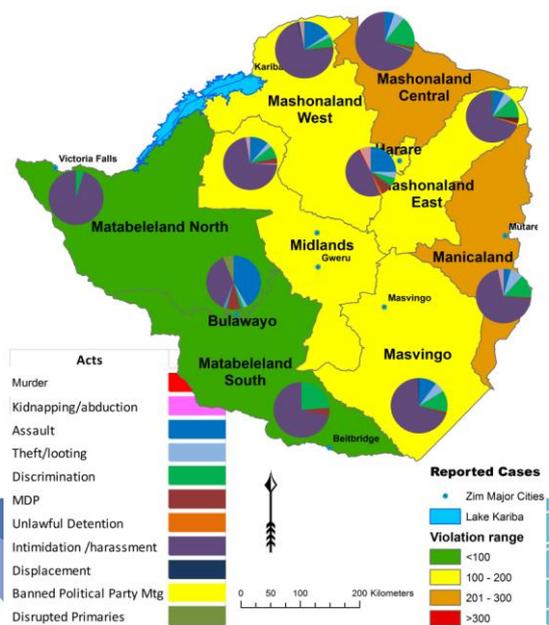


The hot spot districts for the period January to June 2018 are Mazowe and Harare as a whole. At the beginning of 2018, ZPP had projected that the hot spot districts would be Hurungwe, Sanyati, Chegutu, Mhondoro-Ngezi, Gweru, Guruve, Harare, Mazowe, Bindura, Mudzi and Marondera. However other districts which had been projected are not hot spots.

#### June 2018 Provincial Violations Map



#### Provincial Violations Map January - June 2018



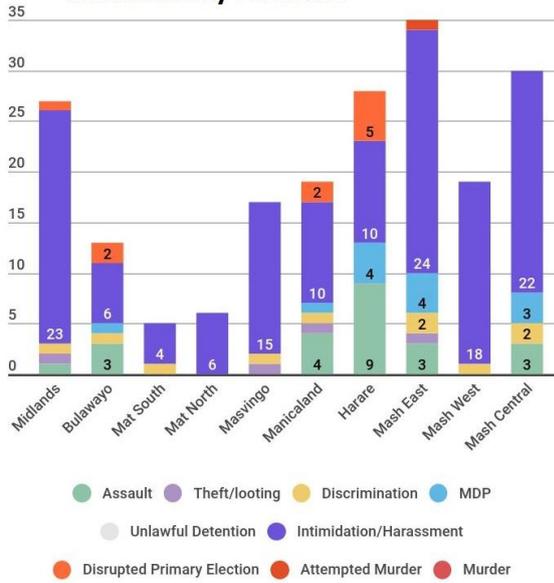


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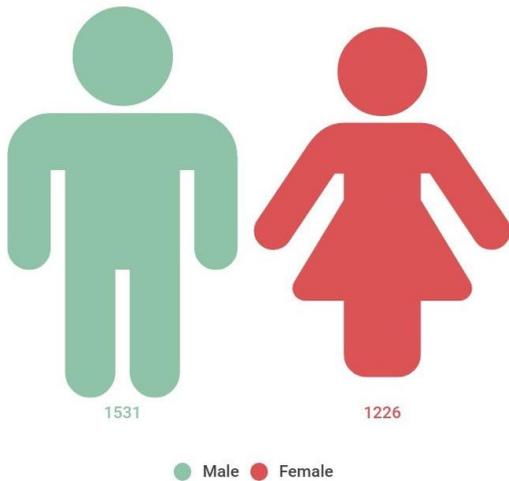
## Violations by Province



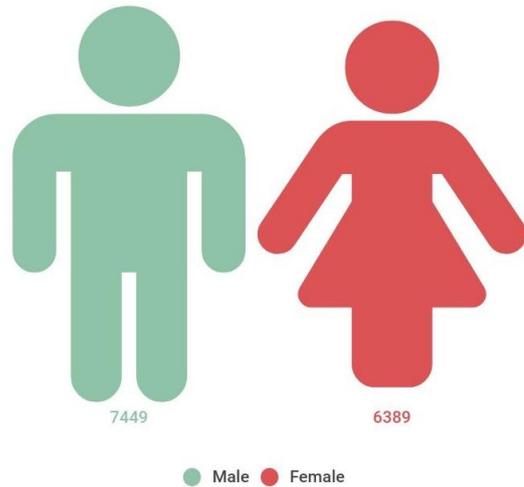
## Provincial Food and Other Aid Violations



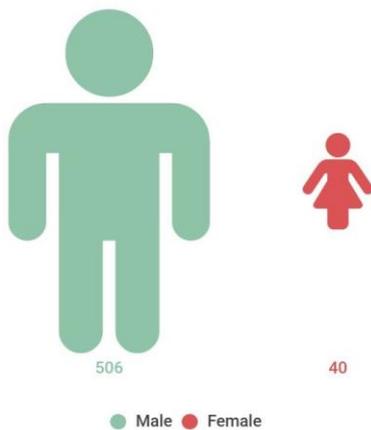
## Victims by Gender - June 2018



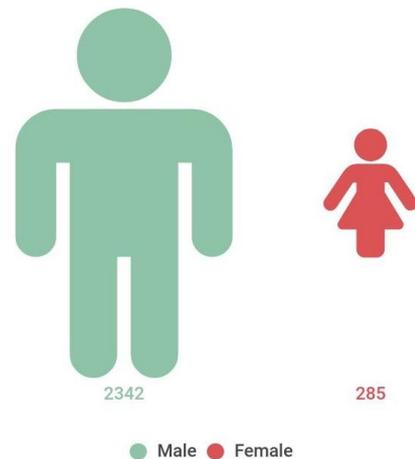
## Victims by Gender: January - June 2018



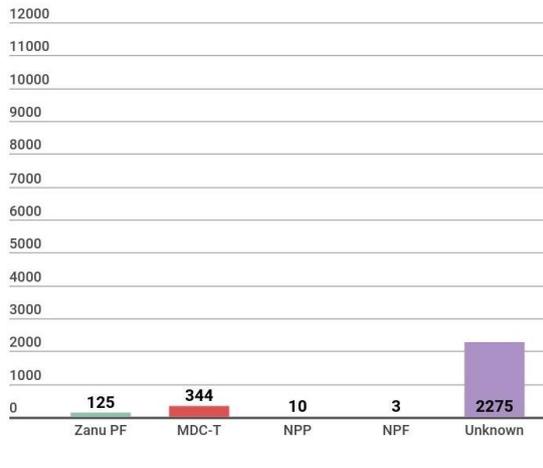
## Perpetrators by Gender - June 2018



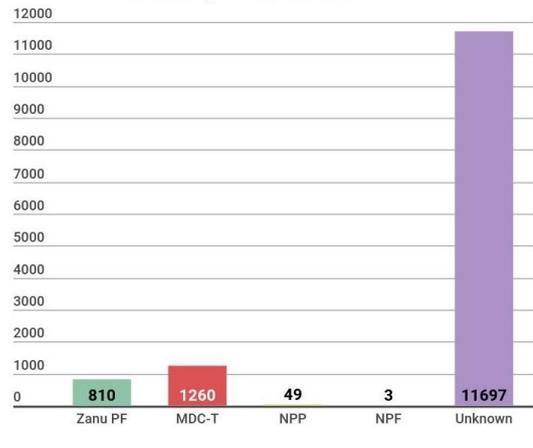
## Perpetrators by Gender: January - June 2018



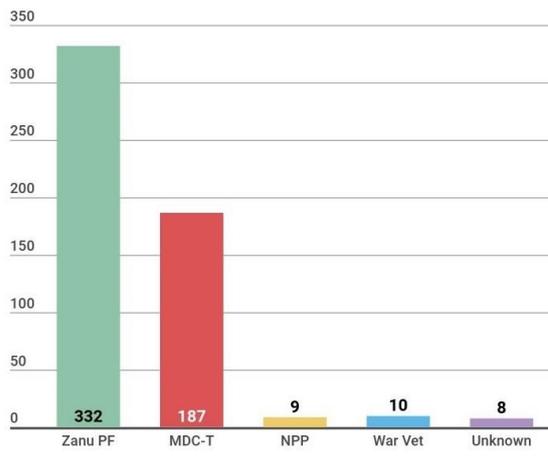
**Victims by Affiliation - June 2018**



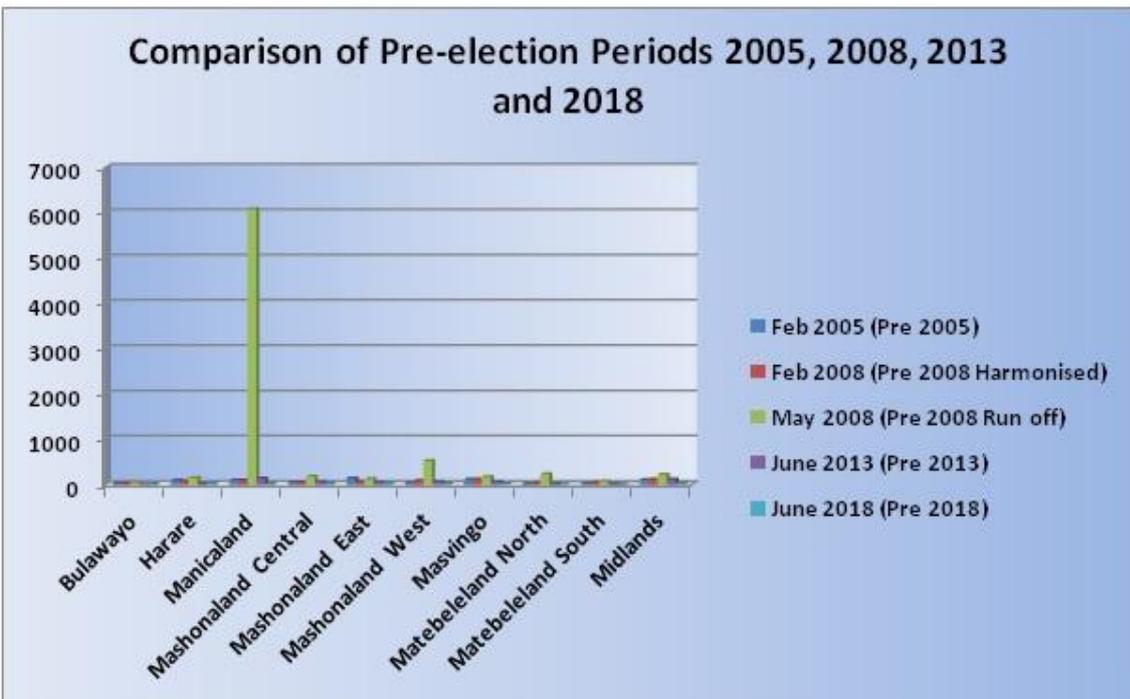
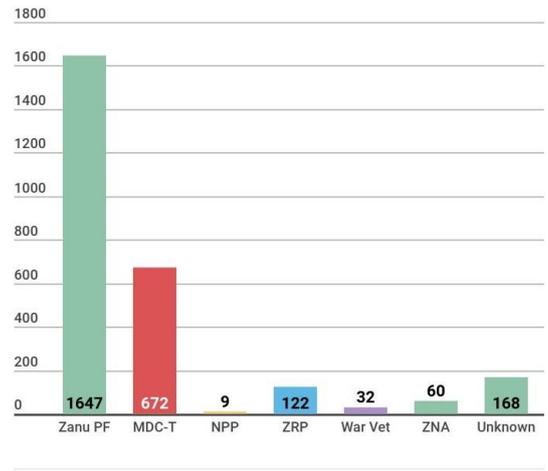
**Victims by Affiliation: January - June 2018**



**Perpetrators by Affiliation - June 2018**



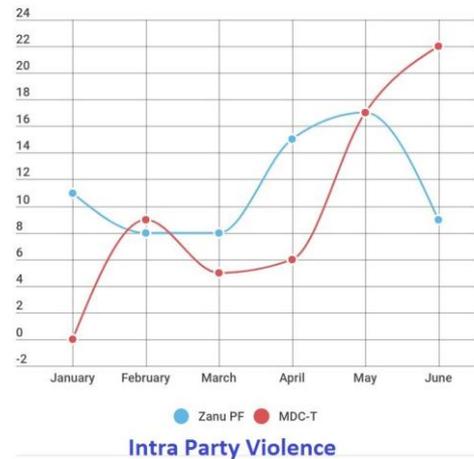
**Perpetrators by Affiliation: January - June 2018**





## Interpretive analysis

A comparative analysis reveals that human rights violations increased from 181 in the month of May to 204 in June. The increase is not a good indicator taking into account the looming date of the elections. Despite the existence of institutions like the National Elections Command, Multi-Party Liaison Committees and Electoral Courts as mechanisms to counter violations during the election period, violations, however, are on the rise. 165 violations related to intimidation and harassment were recorded. Among other freedoms which are at stake include freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and freedom of association.



The explosion at White City stadium during a Zanu PF rally addressed by President Mnangagwa in which two lives were lost while scores of people were injured, implies a looming disaster. If not handled properly and depending on the source of the explosion, it might signal the start of more gross acts of violence. The explosion which Zanu PF reported as targeting the life of President Mnangagwa who was just leaving the venue when it went off has sent shock waves in Zimbabwe and abroad, a few weeks before the elections and casts doubts on the country's peace and security situation which is an integral part to hold free and fair elections. The explosion going off at a political rally also brings up serious security issues considering that rallies are platforms that politicians use to access the electorate. The attendance of school children at rallies either willingly or being forced is an issue of concern if such incidents continue to happen. The weapons used in the attack and the breach of high level state security suggest that this was an organised act of terror. If the suspicions of the head of state that it is his usual enemies who could be responsible is anything to go by, it means that ructions in Zanu PF continue to widen and this could signal more ugly incidents.

The increased intimidation and harassment in both rural and urban areas suggests that the terror infrastructure has not yet been dismantled. Even though the terror infrastructure is operating seemingly without explicit approval from the top leadership of the ruling party, it is clear that those involved are acting on behalf of the party and may have their tacit approval because of the lack of action against the perpetrators. Resurfacing threats around the BVR exercise that fingerprints and pictures harvested during this exercise will be used to track down those who vote against the ruling party shows that not enough has been done to educate and allay fears of villagers on the safety of the BVR process and previous calls by police



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and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) that such threats are illegal have not been heeded. There is need to increase access to information that is required for citizens to exercise their rights. It also suggests impunity on the part of the perpetrators. The existence of the Zanu PF spiderweb or 'Dande Mutande' strategy should not be taken lightly as its intricacy and connections to the cell structure cannot be easily dismissed.

The deep seated fear planted during the 2008 election period has continue to pervade Zimbabweans' lives and politics,' with the majority unable to exercise their free will with the agitation of becoming victims of political violence. Harvests of the fear planted in the 2008 vote are systematically being used to intimidate the electorate with particular reference made to the 2008 experiences of political violence. The horrors of the 2008 violence are repeatedly being rekindled and used to threaten as awaiting those who vote against the ruling party. This thus shows that perpetrators are using old wounds and a lack of healing and reconciliation to perpetrate more emotional and psychological violence against victims who have faced repeated violence in the past. Failure to deal with the past and make perpetrators account is having a negative effect on those affected and facing renewed threats. The authorities need to take action against impunity as a way of ensuring that what the electorate suffered in the past does not recur. The prevalence of such cases in both rural and urban areas may suggest poor access to information and the available mechanisms to deal with cases of political violence.

The month of June has recorded increased cases of intolerance as political opponents deface posters of their competitors. Vehicles emblazoned with Thokozani Khupe's face have also been targeted by MDC-T supporters of the Nelson Chamisa faction. This is a threat to citizens' right to freedom of expression and intolerance is likely to escalate and/or degenerate into open violence. The receding intra-party violence in the month of June may be because of the conclusion of the primary elections with the Nomination Court on June 14. The final nomination list for members of parliament carry an inordinate number of names with a total of 1 652 National Assembly candidates fighting for 210 National Assembly seats; of these, 247 are independents and the rest are from 55 political parties. Administrative chaos is also characterised by an unprecedented 23 candidates vying for the presidency. However, reports of intra-party conflict persist even in the media as senior party officials exchange harsh words over the final choice of candidates for elections. The intra-party conflict continues to manifest itself through hate speech and verbal wars and occasional physical violence. All the presidential hopefuls and in some cases representatives some on the day of the event and some later were signatories of a Peace Pledge led by the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC). This was in a bid to uphold a peaceful campaigning





environment ahead of the July 30 elections. The endeavour also shows concerted efforts by political parties in the peace-building process.

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Furthermore, in Bulawayo, disgruntled Ndebele speaking people protested the retrenchment of the Ndebele speaking workers and their replacement by Shona speaking people at a retail shop Pick 'n Pay. This resulted in tensions which culminated in the closure of the shop. Escalating tensions on ethnic grounds in the Matabeleland regions is a cause of worry and points towards the need for healing and reconciliation.

## Recommendations

- ZRP and ZEC must make information on the National Elections Command, Multi-Party Liaison Committees and Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission more accessible through mainstream media.
- There is need to increase public condemnation of intimidation and harassment by law enforcement agents and ZEC.
- There is need to increase access to information that is required for citizens to exercise their rights.
- Political parties are urged to reign in their supporters who are perpetrating violence and involved in defacing of posters of rivals. Considering the historic density of national assembly hopefuls in the forthcoming elections contestants should realise that no single political party can cordon off a constituency as a no go area for others.
- The relevant authorities need to take action against impunity as a way of ensuring that what the electorate suffered in the past does not recur.

## Conclusion

The 2018 elections remain unpredictable considering that the country witnessed an escalation of unprecedented violence bordering on terrorism. Intra-party contradictions continue to be a source of conflict in opposition parties despite the conclusion of the Nomination Court. The signing of the Peace Pledge by political parties was a significant milestone in the quest for peaceful elections in Zimbabwe. ZPP is keen for the blocks for peace to work in the best interest of the electorate.

