

## **ZIMBABWE'S CONTRIBUTION IN RESPONSE TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 29/22**

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Reference is made to the Human Rights Council resolution 29/22 on the "Protection of the family: contribution of the family to the realisation of the right to an adequate standard of living for its members, particularly through its role in poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development".

Further to this the High Commissioner was requested to "prepare a report on the impact of the implementation by States of their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law with regard to the protection of the family, and on the contribution of families in realising the right to an adequate standard of living for their members, particularly through their role in poverty eradication and in achieving sustainable development, while giving due consideration to the status of the family in the development related to the ongoing work on the future sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda".

The Zimbabwean Constitution states that the State and all institutions and agencies of Government must protect and foster the institution of the family and must endeavour to adopt measures for the provision of care and assistance to mothers, fathers and other family members who have charge of children and the prevention of domestic violence. The Constitution further sets the minimum age of marriage at eighteen (18) and states that everyone who has attained the age of eighteen has the right to found a family. The Constitution also contains various provisions guaranteeing socio-economic rights such as the right to access to health, shelter, water and sufficient food.

From the above, it is evident that Zimbabwe has enacted constitutional provisions aimed at ensuring the protection of the institution of the family and guaranteeing everyone in Zimbabwe an adequate standard of living.

There are also policies and strategies in place to protect the family particularly children. For example, Government is implementing the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (NAP for OVC) which is a consolidation of various programmes addressing challenges facing orphans and other vulnerable children. Some of the programmes being implemented under the NAP for OVC I are the HIV and AIDS mitigation programmes and the community based child protection programmes meant to provide safety nets for OVC. The Community based child protection program has set up child protection committees at District, Ward and at Village level.

Government is also engaged in various projects aimed at giving effect to the above mentioned rights. For example government has put in place the Poverty Alleviation Policy which articulates strategies and programs adopted in an effort to eradicate poverty among the Zimbabwean populace. Moreover, Government is also in the process of implementation of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimASSET) which is the country's blueprint for the years 2013 – 2018. The successful implementation of ZimASSET will ensure that Zimbabweans enjoy an adequate standard of living.