



WOZA MOYA

WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE ARISE (WOZA) July 2016

WOZA means 'Come forward'.

By women for women and with women, across race, colour, creed, class or political persuasion.
Empowering women to be courageous, caring, committed and in communication with their communities.



Since its formation, Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) has conducted over 200 demonstrations, peacefully marching on the streets to voice its displeasure with the political, economic, and social state of affairs in Zimbabwe. As Human Rights Defenders we marched to demand the government implement better policies that would result in food on our tables and jobs for us all. We marched not only for our members but for Zimbabweans each and every one of YOU. We marched chanting our slogan **WOZA MOYA (Come Holy Spirit)**.

WOZA wish to commend and encourage the citizens of Zimbabwe for their unified response towards the call for a stay away and national shutdown. WOZA wish to commend the non-violent nature observed by citizens and show solidarity with the beatings, torture, tear gassing and arrests they endured to make their voices heard. WOZA wish to express their deepest condolences to those who lost loved ones at the hands of violence and irresponsible police officers.

WOZA note the normal government propaganda manufacturing violence on the part of citizens. This whilst turning a blind eye towards police violence often discriminatory and stereotyping by tribe, gender or age – arresting, detaining and charging children with crimes beyond their years.

It was apparent from one end of the country to the other end that police officers used brutal force to deny citizens the right to express themselves and speak out about their harsh daily existence and increasing poverty and the message that enough is enough. Violence as usual was the weapon of choice for the regime foot soldiers wearing police uniform hiding behind their shields. Despite this the citizens of Zimbabwe still delivered their message **enough is enough!**

The situation assisting citizens to find their voice and act on were informed by a variety of rights violations including the passing of unjust laws such as statutory instrument 64 banning of food imports; shortage of cash necessary to allow purchasing power necessary to balance out the daily survival strategies. The State and President remain dumb on what happened to 15 billion United States dollars from diamond revenue but found resources and machinery to hunt down, beat and arrest children accused of looting biscuits and sugar.

The uncaring government instead of addressing our issues, are blaming a 'third force' or foreign governments and ignoring our right to speak out. WOZA say the only third force we are aware of are ZIMRA, the enforcers of statutory instrument 64; ZRP, the enforcers of state violence and the abuses of the right to movement by their roadblocks and corruption. As long as government third forces continue to do as they wish looting from the pockets of the poor resistance will grow.

Citizens are dispossessed of the right to peacefully confront the government, the right to demand the internationally guaranteed rights to expression, assembly, education, health and an adequate standard of living. Zimbabweans have the right to protest clearly stated in the constitution but instead they had to select the option of a stay at home.

WOZA therefore call on citizens to continue to use peaceful and dignified ways to send their message and to participate to the fullest of their ability to keep their message un-spoilt by violence. But to build up their courage as their direct presence in peaceful protests will one day soon be necessary.

WOZA reminds the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) that their mandate is to protect citizens from violence and not to practice violence. WOZA remind the police, be they in uniform or wearing plain clothes, that they are first and foremost citizens of this nation and as such they owe the people their full loyalty and support.

WOZA call upon citizens to be aware of the following:

1. To refuse to allow police officers to provoke us into violent responses against them.
2. To refuse to allow police officers to indiscriminately arrest citizens – an injury to one is an injury to all citizens.
3. Please try to protect children from violence and do not put them in harm’s way. Do not allow police officers to occupy schools intimidating children’s as is currently the case in Bulawayo schools.
4. Do not participate in looting of goods and vandalising of property – these are our buildings – our development.
5. Any police officers who conduct door to door harassment and throwing of tear gas in homes must be photographed and reported to Human Rights Commission. Post to social media and delete on your phone if you are afraid of police brutality.
6. Please do not forward messages inciting violence as the stay away messaging belongs to a peoples struggle. Some hidden hands will try to reduce our voice and lengthen our suffering.
7. Please Zimbabweans face facts that you can no longer say you are not affected by this bad governance and economic mismanagement. People in the diaspora can no longer send you cash, Malayitsha can no longer bring you food from your relatives. SO WHO CAN HELP YOU BUT YOURSELF?

Police officers have announced through their megaphones an unlawful curfew from 6am to 6pm and went on further to cancel weekend school and premier soccer league games in Bulawayo. This is denying citizens their freedom of movement and recreation.

WOZA is working with other civic society organisations to challenge this illegally imposed curfew in Bulawayo which is reminiscent of the Gukurahundi era.

Physical force is *nothing* compared to the *power of truth*

Nonviolence Principles	Nonviolence Strategies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fight injustice, not people. Everyone deserves respect; the point is not to “win,” but to build relationships. 2. Nonviolence will always improve things down the line; violence — of any kind — will always make them worse. 3. Basic human needs are universal; at the root of every conflict a “win-win” solution is possible. 4. Each of us has a piece of the truth, none of us has the whole truth. 5. Never show disrespect to another’s Person — or accept it yourself. Nobody can degrade you without your permission. 6. The willingness to take on suffering rather than inflict it and relentless persistence in a right cause brings out the power of nonviolence. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nonviolence has two modes: in obstructive program we stand in the way of wrongdoing — in constructive program we lead the way in creating solutions. 2. Never give up on another human being. If you assume people are rational, it helps to awaken their rationality. 3. Cling to essentials (like your human dignity); be willing to compromise on anything else (especially if it’s just a symbol). 4. Do not yield to threats. Ask yourself: “What are they holding over me?” Renounce that, and you are free. 5. When nonviolence succeeds there are no losers; gloating over “victories” can actually undo what we have gained by nonviolent action.