



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations*

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and has the honour to submit the requested Zimbabwe's input into the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Violence against Women Migrant Workers (RES/72/149).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe avails itself of this opportunity renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) the assurances of its highest consideration.

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**NEW YORK**





**Government of Zimbabwe**

**INPUT INTO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS (RES/72/149)**

The Government of Zimbabwe is fully committed to the implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution on Violence against Women Migrant Workers. However Zimbabwe is predominantly a source Country for women migrant workers and to a lesser extent a destination and transit Country.

The following measures are in place in order to protect the rights of women migrant workers and particularly to protect them from violence.

- i) Signing and Ratification of International Instruments on migration**
  - ❖ The Government of Zimbabwe is Party to the Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children
  
- ii) Formulation and implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies and plans on migration, labour, social protection, ending violence against women migrant workers and migrant girls including budget allocation to address violence against women migrant workers**

- ❖ The Constitution of Zimbabwe in Sections 24 and 64 obliges the Government of Zimbabwe to create a conducive environment in which every person has a right to choose and carry on any profession, trade or occupation. Section 65 of the Constitution further provides for fair and safe labour practices. In addition, Section 30 makes it imperative for the State to take all practical measures to provide social security and social care to those who are in need.
- ❖ In 2001, Zimbabwe enacted the Immigration Act which regulates the entry into and exit of foreigners and nationals
- ❖ A Trafficking in Persons Act (2014) is in place. The Act criminalises Trafficking in Persons and among other provisions provides for safe homes for victims of trafficking
- ❖ The Domestic Violence Act was enacted in 2007 to provide relief to victims of domestic violence. Amongst the categories cited by the Act as protected under the peace of legislation are domestic workers and this also apply to migrant women employed as domestic workers.
- ❖ A draft Migration Policy and a Draft Labour Migration Policy are in place. The Migration policy is expected to regulate migration issues whilst the Labour migration policy will be expected to deal with challenges connected to labour migration in Zimbabwe including mechanisms for social protection of migrant workers as well as providing a framework for protecting and empowering migrant workers.
- ❖ The Government of Zimbabwe has in place a National Programme on GBV Prevention and Response (2016-2020) which provides strategic direction in the implementation of all activities on Gender Based Violence. The National Programme acknowledges the relationship between migration and Gender Based Violence.

**iii) Assessing the impact of policies, laws and programmes addressing discrimination against women migrant workers**

- ❖ Through the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act, a number of cases of trafficking in persons have been reported particularly involving Zimbabwean female migrant workers in other Countries. Between 2016 and 2017 a total of 165 Zimbabwean Women were repatriated from Kuwait as they were victims of Trafficking and the majority had suffered violence. The Trafficking in Persons Act and the National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons (2016-2018) provided a framework for assisting the Victims of Trafficking.

**iv) Promoting Research and data collection on trends in women labour migration and violence against women migrant workers, including domestic workers and undocumented women migrant workers at all stages of migration**

- ❖ There is a gap in research on violence against women migrant workers.

**v) Prevention of violence against women migrant workers including regulation of labour recruitment and intermediaries, capacity building programmes and awareness raising efforts for Government Civil Society including for migrant girls**

- ❖ The Government of Zimbabwe is implementing a project entitled “Promoting Migration Governance in Zimbabwe”. The Project aims to enhance the role of State and non-State actors in managing migration in a migrant-centred, human rights centred and gender sensitive manner. The project has also seen the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on migration whose sole mandate is to mainstream migration into national development whilst protecting the rights of migrants

**vi) Ensuring mechanisms and services for protection, assistance and improved access to justice**

- ❖ The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare has developed a National Referral

mechanism for all vulnerable migrants in order to facilitate access to services by vulnerable migrant including social protection services.

- ❖ The Trafficking in Persons Act has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Trafficking in Persons. The Inter-Ministerial Committee is comprised of a cross –section of Government Departments who handle cases of Trafficking in Persons. The Work of the Inter-Ministerial Committee is guided by the four pillars of the National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons namely; Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships. Some of the key achievements of this committee are facilitation of repatriation and reintegration of Victims of Trafficking, Development of Standard Operating Procedures for handling cases of Trafficking in Persons, development of a referral mechanism for victims of trafficking and facilitating livelihoods support to victims of trafficking e.g in 2017 a total of 100 female victims of trafficking received a grant to start income generating projects.

**vii) Enhancing bilateral, regional international and other cooperation and partnerships to address violence against women migrant workers**

- ❖ Following the case of Zimbabwean Women who were trafficked into Kuwait, the Government of Zimbabwe and Kuwait later bilaterally agreed to stop issuance of VISA Article 20 (for semi-skilled workers) which exposed Zimbabwean women to violence at the hands of their sponsors.