



Peace march

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The Salvation Army in Zimbabwe Increases Peace-building Momentum Ahead of Elections

WITH less than three weeks to go before general elections in Zimbabwe on 30 July, The Salvation Army is stepping up its peace-building initiatives. In the past, Zimbabwe has often suffered from the outbreak of election-related violence for political, tribal or regional reasons. Inspired by peace-building efforts by The Salvation Army in Kenya, Salvationists in Zimbabwe are seeking to promote and build peace in the country in the lead-up to the elections.

There is genuine hope in Zimbabwe that these elections will be, in the words of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, 'free, fair and transparent'. Even so, a grenade attack on an election rally in June demonstrated that nothing can be taken for granted.

ZIMBABWE, MY HOME

One of the main initiatives is the production and sharing of 'Zimbabwe, My Home', a song written by children across Zimbabwe with a message of peace. The children were assisted by Community Albums (www.communityalbums.com), a UK-based charity that uses music and media to give communities a voice. With input from different tribes, towns and cities, the song and accompanying video capture the essence of what it means to be peaceful. In the words of the song, 'everyone is somebody', 'Zimbabwe is home' and, therefore, people can live together as 'one family, united and free'.

The song has already been played on national TV in Zimbabwe and is available to view on YouTube. Salvationists and friends the world over are encouraged to like it, share it, be inspired and promote peace:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xrtrfqD_Mw



[Watch video on YouTube here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xrtrfqD_Mw)

PEACE-BUILDING CONFERENCE

A peace-building conference in Harare in April this year, facilitated by International Emergency Services and Captain Richard Bradbury (Project Officer, Kenya East Territory) was attended by Salvationists from across Zimbabwe. Working together to consider the particular issues faced in

Zimbabwe, delegates came up with several plans to address ill-feeling and violence around the elections.

Working with others was a major point of conversation during the workshop, and one highlight was a session led by the Rev Dr Kenneth Mtata, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC). Through this contact, The Salvation Army has joined forces with the ZCC and continues to present a united front in the struggle for peace.

THE SALVATION ARMY IN THE COMMUNITY

Alongside promoting the song, The Salvation Army has now been preaching and talking about peace, putting peace messages on billboards, and distributing posters and car stickers. Salvationists have organised and participated in joint peace marches and prayer meetings with other members of the ZCC as well as many other activities – all in the name of peace.

The hope is that The Salvation Army, together with other churches in Zimbabwe, will contribute to peace in the country before, during and after the elections. Salvationists and friends from around the world are asked to keep Zimbabwe – and the peace-making initiatives – in their prayers.

Report by International Emergency Services

International Headquarters

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Yhteyshenkilöt



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