

## The Journal of the Britain Zimbabwe Society



Photo © Korrine Sky

### **Leaving Ukraine – a Zimbabwean experience**

*Korrine Sky is a second-year Zimbabwean-born British medical student. In March, she was caught up in the exodus from Ukraine when the Russian army invaded. At the time, Korrine was living with her Zimbabwean husband near the capital, Kyiv. This is the story she told Zimbabwe Review at the end of April, when she was safely back in Leicester with her family – but nevertheless traumatised.*

**Before the war's start, there was a lot of news in the UK media that there was going to be a war – but the Ukrainian media insisted that this was 'fake' and there would be no war: it was all war-mongering from the west.**

Eventually, the UK government announced that all its nationals should leave. Many students left at this point, but some of us decided to stay rather than jeopardise our university places.

Locals had no idea what was happening, and if I had not had my phone and access to foreign media, I wouldn't have had any idea either. I had to go to international news sources to find out what was going on.

We began to worry, so my husband applied to the British Embassy for a UK visa, and he was told that it would be ready in one week.

But by that time, Kyiv had been attacked and the whole city was cut off. It wasn't possible for my husband to go into town, but the British Embassy said they would put an electronic visa for him in my passport.

#### **Getting help**

Once the bombing started, I immediately thought about my African colleagues, as I knew from my own experience using a Zimbabwean passport that visa restrictions make it much harder to travel anywhere with an African passport.

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I started a Twitter thread, at first asking for sources of help for African students – for embassy numbers, and different sources of help on the ground. This one thread grew into several, and then I started using Telegram group chat, where you can contact and share information with many more people.

By now, the Polish government had said that anyone was welcome to come to Poland, even if they didn't have the right documentation; then other countries, such as Romania, did the same. But we – African students – had no support from any embassy in leaving Ukraine, not even the British Embassy. Everything we did had to be through our own efforts. The Indian government funded some buses, but no African embassy did anything like that.

Africans were told they couldn't get much help in Ukraine, but there would be help once they reached Poland.

When I contacted the embassies, they asked me for information, such as – 'How many Nigerian students are there?' So one important job I had to do was to create a census of African students.

I started this work the day Kyiv was bombed, and the task was ongoing. People were trying to leave, but couldn't, sometimes because when students were trying to get on buses they were told those were 'for Ukrainians only'. But the main problem they had was that they needed money, and I had to find ways to raise it.

#### **Departure**

The day of the bombing, we wanted to leave and to go to Lviv in western Ukraine. But when my husband left the

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house to look for fuel and supplies, he wasn't able to get everything we needed because of the queues, so we couldn't leave that day.

The next day, he went out again, but simple tasks that would once taken a few minutes were taking hours. This included queuing for cashpoints, and many of those were closed.

Meanwhile, I went on trying to help people. As soon as anyone asked for financial assistance to travel, I'd go on Twitter and, eventually, we managed to get donors and were able to match the people in need with donors. We could do that electronically.

That was the day the sirens went off, and my husband and I decided to leave immediately. We headed to a house where some friends were living, so we could travel together.

### **Getting to Lviv**

The drive to Lviv normally takes 10 hours: this time it took 26, because of the traffic and the fact we had to go through more than 20 military checkpoints. There was also a curfew from 8 pm.

I was tweeting all the way, sharing my journey with the rest of the world, as I was scared that people wouldn't know what was happening. I thought it was important to have a record of my own experience of being black in Ukraine, which was so different from what was being shown in the media: not everyone in Ukraine is blonde and blue-eyed!

There is a large community of students from Africa and Asia and our story is as important as anyone else's.

Once we reached Lviv (in western Ukraine), we checked into a hostel. There was a group of us – some people we had set out with, and some we had met on the journey.

All this time, I continued to fundraise. Once in Lviv I was able to do this on a greater scale. One of the donors (who has helped me raise funds since) helped to raise over £40,000 in 24 hours. I was able to disburse £2,000 immediately and sorted out technicalities with my Ukrainian bank so that we could put money into it and withdraw it for people in need and check people into the hostel.

There, we met people from several African countries – including Zimbabwe, Eswatini and South Africa.

By now we were hearing again of the difficulties people were having getting to the border. Once more, people of colour were kept off buses. They had to push their way on to trains and were being pushed and manhandled off, and told 'No foreigners allowed.'

In the Telegram group chat, people were sharing experiences of racism from the Ukrainian military at the Polish border.

We were also told there was a 58-hour wait at the Polish border. So after hearing all this, we left Lviv and headed to the Romanian border which we thought might



not be as inundated – that journey took another 10 hours.

On the way, we stopped to stretch our legs and get some fresh air and armed civilians threatened to shoot us if we didn't leave in five minutes.

Nine kilometres from the Romanian border, we joined a queue of cars, where we had to wait for three days.

But when we reached the border, we were told to leave the car. When I talked to the military, a man pointed us to the pedestrian queue – where there were people who had walked or arrived by bus. Everyone in that queue was black or Asian or Arab and they had all been waiting for several days. None of them were Ukrainians.

I asked why we had to join this line when we had come in a car, and I tried to film the incident. A man tried to hit me, but Ukrainian military did nothing – in fact, they seemed to be laughing.

I got back into the car and contacted the British Embassy in Ukraine, who referred me to the British Embassy in Romania, and they promised to send someone to come and help. But the person never came.

We left the car, and joined the pedestrian queue, where a group of Indian students let us join them, so we didn't have to go right to the back.

We waited in that line for a further 10 hours, in the rain and snow, in below freezing temperatures. We hadn't eaten, or slept, the place was just country roads – no shops anywhere. We even heard that some people died of hypothermia in the queue.

### **Into Romania**

When we reached passport control, there was a fence. We could see that white people were passing through easily – and it was clear it was nothing to do with nationality as they weren't looking at passports. Only the people who were not white were segregated into a longer queue. We were told that priority was being given to women and children, but that was clearly not true – after all, I am a woman! We heard later people at the Polish border were

going through the same thing – including children.

Finally, we crossed the border into Romania.

We were apprehensive and worried about my husband's lack of documentation, and we were also concerned for a Zimbabwean who had lost his passport – he only had a photocopy of it.

But the Romanians were very helpful. They let us in and just told us to make sure we got travel documents sorted out.

After that everything changed. We were met by volunteers, with buses and ambulances, paramedics, and people handing out food. We thought, 'these people are so kind!' – and we kept thinking that at all the time we were in Romania.

A hotel-owner had turned his hotel into a refugee centre, where we could shower, and eat, and stay for the night in the function rooms before we went to look for a place to stay. We spent a night there, and just kept thinking of how kind everyone was.

By this time, two women from the British Embassy in Romania had found us and explained they had not been allowed into Ukraine, and hadn't meant to let us down.

They were really emotional, and apologised, and gave us a phone number and said we were to contact them if we needed anything on our journey.

We had to leave the refugee accommodation after one night – and there was more kindness. A taxi driver took us from hotel to hotel, driving for hours until he found somewhere for us to stay. It was the same driver who took us to the airport when we left.

## **Luton**

But arriving in Britain was another story.

We had been told that the UK visa and immigration authorities knew about my husband's visa being on my passport, and had put it all onto their system, and they knew about us. My MP, Liz Kendall (Leicester West), had also been told about us and the British Embassy in Ukraine had also informed the authorities at Luton airport that we were arriving. The airport in Romania had been aware that we were travelling, and knew we had the right documents, so allowed us on to the flight.

Yet in spite of all that, when we reached Luton things were not easy. We learned what was meant by the 'hostile environment' we'd been told about.

It started with an hour's wait in the non-EU passport queue – along with many Ukrainians seeking asylum.

When at last we were faced with an immigration official, he looked at my passport and said, 'When did you get this? Where is your Zimbabwean passport?'

I explained that I was travelling on my British passport and not using the Zimbabwean one.

He took the passport and went away, then came back and asked where we had come from. We explained 'Ukraine', and then he asked for my husband's passport and told us the airline shouldn't have allowed him to

travel without a visa.

We told him there was a visa, and the British Embassy had told us that immigration at Luton had been informed about us.

But he said, 'The British Embassy?' as if he didn't believe us. He said he would need proof we had been in Ukraine, and asked us what we were doing there? I explained I had been studying medicine and my husband is a neurosurgeon.

He took my passport and left us with the asylum seekers. When I asked if there was somewhere I could charge my phone so I could call my mum, who had been waiting for hours without knowing what was going on, the answer was 'no'.

But, after a while, he took us, along with the asylum seekers to a room where, at last, I could charge my phone. I contacted the British Embassy in Ukraine and my mum got in touch with Liz Kendall.

The MP's office told us the immigration authorities have a direct line to the embassy and it could all have been sorted out in minutes. They told the authorities at Luton that the way we were being treated was 'inhumane'.

Even then, it wasn't over. I was told I could leave, but not my husband. Of course, I got really upset, I thought 'I'm now home, and this is how I'm being treated.'

Then, at last, a border official came and explained that everything checked out.

We had been in the airport for three hours, and in the end it was resolved in fifteen minutes with just two phone calls – from the MP's office and the embassy. We were escorted to collect our luggage, and that was the end of that. We never saw the man we had first dealt with again.

## **'It was all a nightmare'**

Now I'm still working for the organisation that is helping students, and still advocating for the students, and our story was brought up at the UN Security Council.

It was all a nightmare, and even now when I hear a plane going over, I feel afraid.

And if someone says, something like 'Let's go out for a meal, my first reaction is still, 'We can't, we might get bombed!'

I'm trying to sort out my studies, and we are trying to advocate for students so that we can all continue our studies. But universities are not being very helpful and some in Europe are only helping Ukrainian students.

## **Read about Korrine Sky's fundraiser here:**

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Support-Black-people-fleeing-Ukraine?qid=30d7851168ce22e45ddbae14f0bfbd00>  
<https://blackwomenforblacklives.org>

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Korrine Sky's experiences have been reported in the British media – she gave an extended interview on ITV's Good Morning Britain, which you can see at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_fCqnETyaw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_fCqnETyaw)  
See also: <https://www.elle.com/uk/life-and-culture/elle-voices/a39570999/her-ukraine-korrine-sky-medical-student-racism-experience/> and <https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/reports/korrine-sky-ukraine-769452>



## *From the Other Side of Town* *Brian MacGarry 'teams up to clean up'*

**Liam Brickhill's description of the threats to Harare's wetlands (March issue) sounds optimistic compared with the outlook from along the Mukuvisi.**

The northern suburbs have the advantage of more vocal residents: probably they don't get hit with police batons so often when they speak out. I'm not trying to pull anyone down, just to describe a different set of problems, somewhat similar in some aspects.

It started on the banks of the Mukuvisi. The area between Mbare and Graniteside was wetland, even if it is more often described as an open sewer. Whichever it is, it is now also a refuge for a number of car repairers, small-scale mechanics, welders and suchlike. They are not there from choice, but for refuge from the regiments of *Murambvanhu* ('Operation Clear off the People'). The next nearest patch to here is between Sunningdale and the Seke Road, a large part of which is now covered by a new wholesale outlet. The owners must be well connected, because, for a few kilometres either side of it, Seke Road has been freshly tarred, to fit with their opening date. So has that road from that corner to Waterfalls Avenue and also Kelvin Road South. Yes, they do relieve a little of the pressure from through traffic – for as long as the new tar surface lasts, which may not be very long. Clearly, just as on the other side of town, central government and big money are not interested in long term benefits for anyone, even themselves.

### **Helping the main victims**

But what can we do to help the main victims, the poor, more aware that they can do something? Mbare Musika remains an eyesore and often hard on the nose as well.

Since local authorities with an elected majority of opposition party members only rarely receive the statutory subsidies from central government, they don't have the vehicles and equipment to maintain the standard of waste removal we saw in the 1980s.

During 2016 two groups got similar ideas about waste removal and disposal. Removal was no overall improvement when it meant burying all the mixed waste together to produce as much methane as landfills do anywhere else, so they needed to think beyond the lack of council lorries and look for alternatives.

In October of that year, a group called 'I am Mbare' and youth leaders in St Peters parish planned clean-ups, and combined under the snappy name 'Team Up to Clean Up'.

Starting in November they began to work, along with other churches, especially the Salvation Army and Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), as one organisation. Collecting was no problem, but we weren't going to immediately produce the level of awareness that gives many people in UK easy access to recycling centres where they can even separate different colours of glass. But they produced a project to give long-term direction to the aim of recycling.

The plan had three parts:

1 **Construction of a children's playground** in the waste area between Materirini and Matapi flats, built out of recycled metal and old tyres.

2 **Using more of the tyres**, which they were able to collect easily, to make banks of seats for spectators at the football ground next to the site chosen for the playground.

3 **Building a simple walled enclosure**, open enough for disposal trucks to back into (nobody expected to eliminate the need for them immediately) on the other side of the playground, as a collection and sorting centre. We held an opening ceremony for this complex late in 2018, with an MP and other officials present,



*'Team Up to Clean Up' – using recycled waste to create a children's playground.*  
Photo © Brian MacGarry

but had to negotiate with bureaucracy in order to continue. One aspiring politician even tried to claim credit for it and took over – long enough to disable much of the play-ground equipment. However, the community recovered control and, by Christmas Day 2020, it was working again, with rather more swings and slides and everything including the seats for the football pitch nicely painted.

**4 The next step must be better recycling.** That requires a lot of popular education, especially about how dangerous a greenhouse gas methane is. We have started by trying to persuade a couple of schools to separate organic waste, which can be used to make compost. If we can manage that, we are doing something to combat global warming and we will be encouraging rather than competing

with the existing informal recycling industry by having a dump for waste cleaned of organic matter.

Even without complete separation, the traditional recyclers do pick through the recycling centre pile, each taking what s/he specialises in: glass and plastic bottles, sheets of paper and plastic and so on. Metal is collected before we can get to it, because it is most profitable.

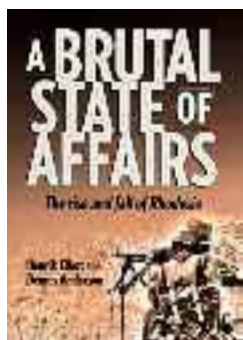
One sign of success: the President's 'national clean up day' announced for the first Friday of every month seemed to be a sign that the government felt challenged. But, like so much else, the event just faded off the calendar.

*Father Brian MacGarry is semi-retired, living at St. Peter's Church, Mbare.*

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## Review: *A Brutal State of Affairs: the rise and fall of Rhodesia*

Trevor Grundy welcomes this book – but has more than a few misgivings



**Towards the end of the Spanish Civil War, Ernest Hemingway described the three-year conflict as 'a carnival of rotteness and treachery on both sides ... an idiocy without bounds.'**

African nationalists will never accept that description of their struggle against white rule – a protracted fight that ended in a negotiated victory for Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, which turned white-ruled Rhodesia into black-led Zimbabwe.

But plenty of whites do see things in Rhodesia the way Hemingway saw them in Spain and they include Henrik Ellert and Dennis Anderson, the authors of this book.

And, as someone who lived and worked in Rhodesia (1977–1980) and then Zimbabwe (1980–1996), I welcome the arrival of *A Brutal State of Affairs*, which sits next to a long line of books that bend and buckle creaking bookshelves in a room I laughingly call my library, in Kent, England.

### **A reasonable job**

Future African historians might find some of this book useful because it is written by two men who supported Ian Smith, and who served the Rhodesian Special Branch (SB) for years and who were eyewitnesses to events they see now as 'hinge moments' in the Rhodesian War (1966–1979).

That is, I believe, the value of this well-written, carefully edited and beautifully presented book from Weaver Press, Zimbabwe's most imaginative publishing house.

Its fifteen chapters do a reasonable job telling the Rhodesian side of the story and what motivated a relatively tiny minority of Europeans (whites) living in Africa to cling to the past while their leaders convinced them they were fast-forwarding into the future.

The book also highlights several events outside Rhodesia – the Lisbon coup in 1974 was probably the most important – which sapped European morale and distanced Ian Smith's Rhodesia from John Vorster's South Africa.

Britain's insidious role in this is hardly mentioned.

### **Two unexplained incidents**

Ellert and Anderson used primary source material when available, supplemented by reports from SB archives. Sadly, much of what we need to know was destroyed by Smith's CIO during the closing stages of the war.

Or so we're led to believe.

In his review of this book, the Zimbabwean academic Martin Revayi Rupiya pointed out that its authors benefited from documents gathered from foreign intelligence agencies in South Africa, Belgium, France, Portugal and Malawi: information that was entrusted to senior police and intelligence institutions, and used in their engagement with various metropolises, including Lisbon and Pretoria. Rupiya wrote:

Given the shroud of unexplained and vexing developments during the liberation war, the significance of this book is that it offers reasoned explanations, based on empirically verifiable evidence and allows closure, decades later. This may be regarded as the greatest contribution made by the book.

He pointed to two incidents placed under the microscope by Ellert and Anderson: the mysterious disappearance and murder of Edson Sithole on the night of 15 October, 1975 in the then Salisbury, and the massacre of missionaries at the Elim Pentecostal Mission on the border with Mozambique in Inyanga North near Umtali (now Mutare) on 23 June 1978.

Decades after his disappearance outside the Ambassador Hotel, we still do not know who abducted and then killed Sithole.

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*A Brutal State of Affairs: continued from previous page*

Speculation that he was to be snatched and turned so he would feed information about black nationalists to the white-run SB remains just that – speculation.

On the Elim Mission massacre, we learn next to nothing that's fresh and are pointed to a book many have read, *The Axe and the Tree* by Stephen Griffith (Lion Hudson, 2017, 9780857217899, 0857217895).

That one, plus a book that might be harder to get hold of called *Stoning the Dogs: Guerrilla mobilisation and violence in Rhodesia* (un-published thesis, Israeli Defence Forces).

What surprised me most about this new book is how similar so much of it is to another one by Henrick Ellert, *The Rhodesian Front War* published by Mambo Press, Gweru in 1989.

That was a time in Zimbabwe when the memoir of Ken Flower (former Rhodesian intelligence chief) was clarifying or confusing the collective European understanding of what they'd gone through during the war and why. And the fact that Ellert was a former Special Branch operative caused interest, along with a handful of other repentant memoirs written by whites who'd fought against ZANU and ZAPU during Chimurenga Two and who wanted their stories, which some might call confessions, told. (One white man, so angry about being forced to fight his black brothers, demanded a Nuremberg trial in Harare).

In parts of that book, Ellert concentrated on the Portuguese and South African connections and the Selous Scouts who, according to an un-named reviewer in the *Financial Gazette* of 22 September, 1989 'are now judged to be the *enfants terrible* and convenient scapegoats allegedly responsible for actions from which many now wish to distance themselves.' It said:

Mr Ellert himself strives to be as fair as possible and indeed in doing so leaves one with the thought that he himself has doubts (unprovable though they may be) about some of the less savoury incidents in what was a very dirty war.

### **The assassination of Herbert Chitepo.**

That reviewer touched on something I was particularly interested in when I read *A Brutal State of Affairs*: the assassination of Herbert Chitepo.

I was in Lusaka working for the *Times of Zambia* and correspondent for the BBC's *Focus on Africa* and the *Financial Times* when it happened.

Said the *Financial Gazette* reviewer:

Predictably, Chitepo's assassination in Lusaka in March 1975 is dismissed in one sentence and that is a quotation from a book published by authors who were more likely to represent the African Nationalist point of view than that of the Rhodesian Government.

He or she went on:

Ken Flower, in his version of the killing, took arm's length responsibility, but it is regrettable that Mr Ellert, who must have had inside information – either gained at the time or consequently – did not give his opinion.

The reviewer went on to say, on the abduction and murder of Edson Sithole eight months later:

Mr Ellert was prepared to give much more detail. He stated that Mr Sithole was apprehended as he and his secretary arrived in a car to visit the Quill Club at the Ambassador Hotel in Harare. Two Selous Scouts, posing as Special Branch men, arrested Mr Sithole and his secretary and they were never seen again.'

The writer, without naming himself/herself, revealed that he/she was in the Quill Club that very evening and that Mr Sithole was already in that drinking den and was called away by a phone call and that he was arrested after he left the hotel.

'Mr Ellert should have known this for he was one of two Special Branch men who were permanently assigned to the Quill Club.

The reviewer said that while Ellert was definite about the Selous Scouts' responsibility for Mr Edson Sithole's disappearance and obvious murder, he was seemingly equivocal about the identity of those responsible for the St Paul's and Elim massacre of missionaries.

The review was headlined *New Book Lifts the Veil Slightly on RF war*.

### **Changing their minds**

I found it disturbing that both authors initially believed that Chitepo was assassinated by Josiah Tongogara, military commander of ZANLA forces, but that after they'd read a single book by a couple of ZANU (PF) special pleaders they changed their minds.

But with no fresh evidence, no new interviews.

The book that made them see the light was *The Chitepo Assassination* by David Martin and Phyllis Johnson. It was published ten years after Chitepo's murder, by the Zimbabwe Publishing House, which they ran.

I find it hard to take seriously authors who are able of change their minds so easily concerning a subject that remains potentially explosive on the strength of a single book written almost half a century ago.

The first book by Martin and Johnson was called *The Struggle for Zimbabwe* (Faber & Faber, 1981 pp 378). It was dedicated to Josiah Tongogara and was, largely, the ZANU/Mugabe interpretation of the Rhodesian War and the issues that caused it. Their second came out at the same time as a paperback called *See You in November*, published in South Africa and written by a former White CIO agent who wrote under the name of 'Peter Stiff.'

His book, and his thesis that whites murdered Chitepo, bore a strong resemblance to the one written by Martin and Johnson.

Now almost every white journalist I know sings from the same hymn sheet as Martin/Johnson and Stiff.

The historian Professor Terence Ranger told me during a visit I made to Oxford University several years when he went round Zimbabwe talking to pupils in secondary schools in Manicaland that the first question he was always asked was 'Who killed Herbert Chitepo?'

When it comes to the death of a man of great status

and true value, the matter is far from over. Closure?

Not in a thousand years, to coin a phrase.

How I wish Ellert and Anderson had done some homework and taken to heart the view of black Zimbabweans on this subject not the tiresome political correctness of people like Martin/Johnson and Stiff. What a pity Ellert and Anderson made no mention of what Africans said when the Martin/Johnson book appeared.

For example, the editorial written by Willie Musaruwa in the *Sunday Mail* of 24 March 1985:

There can be no doubt that the recently published book on the tragic death in March 1975 of Herbert Chitepo will be a commercial success for the authors without achieving its stated objective: and that turns the whole thing into a most cynical tragedy.

The authors claim that their objective was to 'reveal the truth about a very important part of Zimbabwe's history, laying to rest the spirits that have remained disturbed for a decade.'

But precisely because it is indeed a very important and controversial part of our 'history', it might be both polite and prudent for foreigners among us to leave the Government and people of Zimbabwe to make such a lofty claim of finality.

### **Paying attention to African writers**

Ellert and Anderson would also have done themselves some good and helped readers understand more had they made reference to what was being said by prominent African historians, academics and authors at the time of the publication of the Martin/Johnson book.

One of them was Ibbo Mandaza who, under the name of 'The Scrutator', wrote in *The Herald* of 23 March 1985 that in his opinion Martin and Johnson 'have simply cashed in on a political issue that they thereby rendered sensational in a book that will therefore sell very well.'

Concerning some of the book's sources, he said:

In the absence of an authenticated report, I am afraid the book is likely to fuel more controversy about the Chitepo assassination

than has been the case up until now. How dependable is the evidence of an un-named former Rhodesian CIO source?

And this is the book that made Ellert and Anderson change their minds about who killed Chitepo.

Did they open, read, even know about Masipula Sithole's magnificent book *Struggles within the Struggle*?

I doubt it, having examined the bibliography. Nearly every book listed is written by a white person. How little anyone – especially me – knew what was really going on when a bomb exploded under the car of Chitepo's pale blue VW early on 18 March 1975.

Fresh minds with clear voices on this terrible event would have enlivened this book so much. Any effort to dig deeper is absent in this new book.

So, we must thank Marda Fairlie, daughter of the late head of the CIO Ken Flower, who allowed the authors to use her notes from the 'archives' that were included in her father's book *Serving Secretly* (John Murray, 1987).

But sadly, much of Flower's unpublished material remains a tightly guarded secret in London and won't be seen by anyone with an inquisitive mind about Britain's role in all this for a long time to come, if ever.

*A Brutal State of Affairs* isn't a start-up book for newcomers to the Rhodesia tragedy. But if you're an African aficionado and curious to hear the stories and learn about the insights of two former SB men who served rebel-Rhodesia so well, then this is one for you.

*A Brutal State of Affairs*

Henrik Ellert, Dennis Malcolm Anderson, Weaver Press, Zimbabwe, 2020, ISBN 9781779223739

*Trevor Grundy is a British reporter who lived and worked in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa from 1966-1996. This article is a shortened version of one in his personal blog, Trevor Grundy News, 27 January 2022*

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## *A Journey of Hope: Norma and Nigel Hall hear stories from the past and are offered a vision for Zimbabwe's future*

**The 10th anniversary of the Mike Campbell Foundation (MCF) was held on 30 March 2022, at the Royal Geographical Society, London SW7.**

The event – billed as 'stories from the past and a vision for Zimbabwe's future' – was to have featured a keynote address by Advocate Nelson Chamisa, Leader of the Opposition, Advocate Fadzayi Mahere, Baroness Kate Hoey, Member of the House of Lords and Ben Freeth, MCF Executive Director.

In the event, neither Nelson Chamisa nor Fadzayi Mahere was able to attend – the former 'being under too much pressure at home,' after a hugely successful rally in Epworth and having won significant victories in the Parliamentary and Municipal by-elections. Although only recently formed and despite most rallies being banned, members arrested or even, in one case, killed, Chamisa's Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) had taken 19 of the

28 Parliamentary seats being contested and 75 out of 120 Municipal vacancies. So, despite Chamisa's absence and that of Mahere – who had been arrested and whose bail was pending – the tone of the evening was set with the theme of hope. A new keynote speaker, Felix Ndiweni, Zimbabwe's Paramount Chief (one of the few traditional leaders that have stood up to the government) was able to speak in their place.

### **Kate Hoey – All-Party Parliamentary Group**

Kate Hoey, who heads the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Zimbabwe, described meeting Chamisa 15 or 16 years ago, and emphasised her experience of how his enthusiasm, energy and inspiring leadership came through even though he was under surveillance and risk at the time, and how committed his supporters were for the Zimbabwean cause.

But more is needed, she said, to call out the fact that

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*MCF meeting: continued from previous page*

the rule of law is not prevalent in Zimbabwe. She told us she and others have been criticised for being pessimistic about Zimbabwe's future under Mnangagwa – but said they have been proved right with the continuing story of corruption, greed and violent oppression of the Mugabe years.

Hoey said she believed that, sadly, 'too many aid agencies and diplomats have fallen for Mnangagwa's lies' and were expecting positive social change from the 'crocodile and his criminal cronies'. (A very different CCC!)

She showed a scarf given to her by the Zimbabwean Women's group, WOZA, and was impressed by the genuine wish of women of all ages to develop an equal society for all, 'even though a whole generation have grown up without knowing a democratic country'.

### **Tribute to the diaspora**

She paid tribute to the Zimbabwean diaspora after Mnangagwa cut off funding for the MDC: when Nelson Chamisa's car was shot at last year, it was the diaspora that had paid for a bullet-proof car to protect him.

She also mentioned the recently televised film *President* which showed how the MDC were robbed at the last election, and the role that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) played in that. She was concerned that, again, many of the opposition would be at risk next year and expressed disappointment with the lack of support from the South African government. She encouraged people in the UK to express concerns to their local MPs, who could refer issues to the Foreign Office or Secretary of State for Africa.

### **Felix Ndiweni – the rule of law**

Felix Ndiweni stressed the importance of rule of law as opposed to rule by law. He asked 'Does (the law) respect and answer to its people?' In Zimbabwe, the systematic corruption of judges and the legal system has undermined the rule of law, and without the impartiality and true implementation of a just legal system there can be no incentive for successful investment in the country. Zimbabwe, he said, cannot be divorced from the international community and any appeasement of wrongdoing is a dangerous game.

He went on to remind us that, despite all that ZANU (PF) have done to intimidate the opposition, the people had still come out and voted for the CCC which, with no state funding, had been remarkably successful. People feel there is nothing more to lose – 'the bully had better stand back. The elections are coming'.

Chief Ndiweni believes the government of Zimbabwe is operating outside the law and the constitution of the country and by definition is a terrorist government. SADC, he said has long been a 'toothless dog' – especially compared to other African regional organisations such as the West African ECOWAS. He hoped South Africa will now show some leadership in SADC in trying to counter xenophobia, and deal with the refugee influx from Zimbabwe. This, he felt provides some leverage in moving forward to counter

the rubber-stamping of previously fraudulent elections.

### **Participation from the diaspora?**

Chief Ndiweni stressed how CCC is preparing for the 2023 election and the need to bring in the additional support of the 5.5 million plus diaspora (more than the 4.8 million counted votes of the 2018 election). He stated the need to open (electoral) registration for the 5.5 million.

We felt this would be difficult to organise, and is maybe rather fanciful. Perhaps more emphasis could be placed trying to get a much greater proportion of the vote out in the country in 2023.

The issue of the diaspora's participation also came up under questions, with the need for the various groups to register their numbers and interest. Both inside and outside Zimbabwe, there was the need to note every unfair practice and incident and make them known to electoral observers, the international community, churches and other interested bodies – before as well as after the elections.

### **Ben Freeth – daring to hope**

Ben Freeth, Executive Director of the MCF, described visiting Ypres, Belgium. Devastated in the First World War, new life and hope returned to the city – 'It took time, vision, hope and it took God'. He asked, 'Do we dare to hope?'

Freeth described how he and his family, including his father-in-law, Mike Campbell, had been tortured, abducted, beaten, threatened with death and had their homes burned down.

In Zimbabwe the prisons were now cesspits of inhumanity; teachers hardly paid; hospitals non-functioning and a justice system both corrupt and captured by ZANU (PF).

Despite all this, he reminded us that those in the MCF have dared to hope and in the past have dared to take Mugabe to court and challenge an unjust constitution that legalised theft. After all, it had won an amazing court decision, when all 10 judges of the constitutional court in South Africa ruled in MCF's favour against the wishes of the then South African President Zuma.

Freeth urged the people of Zimbabwe to grow seeds of hope that can be kept from one year to the next. Positive political changes in Zambia and Malawi indicate that the tide may be turning. Cynicism and despair are our enemies, he said.

We did feel that Freeth would have made a stronger case if he had acknowledged the inequities and racism of the colonial period which had sparked the Chimurenga in the first place. Nevertheless, despite the extreme brutality meted out to him and his family by ZANU (PF), his organisation is now engaged in education, developing farming initiatives for the rural poor and promoting human rights.

### **Winds of change?**

A Q&A session followed in which some expressed the view that 'the winds of change' might be aligning more in favour of the opposition. This, of course, remains to be seen.



## *Bringing Hope – and Libraries – to Marginalised Communities* *Hosea Tokwe describes a day-long workshop in a rural community*

**In my role as a librarian, I often travel to remote and often underprivileged areas of Zimbabwe, helping people set up and run libraries in schools.**

I love this work, because it's incredibly rewarding to help bring books and the chance to read to children who might have few other opportunities.

### **An early start for a long day**

As part of that project, I recently set off on a quiet Saturday morning, to run a School Librarians Workshop – with a photographer, to record the event. We were going all the way to Chiurwi School, in Buhera District in eastern Zimbabwe, and the workshop was for that school and others in the area.

Mr Matema, our driver, had sent a message: 'I will be in the city at exactly 6.30am.'

In fact, he wasn't there. Only the photographer who said he's been waiting twenty minutes. I feared it might be a bad start – but, just as I began to worry, a black Mercedes approached and screeched to a halt.

'Apologies, apologies gentlemen,' said Mr Matema, opening the doors. We climbed and set off at high speed.

For a moment, I thought that a car that fast would get us to our destination early, but Mr Matema said no – we'd have to transfer to a Fortuner for the rough gravel road. That was much slower – but fascinating, all the same.

### **A scenic journey**

On the way we passed through Marondera, Wedza and then Buhera. In the Imire Game Reserve we had rare view of kudu, cliff springer antelope and grazing zebras.

When we had stopped for a while to buy provisions, Mr Matema told us about the place we were going to.

'Chiurwi has a lot of history. It was one of the biggest assembly points during ceasefire. Its name was Dzapasi Assembly Point, but the whites called it Foxtrot, because a lot of foxes were seen around there. After independence, the challenge was unexploded ordinance (grenades) that were buried around the area and there were accidents where schoolchildren would dig up grenades unknowingly while cleaning up areas around the school grounds. Occasionally, soldiers would have come to explode grenades – which was very frightening.

'There are ancient paintings scattered around the hills and mountains of Chiurwi – the ones identified as Khoisan paintings in African history. I once visited ancient paintings like these in Matendera, Kagombudzi, Muchuchu and Gombe ... I realised there is a big part of our history that needs more research.'

### **Our day at Chiurwi School**

At Chiurwi, I was really impressed with the turnout of schools – out of 40 schools in the area, a total of 25 attended the School Librarians Workshop.



*Teachers and pupils at a School Librarians Workshop Chiurwi School, in Buhera district.*

*Photo © Tadi Kunzekweguta*

I was also encouraged by support from the District Schools Inspector, who made the official keynote opening and closing remarks and encouraged all schools to value the importance of having a library, so that it becomes part of the curriculum.

The day began as Mr Tsoka introduced me to his staff and other teachers. Then we were ready to begin our day's work I took my 'students' through the steps they needed to follow in running a library:

- Organising and Administering a School Library
- Classification
- Cataloguing books

As the workshop was held in the Chiurwi school library, some of the practical demonstrations could be done hands-on. And, of course, everyone enjoyed that.

In between sessions, we invited schoolchildren to recite poems and read storybooks – this was to encourage the librarians at the workshop to get their schools to carry out activities like these when they had established their libraries.

All in all, it was a successful and inspiring day.

*Hosea Tokwe is Chief Library Assistant at Midlands State University, Gweru*

#### **Aussie Books for Zim**



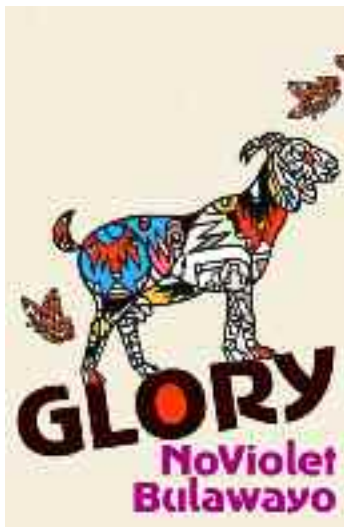
schools.

*My next trip to Chiurwi School will be for the official opening of the library and the book presentation ceremony of close to 2000 books – all donated by Aussie Books for Zim.*

*You can read more about this charity here: <https://aussiebooks4zim.org>*

## Review: *Glory*

*Nokuthula Moyo on the novel by NoViolet Bulawayo that has found world-wide publicity – but what is it about?*



**Before I read this book, my understanding was that it was a parody on events in Zimbabwe from about October 2017 to the present day.**

NoViolet Bulawayo certainly describes the events and the characters of that period so vividly that they may actually have been that way. Her portrayal of

The Old Horse/The Father of the Nation, of The Donkey and of The Saviour/the Crocodile, are so realistic that one gets to some understanding of those characters and why they did what they did.

It is, however, the story of Simiso and her daughter, Destiny, which will be real for those readers of a generation that has suffered trauma after trauma in our young democracy.

### **Confused by our independence**

Those who were born in Ian Smith's Rhodesia, opened their eyes to the war of liberation, were confused by our independence and the treatment of Joshua Nkomo, ZAPU and ZIPRA. They lived through the atrocities of the Gukurahundi, raised their hopes at the inception of the Movement for Democratic Change only to have them dashed; raised their hopes in November 2017 only to have them dashed again. They will recognise themselves in those two females. We were Simiso, we are Destiny.

The sad story of Dr Future Fengu and his wife Soneni is one that has played out in many homes as the economy has regressed. So is the story of Teacher-Vendor: teachers literally became vendors in order to survive, yet we have never lost our belief in the value of education. Prophet Dr. G.O. Moses is a caricature of the many prophets, apostles and bishops who have risen as the economy has failed. And there are millions of Zimbabweans living in exile today, who will see their own story in Destiny's exile.

### **Brutal and graceful language**

NoViolet Bulawayo's use of language is at once brutal and graceful. Her use of familiar Ndebele phrases

such as *tholukuthi* and her repetition of certain other phrases echo the reader's emotions. The names she gives some of the characters are mischievous to those who know the language used.

At times her language is provocative and arguably impolite, but she makes no apology for describing things as she sees them or feels them, and many a reader will feel she is justified in her treatment of such characters, like them or not.

### **The place of tradition and religion**

An interesting element in the story is the place of tradition and religion in the lives of ordinary people: Those who are Christians, those who are traditionalists, and those who have one foot in both camps.

Destiny's experience when she travels to Bulawayo is told with no explanation and no reasoning. It might have happened as it is told. In fact, her depiction of religion and tradition seems to have been almost prophetic in itself, given the ascendancy of traditionalism in our society today.

Although there are no humans in the books, the reality is that in the reader's mind there are no animals, only the flesh and blood people who are depicted by each animal: the Saviour of the Nation/the Crocodile, Judas Goodness Reza, Brilliant Nzinza, Commander Jambanja, Queen Black, Goodwill Beta.

These are all real people whose faces we see in our minds as we read.

This is a book that should provoke readers of every generation, but especially those of Destiny's generation who still have the energy to fight for their dreams.

### *Glory*

NoViolet Bulawayo, Random House (UK), 2022  
ISBN: 9781784744298

*Nokuthula Moyo has been practising law in Harare since 1994. She was the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights in its formative years, and she also served on the Board of the Legal Resources Foundation.*

*No Violet Bulawayo appeared on BBC Radio 4's Start the Week on 18 April, along with Dipo Faloyin and Julia Gallagher, discussing Glory and the need to dispel stereotypes of Africa. See: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0016gyt>*

# *African Thought: a Journal of Afro-centric Knowledge*

*Sophie Chirongoma describes a new journal with a focus on women*



**The inspiration behind *African Thought: A Journal of Afro-centric Knowledge* was the realisation that contemporary African scholars continually draw from the wells of African indigenous knowledge systems – despite Afro-centric knowledge having been long neglected by scholarly discourses about Africa.**

The journal aims to publish from a multi-disciplinary and comparative perspective with other world knowledge systems. It seeks to provide a base for African scholars to draw from indigenous knowledge to help devise African solutions to African problems. It encourages scholarly reflection on the application of indigenous knowledge systems in a wide range of spheres, such as politics, religion, history, sociology, anthropology, science, and more.

The initial steps towards setting up the journal were taken by Professor Munyaradzi Felix Murove in collaboration with Professor Herbert Moyo of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, who registered the journal under the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics at that university in 2019. In the same year, they extended the invitation to Dr Sophie Chirongoma of Midlands State University, Zimbabwe, to join the founding editorial team.

## **Birth of the maiden issue**

Shortly after joining the editorial team, Sophie compiled the journal's initial edition.

As an African feminist, it came naturally for her to launch the first issue with a thrust on *African Women and Indigenous Knowledge Systems*. She invited two colleagues, Professor Ezra Chitando from the University of Zimbabwe and Dr Mazvita Machinga from Africa University, Zimbabwe to come on board.

The decision for that initial focus was driven by the fact that, although African women play a central role in perpetuating indigenous knowledge systems, there is a dearth in literature foregrounding this. Contributors to the volume were invited to focus their discussion on paying particular attention to women as vanguards of their communities' systems. This founding issue seeks to answer the following questions:

- How are African women tapping into indigenous knowledge systems in an endeavour to preserve holistic health and well-being?
- In what ways are African women drawing insights from indigenous knowledge systems to contribute towards ecological preservation?
- How are African women navigating indigenous practices and traditions surrounding disability, infertility,

hospitality and the interconnection between human and non-human beings?

- How can we draw insights from, and use, African indigenous resources to advocate for women's emancipation and empowerment, especially their involvement in key leadership and decision-making forums?

The debut journal covers a range of themes on African women and indigenous knowledge systems. The articles call for the inclusion of African women in the discourse about these. They also make a significant contribution towards an understanding of how African women and their use of such systems can go a long way in attaining sustainable development and enhancing quality of life.

The first issue was published in November 2021. The first four articles discuss how African women play a fundamental role in preserving their communities' health and well-being by utilising indigenous resources. The next four reflect on how African women navigate indigenous practices and traditions surrounding disability, infertility and hospitality. They discuss how African indigenous women challenge ingrained patriarchal traditions to take up leadership and key decision-making positions in their communities.

We hope that this founding issue will open a platform for continued discussion along these lines.

## **Gazing into the future**

We aim to publish twice a year (June and December). The second issue, the completion of the two-part series on *African Women and Indigenous Knowledge Systems*, is scheduled for June 2022. Like the founding issue, it was co-edited by Sophie Chirongoma, Mazvita Machinga and Ezra Chitando.

The first three articles discuss African indigenous women's pivotal role in ecological care. The next four reflect on African women's indigenous knowledge on food production, processing and preservation. The last two conclude by suggesting ways of redressing gender disparities as seen by African indigenous women.

The third issue, scheduled for December, 2022, focuses on African ethics and healing with specific reference to contemporary African indigenous churches. It is being co-edited by Munyaradzi Felix Murove and Sophie Chirongoma. Since we adopt a multidisciplinary approach, we invite contributors from diverse disciplines to reflect on indigenous knowledge within their specialities.

The journal is available at: <https://bibliotos-publishing.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/xxx-AIKS-volume-1-November-2021-2nd-word-version.pdf>

For information about submission and to comment, email us at: [sochirongoma@gmail.com](mailto:sochirongoma@gmail.com)



## *Living on Borrowed Time: Pat Brickhill describes the worsening situation for Zimbabweans in South Africa*

**I was in Cape Town recently. What shocked me more than anything was the open hostility towards Zimbabweans from many South Africans.**

They say there is no place for Zimbabweans in South Africa and they must '*fokof*' (a less-than polite way of saying 'leave immediately'). They say Zimbabweans insult them, calling them uneducated, lazy and unemployable and assert Zimbabweans are criminals, robbing and murdering South Africans, taking their jobs, monopolising hospital and other services.

Movement between the two countries is not new: Zimbabweans used to work in the mines and in the agricultural sector. But these migrants were temporary.

### **A flood of immigrants**

The change of government in South Africa in 1994 was followed by an exodus of mainly white professionals. This vacuum was filled by Zimbabwean professionals, such as nurses, doctors and teachers looking for greener pastures. They were welcomed, and many became successful permanent residents.

However, in the early 2000s, the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe deteriorated and eventually collapsed. The new waves of migrants are poorer and live in the poor communities among South Africans who face the same challenges of poverty as they do.

Political analyst and commentator Moeletsi Mbeki alleges that co-operation between South Africa's ANC and Zimbabwe's ZANU PF in the early 2000s, to prevent an opposition threatening ZANU PF (the ruling party), directly contributed to the destruction of Zimbabwe's economy as Zimbabweans fled political oppression, and the breakdown of the health and other state sectors and financial chaos. The Zimbabweans were accommodated in South Africa through a visa exemption (Zimbabwean Special Dispensation Permit), later replaced by the Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP).

Officially, the South African government pursued a policy of 'quiet diplomacy'. Mbeki further links the more recent rise of xenophobia in South Africa to the ANC's current desperate attempts to cling to power.

Like ZANU PF, the ANC has failed to meet the aspirations of the majority of their citizens, and the democracy has become a kleptocracy. With support for the ANC falling dramatically, Zimbabweans and other foreigners in the country provide a convenient scapegoat as the cause of all the ills in the country.

A Zimbabwean musician friend recounted his experience living in Khayelitsha. He believed he was streetwise after growing up in a Zimbabwe township, and would manage in South Africa. But, after a few weeks he was robbed at gunpoint as he unlocked his front door. He describes life for Zimbabweans in South Africa as hell. He returned to Harare – 'poorer but alive', he said.

Recent UN figures say Zimbabweans make up 24 per cent of foreigners in South Africa, but there are no accurate figures for the total number of Zimbabweans living there. Estimates range from 180,000 (the number of ZEP holders) to as many as 2,000,000 (including Zimbabweans illegally there). In January 2022, it was announced that special permits for Zimbabweans are cancelled and ZEP holders have until December to apply for, and be granted other permits/visas – which most are unlikely to receive.

### **'Put South Africa First'**

Most disturbing is that anti-foreigner sentiment has morphed into physical movements. Recent confrontations are organised by openly xenophobic groups like *Operation Dudula* (translates to 'to push back') and *Put South Africa First*.

President Cyril Ramaphosa condemns these groups as vigilantes but, as the ANC fails to address the xenophobia or confront the issues of its own poor citizens, more and more frustrated and desperate South Africans rally behind them.

Recently, Elvis Nyathi had found work as a gardener in the suburbs and lived in a crime-ridden informal settlement in Gauteng called *Diepsloot* (means 'deep ditch') with his family. He was beaten and burned alive by a mob of *Dudula* supporters who had been going around checking the legal status of foreigners.

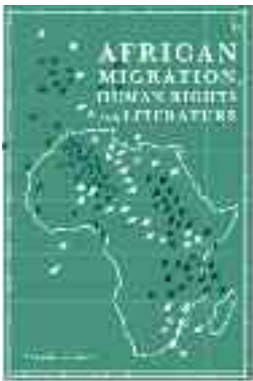
Failing economies and conflict in many Africa countries continue to force people to flee their homelands. In Zimbabwe, the economy is plunging out of control once more: the parallel rate slipped from Z\$190 = US\$1 to around Z\$400 = US\$1 in the four months I was in Harare. The situation continues to deteriorate day by day.

Zimbabweans at home who rely on support from family in South Africa to survive are facing a future as bleak as that of their relatives in South Africa.

*Pat Brickhill is Secretary of the Britain Zimbabwe Society.*

## New Books from and about Zimbabwe

This selection covers new books coming to our attention in the period December 2021 – April 2022

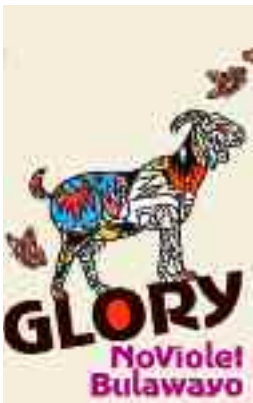


Fareda Banda  
*African Migration, Human Rights and Literature*

Looks at migration through the prism of law and literature, using a rich mix of novels, short stories, literary realism, human rights and comparative literature to explore the experiences of African migrants and asylum seekers. Part One focuses on art activism and the myriad ways in which people have sought to ‘write justice’.

Part Two examines gender and status, focusing on women, LGBTI individuals and children. Few African lawyers write about literature and few books and articles in Western law and literature look at books by or about Africans.

Paperback 376 pages, Bloomsbury Publishing, UK, 2022, ISBN 9781509945467



NoViolet Bulawayo

*Glory*

The second novel from the first black woman from Africa to be shortlisted for the Booker Prize. NoViolet Bulawayo intended to write a non-fiction book about Zimbabwe after the fall of Robert Mugabe, but decided along the way that what she had to say would work better as fiction.

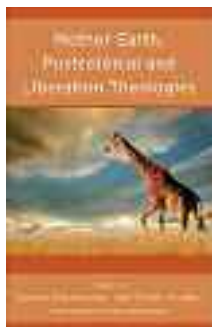
Her story is set in the mythical nation of Jidada, suffering under the yoke of a brutal dictator and the whims of his corrupt party. It is populated by a cast of animal characters, inspired by the Zimbabwean habit of assigning animal avatars to some of their leaders, and George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*. Jidada is seemingly trapped, but the story reminds us that tyranny only lasts as long as its victims are willing to let it.

Paperback, 416 pages, Random House, London, 2022, ISBN 9781784744304 (See page 10 for a full review).

Sophia Chirongoma and Esther Mombo (editors)

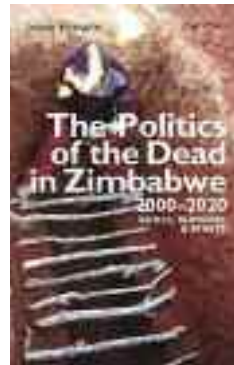
*Mother Earth, Postcolonial and Liberation Theologies*

Using liberation, postcolonial, and theological lenses, this collection examines global warming and the environmental crisis in Africa, the continent whose people stand to bear the brunt of ecological catastrophe.



The contributors write at the intersection of African spirituality, cultural expression, and the earth.

Hardback, 196 pages, Lexington Books, a division of Rowman and Littlefield, UK, 2021, ISBN 9781978711617 (eBook format also available)



Joost Fontein

*The Politics of the Dead in Zimbabwe 2000–2020 – Bones, Rumours & Spirits*

An innovative and challenging study that provides fresh insights on the anthropology of death and post-colonial politics. Bones, bodies and human remains occupy an increasingly complex place in Zimbabwe’s postcolonial milieu.

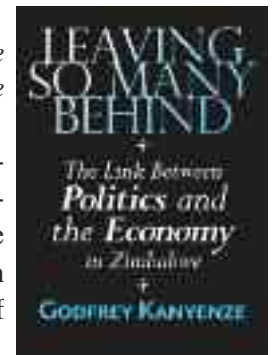
Joost Fontein takes us beyond current scholarship on memory, commemoration and the changing significance of ‘traditional’ death practices, to examine the political implications of human remains as material substances, as duplicitous rumours, and as returning spirits. He points to how the incompleteness of death is politically productive, and deeply intertwined with the stylistics of postcolonial power and politics.

Hardback, 366 pages, James Currey, Boydell & Brewer, UK, 2022, ISBN 9781847012678 (also in eBook format)

Godfrey Kanyenze

*Leaving so many behind – The Link between Politics and the Economy in Zimbabwe*

A far-reaching analysis of Zimbabwe’s socio-economic development since independence, the growth of authoritarian capitalism and the ongoing destruction of democratic institutions.



The governmental attacks on civil society reveal that economic policy was not even part of an ‘authoritarian bargain’, an implicit arrangement between ruling elites and citizens whereby citizens relinquish political freedom in exchange for public goods. In today’s Zimbabwe, citizens have neither political freedom nor public goods.

Paperback, 478 pages, Weaver Press, Zimbabwe, 2022, ISBN 9781779224064

Ngonidzashe Marongwe, Fidelis Peter Thomas Duri and Professor Munyaradzi Mawere (editors)

*Morgan Richard Tsvangirai’s Legacy – Opposition Politics and the Struggle for Human Rights, Democracy and Gender Sensitivities*

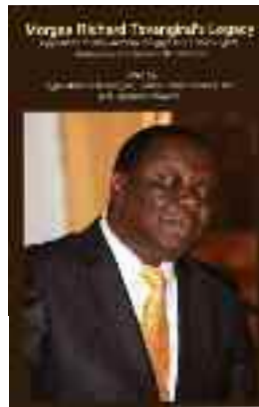
Morgan Tsvangirai’s legacy, like that of Robert Mugabe, is controversial and conflicted.

Continued on next page



New books: continued from previous page

Opinion is broadly divided between those who argue that Tsvangirai was the champion of democracy and the face of the struggle for human rights in Zimbabwe, and those who see him as a ‘sell-out’ or a ‘traitor’. Drawing on all these characterisations, this book offers a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary appraisal of a trade unionist and political figure who, in his life and in death, inspires different narratives, emotions and values. Paperback, 364 pages, Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon, 2022, ISBN 9789956552894



Magdalena Pfalzgraf  
*Mobility in Contemporary Zimbabwean Literature in English – Crossing Borders, Transcending Boundaries*

Explores the concept of mobility in Zimbabwean works of fiction published in English between 2000 and the end of the Mugabe era. Prompted by political conflict and economic downturn in this period,

Zimbabwe has experienced unprecedented levels of transnational out-migration – together with an outpouring of literary texts about migration from inside Zimbabwe and the diaspora. The author examines developments and trends, the link between state authoritarianism and control of mobility, and literature's potential to intervene into dominant political discourses.

Includes in-depth analyses of ten recent works of fiction published in the post-2000 era and develops mobility as a key category of literary analysis.

Hardback, 264 pages, Routledge Contemporary Africa Series, Taylor and Francis, UK, 2021, ISBN 9780367637811 (also in eBook format)

Rory Pilosoff (editor)  
*Fending for Ourselves – Youth in Zimbabwe, 1980-2020*

While Zimbabwe as a nation is no longer young, its population certainly is: over 60 per cent are under the age of 35. Understanding youth perspectives and experiences is vitally important.

The contributors explore issues of education, employment and work, the urban experience, involvement in the informal economy, mental health, and political activity. They show how ideas, experiences and reactions to the social,



political, and economic context have shifted over successive generations.

Many of the issues affecting youth over the past 40 years have been traumatic and distressing – physical and mental abuse, declining employment and educational opportunities, poverty, ill-health and loss of hope – but Zimbabwe's young people retain agency and resilience, and have found ways to navigate the political, social, and economic terrains they occupy.

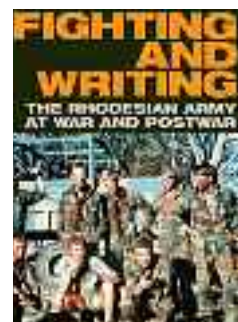
Paperback, 278 pages, Weaver Press, Zimbabwe, 2021, ISBN 9781779224002



Ian Scoones (editor)  
*Researching Land Reform in Zimbabwe*

A compilation of 20 articles emerging from researching Zimbabwe's land reform since 2000. Most of the chapters are co-authored and are based on the work of a dedicated Zimbabwean team who have worked together since the late 1980s. The book is organised into six themes: ‘experiences of land reform’, ‘political contestations’, ‘production and markets’, ‘environmental dynamics’, and ‘land reform in the wider context’.

It offers an overview of Zimbabwe's post-land reform experience based on in-depth research across multiple sites, and the implications of the changes of agrarian transformation both for Zimbabwe and the wider region. Paperback, 571 pages, independently published, 2022, ISBN 9798401885180 (eBook also available)



Luise White  
*Fighting and Writing: The Rhodesian Army at War and Postwar*

Explores the many war memoirs published by white soldiers who fought for Rhodesia during the 1964–1979 Zimbabwean liberation struggle, to reveal a contentious conversation about race, difference,

and the war itself. These are writings by men who were ambivalent conscripts, generally aware of the futility of their fight.

Moreover, most of them insisted that the most important aspects of fighting a guerrilla war – tracking and hunting, knowledge of the land and of the ways of African society – were learned from black playmates in idealised rural childhoods.

In these memoirs, African guerrillas never lost their association with the wild, even as white soldiers boasted of bringing Africans into the intimate spaces of regiment and regime.

Paperback, 304 pages, Duke University Press, USA, 2021, ISBN 9781478011729.



## **A note to contributors**

If you write for any publication that has an ISSN number – which *Zimbabwe Review* does – you may (but only may) be in line for small payments if your material published is photocopied. The UK organisation that collects money due from photocopying, and distributes it to writers is the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) (<https://www.alcs.co.uk>). To get this you must register your work with them. Being paid for your material depends on you retaining your copyright – which all contributors to *Zimbabwe Review* do. Money picked up from the *Review* being copied will add to receipts for work registered from elsewhere.

Non-UK-based writers are encouraged to sign up to their local organisations instead of ALCS, and in the case of Zimbabwe this is ZimCopy (contact [zimcopy@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:zimcopy@africaonline.co.zw)). This organisation has been criticised as inefficient and it may be a better bet for some Zimbabwe-based contributors who write internationally to register with ALCS, and at least receive income from UK copying.

## **An appeal on behalf of Philani Amadeus Nyoni**

Philani Nyoni – a regular contributor to BZS Review – was recently attacked and robbed in Bulawayo.

His physical injuries have healed but he lost the equipment he needs to earn a living: his phone, camera and

computer – with personal writings, raw footage, films and client's manuscripts.

If you are able to help him replace his equipment, please contact him as soon as possible on + 263 71 6774374 or email: [nyonipa@gmail.com](mailto:nyonipa@gmail.com)

## **Isabel Whyte**

**The Reverend Isabel Whyte, a long-standing member of the BZS and the Scotland Zimbabwe Group, died on 5 April in Kirkcaldy, Fife.**

Together with her husband Iain, she was active in Scottish anti-apartheid and solidarity campaigns for freedom in Southern Africa, Palestine and elsewhere.

Isabel was a healthcare chaplain and a teacher, and the first hospital chaplain appointed to Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline, Fife. After she retired, she worked in conflict transformation through the ecumenical organisation Place for Hope, and was active in the racial justice movement and The Iona Community.

In sending condolences to Iain and her family, the BZS Executive paid tribute to her commitment to justice and peace, human rights and the equitable sharing of the earth's resources.

*Thanks to BZS member Pat Bryden who represented BZS at a Thanksgiving service for Isabel's life at Inverkeithing Parish Church on 18 April.*

*This is Pat's account of the service:*

**The Thanksgiving Service** for Isabel was in the Whytes' local church at



*Isabel Whyte with family friend of 40 years, Molly Mpanduki. Photo © Iain Whyte.*

Inverkeithing, and it was very moving and very fitting. ‘

The church was packed, and the service was led by her Isabel's good friend, Rev Jayne Scott, along with Rev Ruth Harvey, leader of the Iona Community, and the Inverkeithing Minister.

There were several heartfelt tributes, none more so than that of their daughter, Maggie, backed by David, her brother, and Jayne Scott.

Iain himself did the final talk, to thank everyone.

The two poems that were read by friends were: Mary Oliver's *Why I wake early*, and Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy*, which is a wonderful poem.

*Pat Bryden*

## **Zimbabwe takes poetry prize**

Zimbabwean poet and filmmaker, Zibusiso Mpofo, has brought the title of the 2022 Brunel International African Poetry Winner home to Zimbabwe for the first time over the recurring favourites Nigeria, Sudan, Egypt and Somalia. Booker Prize-winning Nigerian author Bernardine Evaristo and Brunel University launched the prize and, since 2012, it has been used to spotlight emerging African poets. The judges said Mpofo's work is ‘superbly crafted, the poems unfold in unexpected directions, balancing raw realism and nearly mystical understatement.’ (See [kubatana.net](http://kubatana.net) 10 May 2022)

## **More recognition for Tsitsi Dangarembga**

Tsitsi Dangarembga is one of this year's Windham-Campbell prizewinners, along with American writer Margo Jefferson and British playwright Winsome Pinnock. They are among eight recipients of \$165,000 grants, intended ‘to support their writing ... independent of financial concerns’. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/mar/29/zimbabwean-novelist-tsitsi-dangarembga-among-this-years-windham-campbell-prize-winners-margo-jefferson-winsome-pinnock>

## **STOP PRESS**

### **Dr Alex Tawanda Magaisa**

**As the Review went to print, Dr Alex Tawanda Magaisa died on 5 June 2022.**

Former Chief Advisor to Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai he was part of the team that wrote the new Zimbabwe Constitution.

Dr Magaisa was a law lecturer in the UK. An outspoken critic of ZANU Dr Magaisa believed that Zimbabweans benefitted from greater access to information and wrote the *Big Saturday Review* to promote discussion and debate, and to critically and accessibly examine legal and political matters in Zimbabwe.

Fare thee well son of the soil.

Deepest sympathy to Shamiso and all his family and friends.

*A full obituary will be published in the next Review.*

**Hope for African Communities**

**Mufaro Mapanda**, a Zimbabwean living in Basildon, in Essex, has contacted *Zimbabwe Review* about an organisation she has set up to support vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families back home. It's *Hope for African Communities* (HAC) U.K. – a registered charity in the UK in 2018, with a sister organisation in Zimbabwe as a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO).

Links with the Rotary Club of Basildon Concord ('a small, friendly club of enthusiastic and active volunteers') helped her secure funds to build a school in a disadvantaged community just outside Harare. See: <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=843844&ClubID=1388>.

In 2020, following the Mayor of Basildon's 2020 appeal to tackle loneliness and social isolation amongst the local BAME community, Mufaro tells us, 'We assisted them with food, and on-line projects such as beading, baking and fitness.'

Many projects have now come to an end, but 'we are still continuing with the provision of food via a registered foodbank.'

She adds that 'we have applied for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, because we realised we need to help our children know about their culture and heritage. Most of them have little clue of where their parents or grandparents came from – it's our duty to raise awareness so that the children know their heritage.'

You can find out more about Mufaro's and HAC's work, and how to support it from her website: <https://hacinternational.org/about-us/>.

This year's theme, 'Education and Development in Zimbabwe and the Diaspora' was decided because, although Zimbabwe and the global community's spotlight has focused on COVID and health, the education sector is also a key contributor to national and global development. Education remains a vital cog in the Zimbabwean story, in-country and in the diaspora.

As Zimbabweans at home and abroad face multiple challenges and find innovative solutions, we felt that this was an important moment to discuss, assess and share insights and experiences. We have always placed a high value on education, despite – or perhaps because of – the challenges.

Plans for the Research Day aim to unpack the past, present and future of education and development in Zimbabwe and the diaspora.

**Contact the Britain Zimbabwe Society**

**President:** Knox Chitiyo

**2021–2022 Officers and Executive**

- Chair: Kathy Mansfield Higgins
- Vice-Chairs: Millius Palayiwa, Rori Masiane
- Secretary (Minutes/Correspondence): Pat Brickhill
- Secretary (Membership): Margaret Ling
- Information and Publications Officer: Jenny Vaughan
- Web Officer: Philip Weiss
- Treasurer: Margaret Ling

**Other Executive members:**

- Pauline Dodgson-Katiyo
  - Diana Jeater
  - Victor de Waal
  - Pelagia Nyamayaro
  - Julius Mugwagwa
  - The Stevenage-Kadoma Link Association
- Vacancies exist on the BZS Executive.*  
*If you are interested in joining the Executive, please contact Pat Brickhill at zimgekko@aol.com.*

**Britain Zimbabwe Society Membership Form**

To join and receive your regular copy of the *Zimbabwe Review*, postings on the members e-mail discussion forum and WhatsApp network membership, please print and send the completed form below with your subscription cheque to:

**Margaret Ling, BZS Membership Secretary, 25 Endymion Road, London N4 1EE**

**Please enrol me/us in the BZS at the following annual rate (tick relevant box).**

(You may also join the BZS online, payment by credit/debit card, via our website: [www.britainzimbabwe.org.uk/join-bzs-today](http://www.britainzimbabwe.org.uk/join-bzs-today))

**Rates**

<b>Ordinary</b>	£21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unwaged/student</b>	£10	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Joint</b> (two at one address)	£25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Institution</b>	£50	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Membership runs by calendar year, renewals are due on 1 January each year.*

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