



**ZWOLA**  
ZIMBABWE WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
"Justice & Equality For All"

## **FIVE REASONS WHY WE FUNDRAISE FOR LEGAL AID AND WHY WE BELIEVE IT MUST BE FUNDED**

### **1. We create the demand as such we must be part of the solutions**

When we proactively educate the public about laws which protect them from violence, we tell people that we know the legal solutions which can make their lives more peaceful as such we create the demand for Legal Aid Services. When we create the demand, we realize that in the absence of a state Legal Aid Service which is tailor made for women and children, we can only be part of the solution otherwise we will be failing in our social responsibility. Education gives our women and child clients the confidence to report abuse and to seek our tailor made services which are not provided by the state. Our approaches are informed by gender sensitive approaches, they are tailor made for women and children and respond to the economic, social and physiological needs of children and women.

### **2. Legal Aid is a baseline which informs our advocacy strategies**

Legal Aid acts as a baseline which informs our advocacy strategies. Through Legal Aid we are able to have a country perspective of the problems faced by Zimbabwean women. By attending to an average of 1 500 women per month country wide, we are able to pick prevalent problems which informs our lobby for law and policy reform.

### **3. Legal Aid exposes state failures and successes**

The duty of civil society is to monitor government action. Through the provision of Legal Aid we can track the failures and successes of the government. First, through Legal Aid we are able to quickly pick the laws which are failing to protect women. Second, our clients tell

us their experiences with the police, prosecutors and judges as such we are able to track the weakest and the strongest links within the justice delivery system.

#### **4. Legal Aid informs our strategic litigation**

Through Legal Aid provision we are able to proactively litigate through strategic litigation. Legal Aid makes it possible to identify the client with the right facts and the client who is willing to defend her rights. We pick our strategic litigation cases after a careful analysis of continuously prevalent problems which women face which makes Legal Aid a baseline which informs our strategic litigation.

#### **5. Legal Aid informs our training programmes**

We do not just train or lobby for funds to train members of the justice delivery system, the public or civil society members. Our training programmes are both proactive and reactive. They are proactive in the sense that by training any member of the justice delivery system, public and civil society we are making sure that a person is able to identify violation of the law at the point of violation and report the violation on their behalf or on behalf of others. For service providers we train in order to ensure that they are aware of actions which they do which can be termed as violations of rights or may compromise the enjoyment of rights. Our training programmes are responsive in that they respond to problems that are highlighted by our Legal Aid provision.