



***2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
RESEARCH & ADVOCACY UNIT***

## Contents

Chairperson’s Report .....	4
Director’s Report .....	5
1. Programmes .....	7
1.1 Active Citizenship.....	7
1.1.1 Research.....	7
1.1.2 Women and local government.....	7
1.1.3 Youth and political violence.....	8
1.1.4 Zim Voices.....	8
1.1.5 Parliament monitoring.....	9
1.2 Community Security .....	9
1.2.1 Women and Youth views on Community security .....	9
1.2.2 Child marriages .....	10
1.2.3 Climate Change.....	10
1.2.4 Vendors .....	11
1.2.5 Sexual Violence Sentencing .....	11
1.3 Influencing Policy .....	11
1.3.1 Succession .....	11
1.3.2 Elections.....	12
1.3.3 Governance .....	12
1.3.4 National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) .....	13
2. Communication and Advocacy.....	13
3. Reports, Blogs and Publications .....	15
3.1 Reports, Blogs and Publications .....	15
4. Consultancies .....	16
6. Institutional Development.....	17
7. Partnerships.....	18
8. Staffing.....	18
9. The Research and Advocacy Trust .....	19
10. Finance and administration .....	19
11. Appendices.....	21
Appendix 1.....	21
<i>Reports produced by RAU in 2015</i> .....	21
Appendix 2.....	23

<i>Opinion pieces produced by RAU in 2015</i> .....	23
Appendix 3 .....	24
<i>Blogs produced by RAU in 2015</i> .....	24

## **Chairperson's Report**

We are happy to report a busy and successful year at RAU. In 2015 we produced 30 reports, opinion pieces and blogs under our three thematic areas as stated in our Strategic Plan, 2015-2022, all these are available on our website.

The year was challenging with funding being the biggest constraint for RAU, despite this we still managed to achieve all our goals set for 2015. As a research organisation, we continue to learn from each other and from our research informants and partners and part of the learning was how to survive in the prevailing environment. One of the major learning points was that we could not continue to rely exclusively on donor funds as we had in previous years. Changes will need to be made in order to remain in existence; these changes will be implemented from 2016 going forward.

During this period under review we ventured into new areas of research as a result of our own initiative and at the request of our partners, i.e. climate change and plight of the vendors. It is important to take into account what our stakeholders require so that we produce research that is relevant, necessary and useful to our readers. During the course of the year we had over 500 000 hits on our website, and we are confident that we are providing information that is being utilised not only by our local partners but by students, academics and other organisations regionally and internationally.

RAU has 8 full time staff; 5 researchers, the finance officer, the administrator and director as well as a communications consultant and an intern. One researcher resigned in March 2015 and the post was not replaced due to funding challenges.

The Board remained with the same members, Rose Mary Depp, Everjoice Win, Roselyn Nyatsanza, Godwin Kanongovere and myself as Chair. Board business was dealt with at the four, fifth, six and extraordinary meetings as well as an AGM.

On behalf of the Board I would like to acknowledge the role played by our staff, implementing and funding partners. Without your support, RAU would not have succeeded in attaining the progress it achieved. We look forward to working with you all in 2016!

Lloyd Sachikonye  
**Chairperson**

## **Director's Report**

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU)'s 2015 annual report. The year was busy; we produced over 30 reports, opinion pieces and blogs, based on our thematic areas, active citizenship, community security and influencing policy.

In 2015, RAU continued to grow as a research organisation, working on the abovementioned three areas, as part of the 2013 -2022 strategic plan with the focus on women and youth. This strategy along with all our policies were reviewed and consolidated in April.

Under active citizenship, RAU continued and completed both the parliament monitoring project, with two reports produced, and the ZimVoices consortium, which ended in October 2015, but hopefully will restart in 2016. During this period, RAU also completed the first phase of the women and local governance programme, which we were able to carry out with the help of our partner, the Women's Trust.

The community security programme expanded on its work on child marriages, producing two reports - one on research carried out in Goromonzi, and the other based on the legal age of marriage in the SADC region. A decision was made to increase our advocacy work, and, as a result, one of our researchers attended the AU Conference on Child Marriage in Lusaka, Zambia. The decision to focus on advocacy resulted in partner organisations inviting RAU to collaborate on various initiatives organised throughout the year – the Child Marriage Symposium, the consortium to formulate legislation on child marriage.

Under the same programme, RAU took a critical look at what is hindering security in communities and the role local government actors play; i.e. ward councilors and traditional leaders, and how are they involved in providing security for women and youth.

RAU also ventured into two new areas of research under this programme, engaging the vendors' crisis and climate change, both critical and very current topics for community security in Zimbabwe.

With the influencing policy programme, RAU continued to produce reports and opinion pieces on the political developments; i.e. adherence to the Constitution, looking particularly at the setting up of the Independent Commissions, as well as factionalism and succession in the ruling party.

In 2015, RAU began tracking the number of hits and downloads on the website, and, by the end of the year, we had over 500 000 hits during an eight month period. At the end of all articles, blogs and research uploaded on the website there is a clause asking users to credit RAU for material used, and people are also requested to inform RAU when and where the material has been used. The next phase of this tracking will be to find out where our largest readership is from and what areas we need to focus on more increase readership.

As part of our communication and advocacy strategy, RAU has made a concerted effort to engage more effectively with the media and this has paid off, with a variety of articles being reproduced wholly or in part.

Even though we satisfied all our contractual obligations, RAU has faced serious financial challenges in the last quarter of the year, which had an impact on staff morale, but, regardless of this, work continued, but at a slower pace. RAU was fortunate enough not to lose any staff during this period.

As a sustainability plan, RAU has been bidding for consultancies and managed to secure several, thereby building our reserve of unrestricted funds.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Board, staff, implementing and funding partners: without the support RAU would not have been able to carry out activities and achieve our goals for 2015.

**Kudakwashe Chitsike**  
**Director, RAU**

## **1. Programmes**

RAU has been operating under the new strategic plan 2013-2022, comprising three major components: Active Citizenship, Community Security, and Influencing Policy. These components are described separately below.

### **1.1 Active Citizenship**

This active citizenship programme is aimed at increasing women and youth's voice and participation particularly on governance issues. RAU has been extending its work under this programme during 2015, with several important publications.

#### ***1.1.1 Research***

Following an extensive literature review on active citizenship in 2014, RAU undertook an empirical test of some of the general theories, using the data from the Afrobarometer surveys on Zimbabwe. The resultant report provides a useful insight into Zimbabwean politics, demonstrating the polarisation due to political party affiliation, as well as the disengagement of the middle class and the presence of a significant group of non-partisan, but active citizens. This work is the source of new hypotheses on how to foster active citizenship, and has led to the developing collaboration with the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI). This collaboration will continue in 2016 with a two-year programme analysing the Afrobarometer data, with both longitudinal and cross-sectional studies on citizenship, women and citizenship, "risk aversion" in Zimbabwean citizens, and youth. The final stage will be analyses of citizen's views in every constituency ahead of the 2018 elections.

#### ***1.1.2 Women and local government***

In 2014, RAU undertook a project to understand how women interacted with local government. It is important to find out if women know their Constitutional rights, and understand their roles and the responsibilities of their councils. It was also important to see if the councillors themselves understood their Constitutional roles and responsibilities. The project was carried out in two provinces Mashonaland (Marondera and Chihota) and Matebeleland (Bulawayo Urban and Matopos), so as to contrast the provinces and the rural-urban differences. This project was undertaken with the support of our partner, the Women's Trust.

From this research, it was clear that the women knew most of their Constitutional rights and what was supposed to be afforded to them by these rights. There were differences in the two provinces, but what was clear is that political polarisation is still a huge problem. The women asserted that prospective office bearers are only visible immediately prior to elections, during the campaign period to gather support, but, soon after winning, they disappear and offer no help to the community. The women felt disillusioned and betrayed by these office bearers.

One of the greatest successes of the project was that we managed to facilitate dialogue between women and their local authority leaders. This dialogue was done in a creative and innovative way, in that the women articulated their issues through poetry and drama. For some, it was the first time they had an opportunity to speak out about their everyday challenges. RAU went through the Constitution with the women to show them where the role of council emanates from, and we managed to share summaries of the various acts that govern rural and urban councils. This was well received by the women who said that they were now better equipped to interact with their leaders. It was also well received by the traditional leaders as well, who told us that many of the expectations from their communities are beyond their Constitutional roles.

It was difficult to get access to the women and we were required to report to the President's Office in the community. One meeting had to be terminated in Marondera as a result of this. This issue posed a constant threat through the duration of the project, but we managed to successfully end our activities without any major huddles, with two reports produced as a result, *Seen but not Heard: Women's Participation in Local Government in Zimbabwe, Part one and two*.

### **1.1.3 Youth and political violence**

As follow-up to the collaboration on youth and violence in 2014 with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Sussex, UK, we have been developing a future programme in collaboration with Hivos. This is aimed at responding to one of our research findings; that youth participate in political violence because they have nothing to do as a result of high unemployment.

As part of our activities, a pilot programme to set up creative centres for youth – providing a space for the young women and men to acquire skills and engage in entrepreneurial activities - was agreed upon. The idea behind this programme is to encourage youth to establish their own enterprises and thus reduce the chances of them being coerced into political violence and being remunerated in cash or in kind. Interviews and focus group discussions were held with youth from Murewa, with the view to establish whether there is a link between youth participation in violence and economic gains. Further research is required to come up with a sound conclusion.

As part of the partnership, RAU provided a background analysis of the views of youth and political violence as pre-requisite for the pilot programme to be launched in 2016. This analysis extends the findings of the 2014 study on youth and violence, *Being a Born-free: Violence, Youth and Agency in Zimbabwe*, showing the general non-violent disposition of Zimbabwean youth.

### **1.1.4 Zim Voices**

In 2014/5, RAU was a member of a consortium for an ICT-based platform to increase citizen participation using SMS, in a project called ZimVoices. This project was a result of more than two years of trying to enhance citizen participation, and particularly during the elections, to report irregularities and violence in the electoral processes, as these were regular

characteristics of Zimbabwe elections. The project has evolved to focus on promoting the use of ICTs to report on service delivery, constitutionalism and accountability of elected public officials. The ZimVoices Consortium has the following membership; RAU, Musasa, ZimRights, Radio Dialogue and SACMA, who all use their membership to promote the use of the platform. RAU paid particular attention to service delivery and the initial activities started in two communities in Chipinge and Gweru, working in collaboration with organisations grounded in the two areas. [see ZimVoices: <https://www.zimvoices.com>]

Under this project, our work in Chipinge was carried out in collaboration with Platform for Youth Development Trust (PYDT), and in Gweru urban, we collaborated with the resident's association. The highlight of this project was boosting citizens' voices in Chisumbanje, with the community confronting the Green Fuels company and their traditional leaders over the confiscation of land. As a result of the messages that were sent by citizens, several community meetings were held with stakeholders to get an understanding of the problems and resolve issues that had become contentious. Through this platform, citizens were also able to profile the problems of wildlife encroachment into community areas along the Save Conservancy. These issues were later discussed in Parliament. Our contribution to the ZimVoices project enabled us to get a deeper understanding of how we can learn more about how technology enhances and limits active citizenship.

### ***1.1.5 Parliament monitoring***

RAU continued with its monitoring of attendance and performance of parliamentarians in parliament and in their constituencies. A custom-built database was developed to capture the data emanating from the attendance register of Parliament and the Hansard to determine performance. RAU also developed an interactive, SMS-based reporting system for citizens, both to capture their reports about the performance of MPs in their constituencies, and to feedback information about the attendance and performance of the same in Parliament. In 2015, RAU partnered with the Engine Room on the Frontline SMS Platform for use in this project. The Frontline SMS Platform is a web-based interaction tool that allows RAU to send and receive SMSs from respondents in real time. For the second phase of the project, RAU is using this platform to elicit, capture and analyse responses from women in their constituencies. A report on this second phase is due in 2016.

## **1.2 Community Security**

As pointed out in the RAU strategy, "community security" is a concept considerably wider than merely dealing with violence, but of course does also include issues around violence.

### ***1.2.1 Women and Youth views on Community security***

Under community security, we extended our research from 2014 from understanding women and youth perceptions on community security to include an assessment of hinderances that these two groups suffer in term of participation. The most important lesson we have learned to date is that the biggest obstacle to participation is politics and this applies to both rural and urban areas. There is limited engagement by women and youth because the offices of the traditional leaders and councillors are politicised. The youth felt that they have been sidelined, and thus see no reason to participate, whilst the women stated that their views are

never taken seriously. We also learnt that there is a great deal of misunderstanding and misconception about the role and responsibilities of councillors and traditional leaders. Citizens need to develop a more nuanced and informed understanding of the roles and responsibilities of their councillors. There are numerous social participation activities at community level, which could be built on to assist in increasing political participation.

### **1.2.2 Child marriages**

In 2015, RAU continued to build on its research and advocacy on child marriage with a focus on a community in Goromonzi. For a national, regional and international campaign such as the one on child marriages it is critical for RAU to understand how communities conceptualise and rationalise child marriage, and the research in Goromonzi provided useful information about community perceptions of child marriage. As a result, RAU can play a pivotal role in providing empirical evidence on the actual issues rather than the perceived factors that facilitate child marriage. A report was published in May 2015 to provide a better understanding of the dynamics of early marriages, *Marriage in Goromonzi District*.

Through the Girls Not Brides Network, RAU and partners, worked together with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development to launch the Zimbabwean campaign, and were able to maintain the momentum on the issue within civil society and with government partners. RAU was also part of a consortium of organisations working with Honourable Jessie Majome (MP) to develop a child marriage bill that sought to amend the different marriage laws to ensure that girls under 18 cannot be married, this has not yet been completed. We also attended the African Union (AU) Child Marriage Campaign Launch in Zambia, which provided the organisation an opportunity to network and get an understanding of the different strategies, interventions and practices used in other countries to end the practice.

In collaboration with the International Action Network for Gender Equity and Law (IANGEL), RAU produced a report on legislation and the age of consent in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region. This report raised the profile of RAU and highlighted the problem of child marriage throughout the southern African region. This report has been well received on national, regional and international platforms, and has been distributed widely.

### **1.2.3 Climate Change**

With the growing awareness of the effects of climate change, which is a serious factor in community security, RAU was pleased to be asked to produce a book on climate change in Zimbabwe by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF). A consultant was employed by RAU for this purpose, and the final product, aimed at policy makers, was completed by the end of the year. The book, *Climate Change in Zimbabwe*, will be launched in early 2016, but has already received approval from parliamentarians and government officials at a pilot testing.

Climate change will be an important issue going forward, and RAU has factored this into its ongoing work. We anticipate a number of projects around this issue in 2016.

#### ***1.2.4 Vendors***

The issue of vending on the streets of urban centres became a topic of acrimonious debate in 2015. RAU stayed abreast of the problem, by attending a series of meetings on the crisis and by conducting a snap survey to understand why there is an increase in the number of people taking up vending. Exceptional attention was paid to the report probably because the debates in the public had been largely devoid of empirical evidence prior to the RAU survey. RAU was invited to go on air by Star FM to talk on the topic. It provided an opportunity to profile the work of the organisation. Although this survey was undertaken in a limited and speedy way, the qualitative findings provided a deeper contextual understanding of the nature and scale of the problem.

It is evident that the “informal sector” is not well-researched at present, and, funding permitting, could be an area in which RAU could provide better empirical understanding than is available at present.

#### ***1.2.5 Sexual Violence Sentencing***

RAU undertook a study to collect data on all sexual violence cases heard in the Harare Regional Magistrates Court from December 2013 to May 2015. The aim was to determine the outcome of cases heard in the Court, and to obtain a profile of the complainants and the offenders.

The court data clearly shows rape to be the predominant problem of sexual abuse brought to the justice system, with indecent assault and aggravated indecent assault the next most common problems. The victims are overwhelmingly female and the perpetrators overwhelmingly male. There appears to be a very low conviction rate, but this is much higher where the victim is a minor and more so where the minor is very young. The high rates of acquittals deserve careful examination by future research in order to separate out the factors that underpin this trend for adult offenders. Sentences are generally very severe and appropriate to the circumstances as far as it can be determined from the data.

Considerably more research needs to be done in understanding how sexual abuse is being dealt with by the justice system. Funds permitting the first step would be careful analysis of the court records for all the cases described in this report in order to develop a detailed understanding of the reasons why prosecutions succeed or fail. There is also a need to understand prevalence and incidence of sexual abuse, drawing on the data from both the justice system and the health system.

### **1.3 Influencing Policy**

#### ***1.3.1 Succession***

The most pressing issues in the public domain in 2015 revolved around the crisis in governance, and especially the ways in which the “succession debate” was resulting in near stasis in government. Here RAU provided a number of useful reports.

RAU continued with the analysis of the “ZANU PF body politic”, begun in 2012, particularly in regard to the succession issue, seen as a key driver of the Zimbabwean polity. The ZANU PF Congress of 2014 was a cathartic moment for ZANU PF, and thus it seemed worthwhile to study this process, and set out in detail for historical purposes, the events around this Congress. Subsequent developments have shown that these events may be part of a pattern of politics emerging in ZANU PF, which should prove useful for other researchers and institutions. Two main papers were produced on this subject: *Coup de Grâce? Plots and Purges: Mugabe and ZANU PF’s 6th National Peoples Congress* and *Robert Mugabe Way: Constitutional Amendments and ZANU PF’s 6th National People’s Congress*.

Subsequent events required these papers to be expanded and amended. With the material written in previous years on the subject, it was decided that, with the addition of an introductory chapter, the material could be combined into a single continuous text and published as a book. SAPES agreed to work jointly on the project and to undertake the publication. The material was thus duly consolidated and edited, and a soft copy of the book produced which awaits publication in 2016.

As a coda to this work, and following the ZANU PF Conference of 2015, RAU produced two short informational publications to clarify procedures around the replacement of the National and ZANU PF President and ZANU PF Vice-Presidents, as these issues are highly topical.

### **1.3.2 Elections**

RAU continued to keep a close eye on matters related to elections and wrote several papers on the subject and attended and addressed numerous NGO-convened workshops on the issue. After the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and its chair received unwarranted accolades for their conduct in the 2013 polls, RAU unpacked this and produced an analysis of ZEC’s conduct during that election. RAU had been unable to produce the report earlier, having been absorbed in analyses of the 2013 poll in that year and research on ZANU PF the following year.

RAU also produced a paper disclosing that the Chair of ZEC had been appointed to her post unconstitutionally in 2013, and questioned the legitimacy of continued office of two other commissioners. This paper is likely to result in legal action to ensure that the position is regularised. Several political parties have expressed an interest in pursuing this.

Several legal controversies also arose with regard to by-elections occasioned by the expulsion of MPs from parliament on account of having lost membership of the parties on whose ticket they stood for election. The paper produced on this subject was utilised by lawyers instituting proceedings in relation to the issue. Furthermore, when a legal controversy arose over procedural issues in a by-election in Hurungwe West, RAU produced a paper satisfying the legal curiosity of election-related NGOs in this regard.

### **1.3.3 Governance**

Much of the focus by RAU on technical aspects of governance involved compliance with the new constitution by government. RAU also attended and presented at a workshop on the new Constitution hosted by SAPES/Max Planck Institute (Heidelberg)/ the Development and Rule

of Law Programme in Stellenbosch (DROP). DROP will issue a journal as a compendium of articles written by participants in the workshop, and RAU completed its contribution in December, 2015 as requested.

Non-compliance with the constitution has affected the Independent Commissions Supporting Democracy provided for in the Constitution. RAU thus produced a detailed analysis of the Gender Commission Bill, showing how the Commission's independence has been compromised by executive control.

Other technical aspects of governance on which RAU produced papers involved the illegal continuance in office of VP Mnangagwa as Minister of Justice (an analysis also used in court proceedings) and the unlawful behaviour of the Prosecutor-General in relation to private prosecutions.

#### ***1.3.4 National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG)***

RAU's participation in the NTJWG increased throughout 2015. The RAU staff member participated in a number of stakeholder meetings, public meetings, radio interviews, and was responsible for the thematic area on institution reform. The major achievements in 2015 were the codifying of the *Guiding Principles for Transitional Justice Policy and Practice in Zimbabwe*, their consolidation at a stakeholders meeting, and their public launch.

## **2. Communication and Advocacy**

As part of the general review of RAU's strategy, it was important to strengthen the work around the information dissemination strategy especially after the evaluation in 2014, which stated the following:

- There is no doubt that the Research and Advocacy Unit produces solid, in-depth research as well analytical and topical articles of a very high standard that are valued by their associates – local and international NGOs, civil society organisations, academia and the media. The target audience is limited.
- The content of the research reports are technical and outline theoretical frameworks that are not easily digestible for non-academic consumers.
- Relationships with organisations working in similar sectoral areas needs to be strengthened so that communication messages and advocacy efforts are multiplied.

There is minimal acknowledgement that RAU's research provides empirical evidence findings, which could be utilised by partner organisations to inform their programming and build on their advocacy strategies, interventions and activities. Increasing weight has been placed on disseminating information and minimal emphasis on advocacy strategies.

A communications expert was hired as part of a concerted effort to engage a diverse range of advocacy and communication activities in spite of two major challenges for the communication and advocacy programme: the absence of budget lines for communication and advocacy activities and the financial constraint faced by the organisation towards the end of the year were the two major challenges. This meant that RAU had to work on creative and

inexpensive strategies that were compelling enough to attract the attention of the media and at the same time appealing to stakeholders. As part of the effort to ensure that our message gets across RAU, produces a concise and less academic executive summary for all research reports before they are uploaded onto the website.

RAU undertook numerous activities that attracted the interest of the media; e.g. the snap survey on the vendors, child marriages and political developments, particularly succession in ZANU PF. The media interest was mainly from Star FM, NewsDay, the Standard and the Independent.

In the past, the media carried articles by RAU without sourcing them to RAU. This has changed and RAU is being acknowledged for their work, and sometimes the links are also provided. At the end of all articles, blogs and research uploaded on the website there is a clause asking users to credit RAU for material used and people are requested to inform RAU when and where the material has been used.

There have been challenges in addressing the weaknesses of the current communications and advocacy programme, which need to be addressed. There is a need to follow through on activities that generate media interest. A comprehensive carefully planned and well structured communications and advocacy strategy has to be developed. There is a need to follow up and follow through after workshops, launches, dialogues and discussions to gauge the impact of the activity. A determined effort has to be made to rebuild this online media presence, particularly Twitter with a more targeted focus on which audiences/consumer RAU is looking to attract and interact with. Building a strong working relationship between research and communication on certain projects has been a challenge as having the communication expert work on a part-time basis has its drawback in terms of sustainability and consistency.

With funding available for the impending research activities for 2016, RAU will be developing a strong, creative communication and advocacy strategy to ensure that the research generated is effectively utilised by its stakeholders - both current and new. The strategy will be both broad and targeted, including women, youth, traditional leadership, policymakers, civil society partners, community based organisations, private sector interest groups and the general public.

In addition to this, RAU would like to influence policy-making and contribute to other processes, not only by providing information and analysis, but also by cultivating the idea that RAU should be considered as expert information and/or intelligence providers. RAU is aiming to become a more influential source by providing information that should be regarded as a valuable resource for policymakers to understand the needs and concerns of their constituents.

We need to convey the message that RAU's research provides knowledge that would not otherwise be available to these policymakers, traditional and mainstream leadership, diverse stakeholders and the general public. This empirical evidence, directly sourced from the field,

can be used to shape evidential beliefs and influence the framing of the construct of power and influence, while introducing in-depth or alternative ideas to current mainstream media narratives.

In addition to targeting policymakers, RAU would also like to develop communication products in different formats that are designed to ensure an *empowered, informed and active citizenry*. The intent is to cultivate citizens so they play a definitive role in deciding what issues get placed on the agenda of public decision-makers, as well as identifying the means or techniques that need to be employed to achieve their desired outcomes (instrumentalist objective). Ultimately, this is designed to promote a political culture or ethic of democracy with a tradition of participatory decision-making and leadership selection at all levels of the polity.

The major achievement in 2015 has been the re-furbishing of the website, and it is evident that our reports are not only picked up quickly, but also that older reports continue to receive attention.

Once the website was fully-functional in April, the number of hits and downloads increased markedly over the next 9 months, and, by year end, we had received a total of 764,911 hits and 15,872 reports downloaded. Of the top twenty reports, 56% were of reports published in 2015, and, thus, a healthy percentage of older reports are still being given attention. Many of the older reports are in connection with RAU's work on women's issues, with one older report have been "hit" over 200,000 times and downloaded more than 4,500 times. The attention given to RAU's reports on women suggests a considerable impact for this aspect of RAU's work, even though we rarely see any acknowledgement. Nearly 50% of the top twenty reports were on women's issues, and child marriage alone was 44% of the total, again suggesting that RAU has made significant input to the campaign to end child marriage through its reports, let alone its more hands-on advocacy.

One improvement in the website function for 2016 will be to determine the approximate nature of the users of the website. Using Google Analytics, it should be possible to understand the geographical spread of our users, and this will help in more targeted advocacy.

### **3. Reports, Blogs and Publications**

#### **3.1 Reports, Blogs and Publications**

2015 was another productive year for RAU, publishing 22 major reports, 8 important opinion pieces, and 32 blogs [see Appendices 1, 2 and 3 for a full list]. Since 2006 RAU has published a total of 214 reports, which is an average of nearly 21 major reports per year. RAU has an extensive mailing list of over 500, and all reports are sent out on the mailing list as well as being uploaded to the RAU website.

The reports have been well-received in the main and the local press has been assiduous in mentioning them, and particularly in re-publishing the opinion pieces.

#### **4. Consultancies**

As a way to raise unrestricted funds, RAU actively sought consultancy work in 2015, these consultancies mainly for research work. This will be continued in 2016 as part of RAU sustainability plan.

RAU was approached by Urban Space (Private Limited) in November 2014 with a request for RAU to conduct a Baseline Study on the Colour Spekes project that was being implemented by Urban Space around the footbridge area in Speke Avenue, Harare. This was conducted and the report was completed. Subsequently, RAU conducted the Color Spekes Evaluative Study and later, in 2015, completed the full Evaluation of the project in partnership with Hivos. The report for the latter has now been published and will be launched in 2016.

RAU produced a training manual of local governance for the Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe (CCDZ) after responding to a call for proposals.

RAU undertook a brief analysis of the General Laws Amendment Bill and was commissioned by Zimbabwe Lawyers For Human Rights, to produce a detailed paper in this regard. The resultant paper was a sequel to that on the same subject produced for ZLHR in 2014 and will be published as a booklet.

As mentioned above we were contracted by IDS to do a short consultancy as a follow up for the project we had done before. We looked at the notion on youth, employment and political participation. We explored if these were related and if so how youths handled political loyalty in order to secure employment.

At the end of 2015, RAU was requested to produce, at short notice, a 25 page conflict analysis literature review, commissioned by Birmingham based GSDRC and for use at a workshop for the Delegation of the EU in Zimbabwe. This report has yet to be published and there is ongoing discussion between GSDRC and the EU over this, but discrete circulation has indicated a positive response to the paper, with DFID showing interest in further analyses by RAU. In addition to the above, RAU has continued to write op-eds and blogs on current issues such as the al Bashir debacle in South Africa and homophobia in Zimbabwe.

#### **5. Outreach and Recognition**

Mr Daniel Mususa was invited by the Institute of Security Studies to attend the Governance and Human Security course. He spent two week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia interacting with other researchers from the ISS and UNDP, the African Union and diplomats from different African countries such as Uganda, Malawi, Kenya and Puntland Somalia.

In April, Lloyd Pswarayi attended an IDS conference in the UK as part of the continued partnership. This conference was entitled '*Bottom Up Perspectives on Violence and Conflict*'. It brought together researchers from South Sudan, Egypt, Kenya, Colombia and Zimbabwe, areas where IDS was working.

Kuda Chitsike participated in three women in leadership programmes; one sponsored by the US Embassy in Harare, another facilitated through a former partner organization, WITNESS,

in Mexico, and she was accepted as one of 25 international women to be an Eisenhower Fellow in the United States for a 7 week fellowship between October and November 2015.

Tony Reeler continues to participate in the National Transitional Justice Working Group(NTJWG). A lot of the work is still currently desktop work, collection of data and meetings with the secretariat and other members of the group.

Derek Matyszak continued to attend several meetings on elections organised by ZESN. This is a special interest area for RAU and it is important to attend. The good relationship with SAPES also continued especially on governance issues, with RAU frequently presenting or participating as a panel member.

## **6. Institutional Development**

RAU continued an internal learning process, with staff presenting interesting and new ideas, methodologies, and research. This takes place normally fortnightly on Friday mornings. This dropped off in the latter part of the year, but will be picked up when things are more stable internally and funding secure.

In April, we had a staff retreat and a team building exercise. The main aim of the retreat was to update our strategy and policies, as well as to strengthen working relationships between the staff. The policies have been sent to a content editor and will be formalised in 2016. The retreat went a long way to ensure that our corporate governance meets the standard of the donors.

In May and June. Kuda Chitsike went on a relationship building and fundraising trip to the United States. It was important to introduce RAU and see if there were donors interested in our work. The logistical arrangements were organised by WITNESS as we maintained a relationship based on our partnership on video advocacy from 2008-2012. Meetings were held with Ford Foundation, Novo Foundation, Human Rights Watch, Open Society Foundation, USAid, the State Department and International Republican Institute, International Action Network for Gender Equity in Law, Madre, AidsFreeWorld and DLA Piper. There was some interest in work on child marriage and the work we are involved in on political sexual violence. Some of the recommendations from this trip were to have these meetings at least twice a year and focus on both the US and Europe as Zimbabwe continues to be a high priority with organisations. Even though there is a decrease in funding, this seems to be global trend not specific to Zimbabwe.

RAU's reputation as an impartial organisation improved in 2015 with invitations to participate in several government workshops. For example, RAU was invited to participate in the AU preparations for launching their campaign on child marriage through the Ministry of Women Affairs, as well as a stakeholder workshop on developing the report on Millienium Development Goal 3 on gender. This invitation came through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion.

## 7. Partnerships

RAU remains an active member of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum. Staff members regularly participate in Forum activities, and, on occasion, provide expert input to Forum workshops.

RAU continues to be a member of the Women's Coalition and regularly attends meetings and other activities.

RAU continued its strong partnerships with The Women's Trust (TWT), and the Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform (ZLP), and continues to liaise with Zvigogodza Trust. RAU and the latter two organisations put forward a joint proposal to the EU, but this was unsuccessful.

RAU has an ongoing informal partnership with Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, working particularly on child marriage.

RAU has a strong partnership with SAPES, regularly participating as discussants in their dialogue forum, chairing sessions and presenting papers.

Partnerships with community-based organisations such as GETRUDE in Gweru and the Platform for Youth Development Trust (PYDT) based in Chisumbanje continued in 2015 with the aim of increasing advocacy at community level.

RAU also has a good working relationship with the Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT) as well as with the Tree of Life and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.

Internationally RAU maintains good relationships with WITNESS, International Crisis Group, the Institute of Development Studies, Iangel, the Institute for Security Studies, and The Engine Room.

In addition, RAU is frequently consulted by our donor partners, embassies, researchers, students the press and other civil society organisations.

## 8. Staffing

RAU's staff during 2015 was as follows:

### **Administration**

Kudakwashe Chitsike, female, Director, *BA (Law) LLB, LLM*

Fortune Madhuku, male, Finance Officer *BA (Hons)*

Teressa Shamu, female, Administrator *BS (Hons)*

Reyhana Masters female, Communications and Advocacy

### **Active Citizenship**

Anthony Reeler, male, Senior Researcher, *LLB, BA, MSc*

Lloyd Pswarayi, male, Researcher, *BSc Hons Political Science*

### **Community Security**

Daniel Mususa, male, Researcher, *BSc, MSc*

Caroline Kache, female, Junior Research, *LLB, LLM*

### **Influencing Policy**

Derek Matyszak, male, senior Researcher, *BA (Law) LLB*

Rumbidzai Dube, female, Researcher, *LLB, LLM(left March 2015)*

### **Interns**

Wendy Tagarira, female, BA

Lindani Charambadare female, LLB (uncompleted) (left in June 2015)

### **Consultants**

Anna Brazier, female

Fungisai Gcumeni, female

## **9. The Research and Advocacy Trust**

RAU has been functioning since 2006 but was registered as a Trust in February 2014. Three board meetings were held between April and December. The trustees are listed below:

Professor Lloyd Sachikonye - Chairperson

Roselyn Nyatsanza- Member

Everjoice Win - Member

Rose Marie Depp - Member

Godwin Kanongovere - Member

## **10. Finance and administration**

RAU evaluated and amended its policies and strategic plan to enable the organisation to work more effectively. Job descriptions were reviewed and a performance appraisal system was finalized; this is in a bid to ensure that RAU meets all the corporate governance requirements.

There was one staff change; one researcher left, but, because of funding challenges, the position was not filled.

The economic operating environment deteriorated significantly in 2015 and RAU was seriously affected as we were not able to raise adequate funds for institutional costs even though we wrote more than 50 concept notes and proposals. Despite these challenges, RAU managed to complete all its planned activities, appreciation must be given to the staff for their commitment during this difficult period.

RAU underwent two financial inspections from an existing and a potential donor, further to the retreat where we critically reviewed our policies this gave us the donors' perspective and we took into account their recommendations. .

RAU would like to express its thanks to all our funding partners and their staff for their support and partnership during the year 2015.

We successfully moved the majority of our transactions to online banking, and, for this, we recognise and appreciate our bankers, Stanbic Bank. They also provide current policy interventions and how these will impact our work as they continue to add value to our work.

RAU recognises our auditors, Grant Thornton for their professional and timely work in 2015. This assists us to monitor our performance of donor funded projects.

The Income and Expenditure report for 2015 is as shown below:

**Statement on Income and Expenditure  
for the year ended 31 December 2015**

<b>INCOME</b>	
Balance brought forward	83,515
Grants received	276,964
Other income	15,385
Interest received	25
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>375,889</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Programme costs	107,819
Personnel costs	221,953
Capital expenditure	1,180
Administration costs	32,565
Audit fees	3,994
Bank charges	3,583
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>371,093</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>4,796</b>

## 11. Appendices

### Appendix 1

#### *Reports produced by RAU in 2015*

1. Brazier, A (2015), *Climate Change in Zimbabwe*. December 2015. Konrad Adenauer Foundation & Research and Advocacy Unit;
2. Kache, C (2015), *Seen but not Heard: Capturing Women's Voices on Service Delivery*. December 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
3. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *Robert Mugabe Way: Constitutional Amendments and ZANU PF's 6th National Peoples' Congress*. 25th February, 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
4. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *Strangers in the House: A Consideration of Section 129(1) of the Constitution*. March 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
5. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *COUP DE GRÂCE? Plots and Purgues: Mugabe and ZANU PF's 6th National People's Congress*. July 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
6. Mususa, D (2015), *Evaluation Report for the Colour Spekes Project*. December 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
7. Pswarayi, L (2015), *Women and youth Perspectives on Community security: A study conducted in Chiundura and Mkoba Communities*. January 2015. RAU (2015), *Marriage in Goromonzi District*. May 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit.
8. RAU (2015), *Marriage in Goromonzi District*. May 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit.
9. RAU (2015), *"Stop It!" 365 Days. Every Day*. Campaign Against Gender Based Violence. March 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
10. RAU (2015), *Suggestions for establishing the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC)*. March 2015, Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
11. RAU (2015), *Zimbabwe, the European Union, and the Cotonou Agreement: An Opinion*. January 2015, Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
12. RAU (2015), *Citizenship, Active Citizenship & Social Capital in Zimbabwe: a Statistical Study*. May 2015, Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
13. RAU (2015), *Occasional Visitors Re-Visited: Attendance in the First Session of the 8th Parliament of Zimbabwe*. April 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
14. RAU (2015), *Zimbabwean Women's Views on the Performance of Parliamentarians in their Constituencies*. June 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
15. RAU (2015), *Marriage Laws and The Mandated Age Of Consent In The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region*. September 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
16. RAU (2015), *What happens to the Perpetrators of Sexual Abuse: Examining the Outcome of Cases heard at Harare Magistrate's Court, 2013 to 2015*. September 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;

17. RAU (2015), *ZimBeats - Insight into the needs of the target audience for Creative Studios*. October 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit.
18. Reeler, A. P (2015), *Citizenship, Active Citizenship, Social Capital, and their Relevance to Women and Youth in Zimbabwe*. February 2015, Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit.
19. Reeler A. P, Matyzsak D. A, & Herbert S. (2015). *Analysis of conflict and insecurity in Zimbabwe. Rapid Review*. Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham.

## Appendix 2

### *Opinion pieces produced by RAU in 2015*

1. Gcumeni, F. & Reeler, A. P(2015), *Vending in the Streets of Harare*. July 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
2. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *ZEC'S Unconstitutionally Appointed Commissioner(s)*, July 2015, Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
3. Matyzak, D. A (2015), *The (E)masculation of Zimbabwe's Gender Commission*. August 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
4. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *Homosexuality, Child Marriage, Christianity and Hypocrisy*. August 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
5. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *The Office of the Prosecutor-General and Private Prosecutions*, 31 October 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
6. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *The Replacement of a ZANU PF Vice-President: A Note on the 2015 ZANU PF National People's Conference*. December 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
7. Matyszak, D. A (2015), *The Easy Guide to Transition in Zimbabwe*. November 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit;
8. Reeler, A. P (2015), *Institutional Reform in Zimbabwe: What does this mean for Transitional Justice?* December 2015. Harare: Research & Advocacy Unit.

### Appendix 3

#### *Blogs produced by RAU in 2015*

1. *The Legacy We Want To Leave Behind!* 11 September 2015
2. *Youths suffering social exclusion*, 3 September 2015
3. *The Fading Light At The End Of The Tunnel*, 27 August 2015
4. *Playing with fire?* 20 August 2015
5. *Who is a hero in Zimbabwe?* 13 August 2015
6. *Educated Unemployed Youths – The Agony Of Anxious Parents In The Village*, 4 August 2015
7. *Safety Sandra – Traffic Offenders Beware*, 30 July 2015
8. *Our Destructive Politics*, 16 July 2015
9. *If I Was a Bird, I Would Fly to My Mother*, 3 July 2015
10. *Where are the Gender Experts in the Gender Commission?* 3 July 2015
11. *Moyo, Mnangagwa and unconstitutional appointments*, 29 June 2015
12. *Talking off the cuff, or spouting nonsense: the Prosecutor-General and rape*, 25 June 2015
13. *A Comment on the Al Bashir Debacle*, 16 June 2015
14. *Courts claim pre-teens can consent to sex and marriage . . . really?* 12 June 2015
15. *Vendors Aren't The Problem!* 5 June 2015
16. *Money? What Money?* 28 May 2015
17. *Second Hand Clothes To The Rescue*, 28 May 2015
18. *Government's Abhorrence for Constitutionally Prescribed Liberalisation - The Instance of the General Laws Amendment Bill*, 19 May 2015
19. *The Historically Absent Sheroes*, 15 May 2015
20. *On Contempt for the People*, 8 May 2015
21. *Of Food Shortages and By-Elections*, 30 April 2015
22. *So Far So Good? Not So for Women's Rights in Zimbabwe*, 17 April 2015
23. *Trapped in False Hope? Citizens and Political Competition [Part Two]*, 17 April 2015
24. *Trapped in False Hope? Citizens and Political Competition [Part One]*, 15 April 2015
25. *Hopelessly Hopeful, or Despair and Despondency?* 2 April 2015
26. *Dear Honourable MP*, 29 March 2015
27. *Let It Be Me*, 19 March 2015
28. *Men Also Suffering at the Hands of Women*, 13 March 2015
29. *Statement for International Women's Day*, 9 March 2015
30. *Is the Party Above the Law?* 9 March 2015
31. *What's a Mere Constitution to One Appointed by God to Govern?* 4 March 2015
32. *Bye Bye Constitutionality....* 3 March 2015



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