



RAU launches Policy Briefs on people in contact and in conflict with Justice System in Zimbabwe

April 2019

Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU) launched three policy briefs focusing on people who are in conflict and in contact with the justice system in Zimbabwe at a ceremony held on 9 March, 2019.

The launch was held as part of the *Kushanda Pamwe Project*, which RAU has been carrying out in collaboration with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO).

The policy briefs under the titles, *The right for inmates in Zimbabwe's prisons*, *Protecting the right to human dignity in prisons* and *The rights of marginalised groups in prisons*, are expected to form the basis of advocacy for policy change and amplifying the voices of those in contact and in conflict with the justice system in Zimbabwe.



Director RAU Shastry Njeru expresses his pleasure on the launch of policy briefs.

RAU Director Shastry Njeru commended partners for working together in producing the documents that aim at making Zimbabwe prisons corrective and rehabilitative instead of being punitive. He said, "In the policies, we are going to launch today, the emphasis is placed on making prisons corrective and not necessarily punitive." Njeru alluded to how conditions in Zimbabwe's prisons can

be improved as the existing ones are a cause for concern. "Sometimes we visit prisons and we

see the conditions in which our relatives, friends, and neighbours live under during their time there, and that is a concern for us who have or had friends or relatives in that part of the world.”

Kushanda Pamwe is a programme that deals with people who are in contact and in conflict with the justice system in Zimbabwe, it is made up of various partners who specialise in specific areas to empower inmates and those in contact with the justice system.

The programme, funded by the European Union, has a number of partners that include Batanai HIV and AIDS Service Organisation (BHASO), who deal with Inmates, ex-inmates, sex workers and people living with disabilities, Zimbabwe Association of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO) whose focus is on inmates and ex-inmates, and Care at the Core of Humanity (CATCH) which focuses on Young offenders and their families court accompaniment, litigation (legal representation and legal advice).

Participants were provided with three copies of the policy briefs, which are expected to be used to advocate for policy change that is aimed at improving the conditions of people who are in conflict and in contact with the justice system in Zimbabwe.