

Advocacy toolkit case studies

CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE

THEMES:

Corruption
Violence and threats

ADVOCACY APPROACHES:

Government officials: meeting with
Mobilising people and campaigning

The crisis in Zimbabwe has been well documented. Despite the risks involved in advocacy, Tearfund partner Zimbabwe Christian Alliance (ZCA) spoke out repeatedly about the government's oppression of fundamental human rights. They hosted prayer rallies on church premises as mass awareness-raising events about government clearance operations, even though the secret police infiltrated them. They facilitated a 'religious' street march to make their case, which was peaceful until the government sent in the army to break it up. They mobilised people to whistle, clap their hands, stamp their feet, hoot horns, hit pots and make a noise, every lunch time for a week, to draw attention to the situation. They launched a campaign called Save Zimbabwe, which the government tried to close down, until there was an outcry from the international community. This prompted the Southern Africa Development Community to initiate dialogue with the government, which eventually led to elections and a government of national unity, following which ZCA continued to advocate, with an emphasis on non-violent actions.