



International Association of Women in Radio and Television

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The International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) urges the Zimbabwean government, under the leadership of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, to end the denial of citizenship rights to Zimbabweans who are accused of offending the previous regime.

We deplore the continuation of the previous government's practices which targeted journalists who escaped violent intimidation in the country of their birth or were named in banned lists.

As an organization of women in the media working to protect media women, and enhance their skills and awareness of journalism ethics and the right to free speech, we were pleased by President Mnangagwa's pre-election promises to lift curbs on media freedom.

Our current IAWRT President is a Zimbabwean Journalist banned from returning from the UK since 2002 and we were delighted that Violet Gonda could return to her country to report freely on the recent elections.

Despite the post-election deaths of citizens and some reported attacks on journalists, we note that the government has instituted an inquiry into those events.

However, we are concerned about the continued existence of a 'stop list' which was revealed to Ms. Gonda when an application to renew her passport was not endorsed because that list prevents her, and presumably other legitimate citizens, having their passports renewed.

IAWRT urges the Zimbabwean government to limit such bans to genuine security issues and restore the democratic right of its citizens.

For a sustainable democratic future, we endorse the Reporters without Borders (RSF) [call for concrete action](#) on prohibitive media laws made on the 3rd of September 2018.

Abeer Saady

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Acting President IAWRT