

# Junior Urgent Action

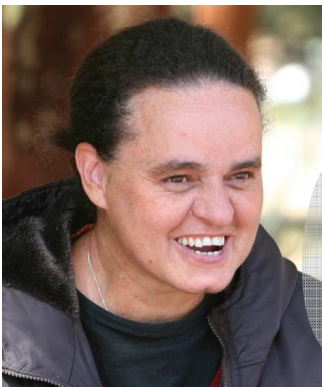


## Support the Women of Zimbabwe

January 2011

**Where?** Zimbabwe  
**Capital:** Harare  
**Languages:** English (official), Shona, Sindebele  
**Population:** 12.6 million

- What is the first name of Zimbabwe's president Mr Mugabe?
- Which famous waterfall was named after a British queen?



Jenni Williams © AI

### Who?

WOZA (Women of Zimbabwe Arise) was formed in 2003 to give women a united voice against some of the human rights abuses that occur in Zimbabwe. For more information on this, go to: [www.amnesty.org.uk/woza](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/woza)

Amnesty International has kept a note of many occasions when members of WOZA have been arrested, harassed and severely beaten by police after exercising their right to peaceful protest\*. They have repeatedly been denied access to food, lawyers and medical care whilst being held by police.

(\*which 'article' from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights does this refer to? [UDHR](#))

### Background

WOZA members have been arrested on dozens of occasions since the group started in 2003. The arrests seem to be a part of much wider government activity to stop people who disagree with them from speaking out.

Despite the human rights abuses they face, WOZA members continue to show great courage in their struggle to defend their rights.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, President Obama presented the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award to Jenni Williams (pictured above) and Magadonga Mahlangu (pictured right), national coordinators of WOZA, in a ceremony at the White House. Watch this [here](#).



# Take Action!

## Action 1

### Send a rose to the Zimbabwean High Commission in London

WOZA members use the rose as a symbol that 'the power of love can conquer the love of power'.

We are sending roses to the Zimbabwean High Commission in London in time for Valentine's Day (**14<sup>th</sup> February 2011**) to show our support for WOZA members and to call on the Zimbabwe government to respect their right to peaceful protest.

Send your rose with the following message:

*'I am sending this rose in support of WOZA and call on you to respect their right to peaceful protest'*

Signed.....

Address:

His Excellency Mr Gabriel Mharadze Machinga  
Zimbabwe High Commissioner  
Zimbabwe House  
429 Strand London,  
WC2R OJR

#### What to do:

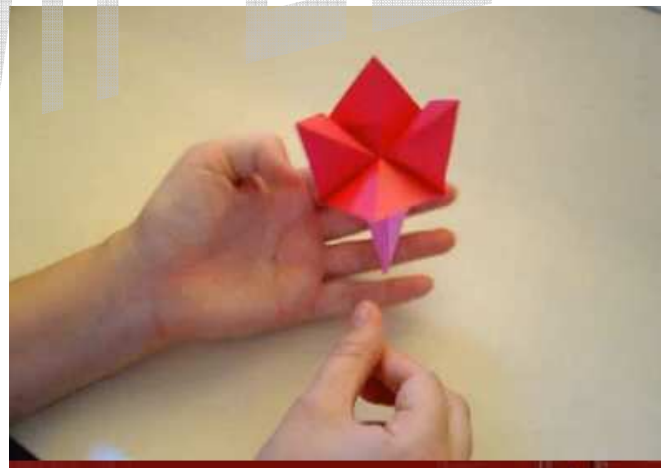
Be creative!

You could draw a picture of a rose, make a paper rose, write a poem about a rose, or anything else can think of related to roses!

One simple way to make a rose is to roll red crepe paper into a rose bud shape and secure it with green cotton or sticky tape. This would make it lightweight for easy posting.

You could also make an origami flower:

[Origami flower](#) (see opposite).



#### From Jenni.....

*'Amnesty is our big sister. When I'm in prison, if I know that someone, my big sister, is shouting for me, telling people about me, then I feel less distressed, less frightened, less alone.'*

Jenni Williams, WOZA National Coordinator

## Action 2

### Send a card to the women of WOZA

WOZA  
PO Box FM701  
Famona  
Bulawayo  
Zimbabwe



**International Women's Day is on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

Send a card to WOZA to show your solidarity and support. When writing inside your card, you could include something like:

*Dear WOZA activists,  
wishing you strength as you bravely carry out this  
important human rights work.*

*Airmail: 0.67p*

For more information on International Women's Day, visit: [Women's Day](#)

### Write to the Commissioner of Police in Harare

## Action 3

The Harare Commissioner of Police is responsible for policing in the capital of Zimbabwe, where many WOZA supporters have been beaten and arrested during peaceful demonstrations.

In your letter please express concern:

- At the arrests and beatings of WOZA activists since 2003.
- About ongoing refusal of the Zimbabwe Republic Police to allow peaceful meetings and protests by WOZA members.

And call on him to:

- Respect the right of WOZA members and others who are fighting for human rights in Zimbabwe to carry out their right to demonstrate and campaign.

Please start your letter – *Dear Commissioner General*

Commissioner General of Police  
Augustine Chihuri  
Zimbabwe Republic Police  
Police Headquarters  
PO Box 8807  
Causeway  
Harare  
Zimbabwe



# Update!

## Young Human Rights Reporter of the Year



The Young Human Rights Reporters of 2011 competition opened on 4<sup>th</sup> January. The **closing date for entries is 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011.**

Journalists continue to expose human rights abuses and to inspire the next generation of reporters. This competition is calling on young people to write a compelling human rights story - either from personal experience (such as bullying or what it's like to be a refugee) or an interpretation of a human rights news story. To enter click [here](#).

## Other News...

- The Greetings Card Campaign was a great success with hundreds of cards sent to individuals around the world who are in danger or unjustly imprisoned. Thank you for all your cards and messages of support.
- Amnesty International has become part of a coalition (a group of organisations with a common aim) called *Democratic Life*. The coalition is calling on politicians from all parties to support citizenship education so that it remains in the National Curriculum and schools continue to improve the teaching of the subject. To find out more click [here](#).