



DEBATE PACK

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Situation in Zimbabwe

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

Unrest in Zimbabwe after a sharp rise in fuel prices in recent weeks has left at least 12 people and [allegations](#) of “systemic torture” by the Army and the police.¹

Elections in July 2018 were widely viewed as a significant moment in Zimbabwe’s democratic transition, the first elections after Robert Mugabe’s forced resignation at the end of 2017. Emmerson Mnangagwa of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party was elected President, narrowly defeating his main rival, Nelson Chamisa of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T/Alliance). The [Constitutional Court](#) rejected the opposition’s legal challenge to the result.

International election observers welcomed the peaceful election but said there was an unlevel playing field with a biased media and voters in poor areas vulnerable to manipulation and intimidation because of their dependency on food aid and state development projects. The EU election observer mission’s [final report](#) (10 October) concluded many aspects of the elections “failed to meet international standards”. The author was positive about the future however, [saying](#) “there is a thirst for democratic change in the country and the people want to see democratic dividends delivering a better life for all Zimbabweans”.

At least six people were killed in protests after the election and a Commission of Inquiry [concluded](#) the military used “unjustifiable” force against opposition protestors.

Zimbabwe’s economic crisis has deepened since last October when the imposition of a new 2% tax on money transfers and government mixed messages about local currencies led to panic-buying and extreme shortages of cash, food and fuel. In October the *Financial Times* (FT) reported that the resulting crisis “has negated efforts by the new administration of President Emmerson Mnangagwa to normalise the economy and repair relations with multilateral institutions”.² The most recent clashes in January were prompted in part by a sharp hike in fuel prices which has made petrol and diesel in the country the [most expensive](#) in the world.³

The Zimbabwe Army and Police force were accused of “systematic torture” during recent crackdowns by a Government appointed human rights group and of “excessive use of force” by the UN. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission said on 22 January its investigations found police holding accused persons “for periods exceeding 48 hours and

¹ [“Monitoring Report in the Aftermath of the 14 January to 16 January 2019 “Stay Away” and Subsequent Disturbances”](#), Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, 22 January 2019

² “Zimbabwe’s attempt to tackle ‘bad’ currency deepens economic woes”, *Financial Times*, 14 October 2018

³ [“Reality check: Why has Zimbabwe hiked petrol prices?”](#), BBC News, 19 January 2019

that juveniles were being mixed with adults in holding cells against international human rights law and standards” and armed soldiers and police carried out “indiscriminate and severe beatings”. The Commission also condemned acts of vandalism, looting and barricading roads by protestors.⁴

The UN human rights office, [OHCHR](#), said on 18 January: “we are deeply troubled by the socio-economic crisis that is unfolding in Zimbabwe and the repression of large-scale protests in the country, following the Government’s decision to increase fuel prices... “The bottom line is that the use of live ammunition by security forces was used, excessive force was used”. President Mnangagwa has called for a national dialogue and promised to punish any security officials found to have transgressed. The President broke off a trip to Davos to deal with the continuing unrest.

Minister for Africa Harriet Baldwin issued a statement on the situation in Zimbabwe on [17 January](#). [On 22 January, Jeremy Hunt called on President Mnangagwa not to “turn back the clock”. He added that, despite trying to do so, he had not yet spoken to his South African counterpart about the situation.](#)

Zimbabwe has been one of the FCO’s 30 human rights [priority](#) countries during 2018.

In 2018 the UK government gave [support](#) to international and local election monitoring initiatives, including £5 million specifically to support election-related work.

UK-Zimbabwe trade and investment has been at low levels over the last decade and has been sensitive to political and economic uncertainty. In May 2018, the CDC Group – the UK government’s development finance institution – [announced](#) an investment facility, in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, that would lend up to US\$100 million to growing businesses in Zimbabwe. This was reportedly the first commercial loan by a British entity to Zimbabwe in over 20 years. In 2017, Zimbabwe was the UK’s 14th largest export market in Africa (accounting for 2% of UK exports to Africa) and 13th largest source of imports from Africa (accounting for 1% of UK imports from Africa). Globally, Zimbabwe was the UK’s 91st largest export market and 108th largest source of imports.

Zimbabwe applied to re-join the Commonwealth in May 2018, having withdrawn from the organisation in 2003. The UK Government [said](#) in April 2018 it would “strongly support Zimbabwe’s re-entry”.

⁴ [“Monitoring Report in the Aftermath of the 14 January to 16 January 2019 “Stay Away” and Subsequent Disturbances”](#), Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, 22 January 2019

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[**Zimbabwe crackdown: 'We are angry, we are desperate'**](#)

BBC News Online
24 January 2019

[**The Guardian view on Zimbabwe's crackdown: Mugabe went, but the regime lives on**](#)

Guardian
23 January 2019

[**Zimbabwe violence: Mnangagwa blames army for crackdown in Harare**](#)

The Times
Jane Flanagan
23 January 2019

[**Zimbabwe troops accused of 'systematic torture' of protesters**](#)

BBC News Online
23 January 2019

[**The mask slips as Zimbabwe's 'new' regime bares its teeth**](#)

Financial Times
David Pilling
23 January 2019

[**Zimbabwe's 'crocodile' is more interested in crushing his opponents than draining the swamp**](#)

Daily Telegraph
Con Coughlin
23 January 2019

[**Zimbabwe: beatings and abductions continue despite Mnangagwa pledge**](#)

Guardian
Jason Burke
23 January 2019

[**Zimbabwe president Mnangagwa skips Davos over protests**](#)

BBC News Online
22 January 2019

[**Mnangagwa promises investigation of brutal Zimbabwe crackdown**](#)

Guardian
Jason Burke
22 January 2019

[**Witnesses Reveal Chilling Details of Zimbabwe Violence**](#)

VOA News
Anita Powell
22 January 2019

[**In Zimbabwe, history repeats itself**](#)

Daily Telegraph
21 January 2019

[**Zimbabwe opposition accuses government of brutal crackdown**](#)

BBC News Online
21 January 2019

[**Reality Check: Why has Zimbabwe hiked petrol prices?**](#)

BBC News Online
Christopher Giles
19 January 2019

[**Zimbabwean activists on run as protests crackdown raises spectre of Mugabe era**](#)

Guardian
Jason Burke
18 January 2019

[**Zimbabwe army used 'unjustifiable' force in post-election clashes**](#)

BBC News Online
18 December 2018

[**Zimbabwe: opposition leaders launch new attempt to share power**](#)

Guardian
Jason Burke
26 November 2018

[**Zimbabwe's economic crisis will deepen without aid, ruling party warns**](#)

Guardian
Jason Burke
19 October 2018

[**'Medieval' cholera outbreak exposes huge challenges in Zimbabwe**](#)

Guardian
Jason Burke
20 September 2018

[**Robert Mugabe tarnished the jewel that is Zimbabwe. Now is its chance to shine again**](#)

Daily Telegraph
15 November 2017
Boris Johnson

3. Press Releases

Minister for Africa's statement on the situation in Zimbabwe, January 2019

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office
17 January 2019**

Minister of State for Africa, Harriett Baldwin, said:

I have been following the events in Zimbabwe over the last week with growing concern. I summoned the Zimbabwean Ambassador to the United Kingdom to attend the Foreign Office on 17 January to discuss the situation.

Since the weekend there has been widespread unrest and a heavy security force response, with several people killed and many injured.

While we condemn the violent behaviour of some protestors, and unlawful acts such as arson and looting, we are deeply concerned that Zimbabwe's security forces have acted disproportionately in response. In particular, there are disturbing reports of use of live ammunition, intimidation and excessive force.

In addition, the Government of Zimbabwe shut off access to the internet on 15 and 16 January and continues to block a number of social media sites.

We call on the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure its security forces act professionally, proportionately and at all times with respect for human life and constitutional rights. We further call on the Government of Zimbabwe to investigate all allegations of human rights abuses. We also urge the reinstatement of full internet access, consistent with citizens' constitutional right to freedom of expression.

Minister for Africa's statement on the Zimbabwe elections, 25 August 2018

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office
25 August 2018**

Minister for Africa Harriett Baldwin said:

The recent poll was an acknowledged improvement on previous Zimbabwean elections, however international observer missions highlighted significant shortcomings. Their recommendations must be addressed quickly to build much-needed confidence in Zimbabwe's democratic process.

While polling day passed peacefully, the UK is gravely concerned by the violence and human rights violations since, particularly the deaths of six people on 1 August. The President must make it his priority to ensure these incidents are thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

We call on President Mnangagwa to reach out to those who did not support him or his party in these elections, and work to build their confidence and trust. And we call on the opposition to play their part in the healing processes. Zimbabwe faces significant challenges. It is vital that Zimbabwe's political leaders focus on moving the country forward, with all parties committing to eschew violence, uphold the rule of law, and put the best interests of the country first.

The UK will continue to work alongside the international community to support good governance and improvements to democracy and human rights, and we will work with political leaders from all sides in Zimbabwe to support a better future for all Zimbabweans.

Minister for Africa statement on violence and human rights violations in Zimbabwe

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office
10 August 2018**

Following a call with opposition and government leaders today, Minister of State for Africa Harriett Baldwin said:

I am deeply concerned by the violence and human rights violations which have taken place in Zimbabwe since last week's elections.

Today I spoke to Nelson Chamisa and Foreign Minister Moyo to urge all parties to ensure calm while any challenges to the result of the election are resolved.

This should have been a time for Zimbabweans to have their say on the future of their country in a peaceful, democratic way. Instead we saw violence breaking out and security forces targeting opposition supporters.

Zimbabwe's human and constitutional rights must be protected by the state. The UK stands with the international community in calling for the Zimbabwean security forces to act with restraint.

Statement on targeting of opposition supporters in Zimbabwe
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
9 August 2018

Minister of State Harriett Baldwin said:

I am deeply concerned that the Zimbabwean security forces continue to target opposition supporters. I am following the case of Tendai Biti, a senior opposition figure who has been taken into custody by the Zimbabwean authorities and is facing criminal charges. The UK is watching closely how Mr Biti is treated and our Ambassador in Harare has made this clear to the government. We will continue to raise his case.

The government of Zimbabwe has the responsibility to ensure that the physical safety, and the human and constitutional rights of all of Zimbabwe's citizens are protected.

Once again, I urge all parties to ensure calm in the post-election period while any challenges to the result of the elections are resolved.

Statement on post-elections human rights situation in Zimbabwe
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
7 August 2018

The European Union Delegation, the Heads of Mission of EU Member States present in Harare (France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) and the Heads of Mission of Canada, Switzerland and the United States of America issued the following statement in Harare on 7 August 2018:

The Heads of Mission of the EU, Canada, Switzerland and the United States of America note with grave concern the eruption of violence and occurrence of serious human rights violations following the peaceful election on 30 July 2018. These tragic events stand in sharp contrast to the high hopes and expectations for a peaceful, inclusive, transparent and credible election in Zimbabwe.

The Heads of Mission express their condolences to the families of the victims.

The Heads of Mission condemn the violence, attacks, and acts of intimidation targeted at opposition leaders and supporters. These human rights violations have no place in a democratic society and contravene the fundamental tenets of international human rights standards.

The Heads of Mission urge the government to respect the rights of the Zimbabwean people as enshrined in the Constitution. All allegations of

incitement to violence or violent acts, as well as vandalism and destruction of property, should be investigated in accordance with the rule of law, and perpetrators held legally responsible.

The Heads of Mission welcome the President's commitment to establish an independent commission to investigate the violence against civilians and look forward to the commission starting its work as soon as possible and reporting its findings in a transparent manner.

The Heads of Mission call on the Government to ensure that the Zimbabwean Defence Forces act with restraint, in full respect of international human rights norms and their constitutional role.

The Heads of Mission call on all stakeholders to act responsibly, to adhere to the principles of the Peace Pledge, to pursue peaceful and legal resolution of their grievances and to uphold the integrity of the political and electoral process.

4. PQs

[Zimbabwe: Violence](#)

22 Jan 2019 | 209728

Asked by: Stephen Timms

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of reports of recent violence in Zimbabwe.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

While we condemn the violent behaviour of some protestors, and unlawful acts such as arson and looting, we are deeply concerned that Zimbabwe's security forces have acted disproportionately in response. In particular, there are disturbing reports of use of live ammunition, intimidation and excessive force. On 17 January I summoned the Zimbabwean Ambassador to highlight our concern at the ongoing situation in Zimbabwe.

[Zimbabwe: Trade Unions](#)

21 Jan 2019 | 209373

Asked by: Jo Stevens

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Zimbabwean counterpart on that country's obligations under international human rights and international law in relation to the treatment of independent Trades Unions.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I summoned the Zimbabwean Ambassador on 17 January to highlight our concern at the ongoing situation in Zimbabwe.

I call on the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure its security forces act professionally, proportionately and at all times with respect for human life and constitutional rights. We further call on the Government of Zimbabwe to investigate all allegations of human rights violations and abuses. We also urge the reinstatement of full internet access, consistent with citizens' constitutional right to freedom of expression.

[Zimbabwe: Politics and Government](#)

03 Dec 2018 | 196089

Asked by: Jim Cunningham

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the political and security situation in Zimbabwe.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We agree with the international electoral mission's reports, that there remain significant shortcomings in the electoral system which must be addressed to build much-needed confidence in Zimbabwe's democratic process. We welcomed the establishment of the independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the violence against civilians in the post-election period. The Commission must report its findings in a transparent and timely manner.

Following early August violence, which left at least 6 people dead, the security situation in Zimbabwe has remained calm.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government
26 Nov 2018 | HL11388**Asked by: The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current political and economic situation in Zimbabwe.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

As highlighted in the international electoral mission's reports, there remain significant shortcomings in the electoral system which must be addressed to build much-needed confidence in Zimbabwe's democratic process. It is vital that Zimbabwe's political leaders focus on moving the country forward, with all parties rejecting violence, upholding the rule of law, and putting the best interests of the country first.

Zimbabwe faces its most serious economic situation since 2008, with simultaneous cash, liquidity and fiscal crises. Without fundamental reform, the economic crisis will deepen. The UK stands ready to play a role in support of Zimbabwe's recovery, but this must be on the basis of genuine political and economic reforms.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights
11 Sep 2018 | 169343**Asked by: Paul Blomfield**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has made representations to the Zimbabwean Government on human rights issues since the recent election in that country; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I released statements on 4 and 9 August highlighting our concern at the violence and human rights violations which took place after the elections, particularly the deaths of at least six people on 1 August. I spoke to Foreign Minister Moyo and MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa on 10 August to urge calm, and for all sides uphold the rule of law and the Constitution.

We welcome President Mangagwa's creation of the Commission of Inquiry into the violence and human rights abuses after the elections. We are pressing for this to be conducted quickly, credibly and in a transparent manner.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

11 Sep 2018 | 169342

Asked by: Paul Blomfield

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the implications of reports of the detention of opponents of the Government of Zimbabwe in that country since the recent election there for his policies on returning failed asylum seekers.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

All asylum and human rights claims from Zimbabwean nationals are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations.

Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw. These are reflected in country policy and information notes, which are published on the gov.uk website and kept under regular review. Our most recent update on 'Zimbabwe: Opposition to the government' was issued in April 2018.

We have been monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe before, during and after the election process, including the treatment of political opponents, and will update the country policy and information note in due course where we can consider the longer-term significance of these events and ultimately make a full and informed decision about the situation.

However, the situation before, during and after the election does not suggest a fundamentally different one to the difficulties faced by opponents of the ruling ZANU-PF party, which is reflected in the current country policy and information note.

Zimbabwe: Elections

11 Sep 2018 | 169104

Asked by: Sir David Evennett

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Government of Zimbabwe since the recent elections in that country.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I released statements on 4 and 9 August highlighting our concern with the violence and human rights violations which took place after the elections of 30 July, particularly regarding the deaths of at least six people on 1 August. I released a further statement on 25 August on the overall conduct of the election. I spoke to Foreign Minister Moyo and

Movement for Democratic Change Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa on 10 August to urge calm, and for all sides uphold the rule of law and the Constitution. In addition, our Ambassador met President Mnangagwa as events were unfolding on 1 August to raise our serious concern and press for the military to be immediately removed from the streets.

Zimbabwe: Elections

12 Jul 2018 | 161585

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure free and fair elections in Zimbabwe.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK has consistently called for free and fair elections in Zimbabwe, in line with the country's constitution. We have engaged regularly with actors from across the political spectrum to discuss how the international community can best support Zimbabwe's democratisation process. Most recently, our Ambassador in Harare met President Mnangagwa on 1 June and Movement for Democratic Change Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa on 15 June, to discuss these points.

The UK will participate in the EU Electoral Observation Mission has been deployed to Zimbabwe to monitor the electoral process. Between 2014 and 2019 we are spending £24 million on civil society support for transparency, accountability, human rights and citizen engagement in Zimbabwe, much of which will help support democratisation. This includes an increase of £5 million announced in February specifically to support election-related work.

Engagements

04 Jul 2018 | 644 cc313-5

Asked by: Kate Hoey

The Prime Minister will know that later this month Zimbabwe will have its first election since Mugabe was ousted by a military coup. My hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth West (Conor Burns) and I have recently returned from Zimbabwe, and we heard from Zimbabweans concerns that that will not be a genuinely free and fair election. The constitution is not being adhered to, and the main Opposition do not have a chance to reach the state media. Will the Prime Minister give an assurance that our Government will not rush to agree that this is a free and fair election until we have seen that it really means change, not just for the election?

Answered by: The Prime Minister | Department: Prime Minister

I commend the excellent work that the hon. Lady continues to do as chair of the all-party parliamentary group on Zimbabwe. We obviously welcome the announcement of the date of the election on 30 July, but we urge all parties involved to pursue free, fair and peaceful elections, because that is absolutely what the Zimbabwean people deserve. We

will certainly watch very carefully to see how those elections are conducted, and consider the conduct of those elections as appropriate. We have repeatedly said that if the Zimbabwean Government can demonstrate commitment to political and economic reform the UK stands ready to do all that it can to support recovery, but that commitment is essential.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

02 Jul 2018 | 156647

Asked by: Dan Carden

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of President Mnangagwa’s first six months in office in Zimbabwe on that country.

Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The British Government welcomes President Mnangagwa's commitment to political and economic reform. As we have made clear, including in the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Foreign Minister Moyo on 20 April, the Zimbabwe Government must deliver the free, fair and peaceful elections that the people of Zimbabwe deserve. Genuine political reforms will enable the UK and the wider international community better to support Zimbabwe's recovery.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

02 Feb 2018 | 125123

Asked by: Stephen Gethins

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, What financial support her Department has provided to Zimbabwe in each of the last ten years; and how much financial support her Department plans to provide to that country in each of the next three years.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department: Department for International Development

DFID Zimbabwe Programme Spend for the past 10 years:

No	Financial year	Actual spend	Cumulative Spend
1	2007/2008	£41,978,617.66	£41,978,617.66
2	2008/2009	£50,035,627.30	£92,014,244.95
3	2009/2010	£60,709,203.18	£152,723,448.13
4	2010/2011	£68,711,191.63	£221,434,639.76
5	2011/2012	£88,008,792.07	£309,443,431.83
6	2012/2013	£82,130,598.47	£391,574,030.30
7	2013/2014	£105,994,824.16	£497,568,854.46
8	2014/2015	£68,620,415.12	£566,189,269.58
9	2015/2016	£85,786,771.83	£651,976,041.42
10	2016/2017	£104,885,392.21	£756,861,433.63

DFID plans to spend £90,000,000 during financial year 2017/2018 and £86,000 000 in Zimbabwe during financial year 2018/2019 - DFID funding may fluctuate to respond to needs and priorities.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

29 Nov 2017 | HL3280

Asked by: The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the latest information they have on the present political situation in Zimbabwe, in the light of reports of a military coup.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since the peaceful military takeover on 14 November, President Mugabe has resigned and President Mnangagwa was sworn in on 24 November. No ministers have officially been appointed as yet. Mnangagwa in his inauguration speech pledged to hold free and fair elections within the constitutional time frame (by latest August 2018). The UK welcomes this commitment. We will do all we can to support a legitimate government to rebuild the country, working with international and regional partners.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

[Zimbabwe](#)

07 Dec 2017 | House of Lords | 787 cc1211-1225

Lords question for short debate on what assessment they have made of the situation in Zimbabwe.

5.2 Statements

[Developments in Zimbabwe](#)

28 Nov 2017 | HCWS274

Boris Johnson (The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs): Since I updated the House on the 15th November there have been historic developments in Zimbabwe. Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule came to an end on 21st November, sparking joyous celebrations as Zimbabweans looked forward to the opportunity for a brighter future.

The UK's objective has remained constant throughout these dramatic developments. We want to support the people of Zimbabwe in building a democratic, stable and prosperous country. The only way for Zimbabwe to achieve a legitimate government is through free and fair elections held in accordance with the constitution. We stand ready to support a legitimate government to rebuild their beautiful country, working alongside our international and regional partners, with whom we are already engaging in order to lead the response.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who was inaugurated on the 24th November, has stated that this marks the beginning of a "new unfolding democracy" in Zimbabwe. He must now demonstrate his sincerity by delivering political and economic reform. In particular, he must hold an election in which all Zimbabweans can participate without fear of intimidation or violence. A transition from one despotic ruler to another would be a tragedy for Zimbabwe and its people.

The process of democratisation and economic recovery will be led by Zimbabweans. The Minister for Africa visited Harare on 23rd and 24th November and met with actors from across the political spectrum to discuss the transition to democracy. He made clear to the incoming administration that the UK stands ready to play a key role in support Zimbabwe's recovery, but only on the basis of genuine political and economic reforms, including respect for human rights and the rule of law. In this moment of hope for Zimbabwe, the UK will be looking for tangible indications of progress.

5.3 Early Day Motions

ZIMBABWE'S APPLICATION TO RE-JOIN THE COMMONWEALTH

EDM 1317 (session 2017-19)

24 May 2018

Frank Field

That this House welcomes Zimbabwe's application to re-join the Commonwealth; hopes the processes of assessment of compliance with the values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter will enable its application to be considered collectively by the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries; and believes that with a fair wind Zimbabwe could become a country that uses its natural resources responsibly and equitably to enhance the wellbeing of all its citizens.

DEMOCRACY IN ZIMBABWE

EDM 610 (session 2017-19)

28 November 2017

Jim Shannon

That this House welcomes the return to democracy in Zimbabwe; urges the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure free and fair elections take place to allow people of that country to make their own decisions on their future through a democratic process with an anonymous ballot box and no fear of reprisal; and calls on the Government to offer support to achieve a better and more prosperous Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWE'S FUTURE

EDM 594 (session 2017-19)

27 November 2017

Hugh Gaffney

That this House welcomes the end of Robert Mugabe's tenure as President of Zimbabwe; recognises the desperate situation many Zimbabweans find themselves in following a decade, and more, of bad government, a blatant disregard for democracy and the rule of law, and very serious policy failures; cautiously welcomes President Mnangagwa to his position as the third President of Zimbabwe; acknowledges the unity government announced by the new President; calls on President Mnangagwa to immediately work towards free and fair elections in the summer of July 2018; dedicates itself to continued support for the Zimbabwean diaspora across the UK; calls on the African Union, the South African Development Community and the UN to play their role in the restoration of democracy to Zimbabwe; and pledges to stand by the new government and the people of Zimbabwe, both in that country and in the diaspora, as they move toward a free, fair and democratic future.

6. Further Reading

Websites

[Zimbabwe homepage](#)

UN Human Rights

[Zimbabwe homepage](#)

Amnesty International

[Zimbabwe homepage](#)

Human Rights Watch

[Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum](#)

Reports / publications

[ZHRC Monitoring Report in the Aftermath of the 14 January to 16 January 2019 “Stay Away” and Subsequent Disturbances](#)

Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
22 January 2019

[World Report 2019: Annual View of Human Rights Around the Globe](#) [Zimbabwe chapter]

Human Rights Watch

[Zimbabwe 2017/2018](#)

Amnesty International

[Zimbabwe 2017 Human Rights Report](#)

US Department of State

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