



Zimbabwe
Diaspora
Network

Working Together as UK Diaspora Groups: Our Past, Our Future

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The context

- The issue of coalescing the Diaspora Voice has been a shared need characterising the UK Zimbabwean Diaspora for a long time
- Commendable work has been done to date through both individual initiative and conjoint working as Diaspora Groups
- The overarching concern has been to make a difference but now there has been a shift to be the difference we intend to see and for an ‘all hands-on deck approach’

The context continued

- To make an impact that is sustainable, there is need to coalesce, close ranks and establish collaborative synergies
- It has been an easy default position of those who want to trivialise the efforts of Diaspora Groups by calling into question the issue of representativeness

The context continued

- However, as a Diaspora, we refuse to be contained by issues that we have the capacity to address thus the need for us to meet together and grow our network as a Diaspora.
- When organised, the Diaspora can lobby for its interests and the welfare of its members (this calls for a need to explore and streamline those needs in the first instance)
- There is also a need for self-identification as Diaspora stakeholders

The context continued

- Diaspora identity is self-defining and separate from Government and political partisanship and that identity needs to be jealously guarded
- There is a lot that we can achieve to support each other and corporately give back to our communities of origin

Areas we can coalesce and provide a template of replication in other countries



1. Evolving a Diaspora Model that is the best fit for Zimbabwe's needs
2. Business/Investment
 - Creation of a Diaspora Investment Fund
 - Focusing on what matters to us all-across the divides
 - £1,000
 - Diaspora Development Zones
3. Hometown Associations/Alumni Associations
4. Areas we can coalesce and provide a template of replication in other countries

Areas we can coalesce and provide a template of replication in other countries



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5. Higher Education, Research and Policy Thinktanks
6. Social Work
7. Crisis Coalition
8. Youth
9. Mothers/Women

Areas we can coalesce and provide a template of replication in other countries



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10. Agriculture
11. Engineers
12. Tourism
13. Community Leaders
14. Media and Culture

What are some topical issues of concern to the Diaspora?

- Diaspora Vote
- Dual citizenship
- Diaspora representation at all levels (including Diaspora Directorate)
- Parliamentary Representation
- Viable Secretariat
- Economic Participation

What are some topical issues of concern to the Diaspora?



- Growing Membership
- Leadership Development
- Mentoring
- Cultural Spaces- essence of Zimbabweanness
- Giving back to communities of origin
- Investment with real returns