

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FROM THE SEXUAL RIGHTS CENTRE

The Sexual Rights Centre expresses our deep concern on the recent arrest and detention of our board member Ricky Nathanson. Ricky Nathanson was arrested on Thursday 16th January in Bulawayo.

We condemn:

- The arrest of Ricky Nathanson, a transgender person, who remained in police custody for two days.
- The premise of the arrest was that Ricky had used the 'Ladies' toilet. Can it possibly be justified to arrest someone for such a reason under the new Constitution when no offence exists and when no harm occurred?

We call upon the authorities:

1. To drop all charges laid against Ricky Nathanson, as the act does not fall within the scope of the 'criminal nuisance' offence.
2. To uphold the rights enshrined in the Constitution, including the rights of all persons to dignity, privacy and security of person.
3. To promote and protect all citizens' freedom of expression, freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and freedom from discrimination.
4. To urgently train all police officers on their duty to uphold the rights in the Constitution, including section 50 of the Constitution, which requires that all arrested persons must be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity, and must be released unless there are compelling reasons justifying their detention.

For more information please contact the Sexual Rights Centre.

Sexual Rights Centre
8 Macintyre Road,
Parkview,
Bulawayo.

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