

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
ZIMBABWE
2016**

Joint stakeholder submission

Freemuse is an independent international membership organization advocating and defending the right to artistic freedom worldwide. Freemuse has held Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2012.

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Nhimbe is a non-profit arts advocacy organization based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Through legislative and grassroots action, Nhimbe advocates for national policies that recognize, enhance and foster the contribution the arts make to national development.

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Freemuse and Nhimbe welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of Zimbabwe. Our organisations' focus is on Zimbabwe's compliance to its commitments under international human rights instruments relating to **freedom of expression, creativity and the arts**, as well as guarantees under its own constitution, and to recommendations accepted by Zimbabwe during the first cycle of the UPR in 2011. This submission is based on interviews with local artists and a legal analysis facilitated by Nhimbe and qualified through a workshop held in Harare in October 2015 with local artists, journalists and human rights advocates.