Human Rights and Women in Zimbabwean Cultures

Dr. Rose Jaji, University of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwean cultures suffer the same fate as the rest of African cultures. They are construed outside the continent as antithetical to women’s rights such that to enjoy human rights as a Zimbabwean woman is presumably to defy culture, reject it and triumph over it.

This paper addresses the positioning of women in traditional Zimbabwean cultures showing how these cultures have structures and spaces that facilitate women’s exercise of an array of rights that include the right to own property, freedom of choice, thought and speech. Women are also able to exercise the same rights that are exercised by men through gender fluidity in a kinship system premised on transgender proxies or situational and social morphing of women into men.