2014

# Key Human Rights issues from Civil Society and Summary of Political Party Manifestos













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#### Foreword

This booklet is a production of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) NGO Working Group. The UPR NGO Working Group was established in 2012 for Botswana's second cycle of its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in 2013. The members of the UPR NGO Working Group are: Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO), DITSHWANELO – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, Kuru Family of Organisations, Lesbians Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LeGaBiBo), Media Institute of Southern Africa (Botswana) and Rainbow Identity Association (RIA).

During 2012 and 2013 the UPR NGO Working Group strongly encouraged the adoption of the Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP) by the government, through the lobbying of relevant stakeholders, both in Botswana and at the Human Rights Council. Lobbying was aimed at the adoption of a UPR recommendation for a Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP) linked to national development priorities of Botswana. The recommendation for the production of a CHRSNAP was made during Botswana's 2013 UPR Process. The CHRSNAP comprises five phases - Preparation, Elaboration of the National Action Plan, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation. The UPR NGO Working Group is working with civil society organisations and the Government of Botswana on this process and has been specifically working with the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security (MDJS) to ensure that the process moves forward.

In April 2013, soon after the second cycle of Botswana's UPR session a workshop was held. It was decided that a National Coordinating Committee (NCC) would be established to oversee the coordination of the process and the production of the CHRSNAP. The National Coordinating Committee, comprising both civil society organisations and senior government officials, was headed by the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security (MDJS). This however is no longer the case, because a Presidential Directive was issued in

June 2014 which transferred the human rights mandate from the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security (MDJS) to the Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration (MOPAPA).

We intend to continue working closely with other civil society orgaisations and with the Government of Botswana on the Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan process. Through this workthe UPR NGO Working Group members are contributing to Vision 2016 – A long Term vision for Botswana: Towards prosperity for All and NDP 11 as part of the Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP) process.

We wish to thank all who have joined hands with the UPR NGO Working Group to make this work possible. We also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions from colleagues at various organisations, including Ms Tlatsetso Palime and Mr Lemogang Moremi.

Alice Mogwe Director – DITSHWANELO – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights Facilitator – UPR NGO Working Group October 2014

#### Introduction

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States every four years. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for every State to declare which actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations. As one of the main features of the Council, the UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed.

The UPR was created through the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of March 2006, which established the Human Rights Council itself. It is a cooperative process which, by October 2011, had reviewed the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States at least once. Currently, no other universal mechanism of this kind exists. The UPR is one of the key elements of the Council which reminds States of their responsibility to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The ultimate aim of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur. Botswana has been a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2011 to 2014 and is seeking re-election for another three year term.

In January 2013, the Government of Botswana appeared before the UN Human Rights Council for it second cycle of Botswana's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. One of the recommendations made to Botswana by South Africa, Australia and Mexico was the production of a Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Actio Plan (CHRSNAP) to deal with human rights in Botswana. The Botswana government accepted the recommendation. Soon after the January 2013 UPR session, work on the CHRSNAP process began with a workshop in April 2013 to discuss how to proceed with the Strategy and National Action Plan.

In September 2013 there was a civil society CHRSNAP consultation workshop, which was part of the CHRSNAP process. The aims of the workshop were to inform civil society organisations about the CHRSNAP, to identify which issues they sought the Strategy to address and how to facilitate the process. Key human rights issues were identified by the workshop.

At a February 2014 civil society workshop marking the beginning of Phase 2 of the CHRSNAP process, more priority human rights issues were identified by civil society organisations. The human rights issues from the September 2013 workshop and that of February 2014, were narrowed to thirteen key issues. These are: Access to Justice; Children and Youth; Freedom of Information; Gender; Governance and Accountability; Indigenous Peoples' rights; Land Rights; Marginalised Groups; People with Disabilities; Refugees and and Asylum Seekers; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI); Substance Abuse and Workers' Rights.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) NGO Working Group analysed the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and Botswana Congress Party (BCP) manifestos to asses whether or not they include the thirteen (13) key issues identified by civil society.

These same thirteen issues were clustered into the following five development priority areas, for the preparatory process of the National Development Plan 11: Access to Justice; Active Citizenship; Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Plan; Gender and Governance; and Accountability.

#### This booklet aims:

- to inform the public about the position of the parties on the thirteen (13) key issues identified by civil society through the different consultation workshops;
- to ensure that voters are well-informed about party commitments when they exercise their vote on 24 October 2014 and
- to enable the public to hold parties accountable in relation to their election promises.

## 24 October 2014 General Elections - Analysis of Manifestos

The analysis is based on the following thirteen key human rights issues identified by Civil Society organisations in Botswana, in consultations (held between April 2013 and February 2014) in the Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP) process identified by the following civil society organisations: Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme (BOCAIP), Botswana Coalition for Education for All (BOCEFA), Botswana Council for the Disabled (BOFOD), Botswana Society for the Deaf (BSD), Botswana Substance Abuse Network (BOSASNET), Botswana Khweadom Council, Young Womens' Christian Association (YWCA), DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, Kagisanyo Women's Shelter, Kitso ke Matla, Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LeGaBibo), Lifeline Botswana, Makgabaneng, Marang Childline Network, MISA Botswana, Mochudi Centre for the Blind, Ngamiland Council of NGOs (NCONGO), Pilot Mathambo Centre for Men's Health, Rainbow Identity Association, Reteng, Skillshare International Botswana, Trainers and Allied Workers' Union (TAWU), Tshole Trust, and Youth and Health Organisation (YOHO)'. This analysis was done in preparation for the 24 October 2014 General Elections in Botswana.

- Access to Justice
- 2. Children and Youth
- 3. Freedom of Information
- 4. Gender
- 5. Governance and Accountability
- 6. Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- 7. Land Rights
- 8. Marginalised Groups
- 9. People with Disabilities
- 10. Refugees and Asylum seekers
- 11. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- 12. Substance Abuse
- 13. Workers' Rights

		Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)	Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)	Botswana Congress Party (BCP)
1.	Access to Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Children and Youth	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Freedom of Information	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Gender	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	Governance and Accountability	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Indigenous Peoples' Rights	No	Yes	No
7.	Land Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Marginalised Groups	No	No	Yes
9.	People with Disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
10.	Refugees and Asylum Seekers	No	No	No
11.	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	No	No	No
12.	Substance Abuse	Yes	No	Yes
13.	Workers' Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes

Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)			
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
1. Access to Justice	Justice system continues to be pride of the nation and envy of other nations	Mobilise communities throughout the country to fight crime	
	Justice system continues to guarantee democracy  Footprint of Judicial	Continue to fight crime against women, children and other vulnerable sections of the population (including:	
	Institutions is second to none and continues to grow, ensuring that justice	rape, armed robbery and other violent crimes)	
	is taken to the people and thereby improving access to Justice	Train and equip our defence and security agencies to be able to deal with new and emerging threats to national	
	Innovative strategies, programmes and institutions have been introduced to quicken the wheel of justice (Legal Aid Pilot Project, Small Claims Court, Stock theft Court, Traffic Court and Judicial Case Management)	To continue to educate our communities about the dangers of abuse of drugs and alcohol {Substance Abuse} and how they are detrimental to the country's moral and family fabric.	
	Botswana Police Force and Batswana have embraced the notion of community policing and this has contributed significantly to the reduction of crime in	To introduce alternative sentencing through legislation to reduce overcrowding in prisons  To introduce Police/Defence	
	Police Force has done well in rehabilitation of convicts and has also done a good job in keeping convicts away from the public, until they are ready to be reintegrated into society	national service programmes	

	Botswana Democratic Party (B	(DP)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
Children and Youth     I. Education and     Training	Education is still the party's number one priority. There is a commitment to ensuring that all Batswana receive high level education at all levels	Ensure that the quality of education remains competitive in Africa and globally. Continual review of the curriculum to close any gaps.
	The setting up of 10 decentralised education regions in 2009 ensures	Commitment to higher quality of teaching and learning in the classroom
	support to teachers and students is provided both efficiently and effectively	Continue to put more funding into education
	In order to improve the quality of teaching and	Drive education reform at all levels
	learning, teachers are regularly given short and long term training. This is	Intensify in-service training for teachers
	to ensure that they meet the new demands of the profession. Currently all	Nurture unique talents of every child through schools of excellence and other strategies
	primary school teachers with a certificate in teaching have been upgraded to diploma level	Commit to ensure that all schools have good links between parents, students and teachers
	In the area of technical and vocational education, there has been expansion and improvement of brigades and government has taken	Ensure that the quality of education in the country remains globally competitive
	over their management	Introduce national service for university graduates
	Enrolment in the Botswana Technical Education Programme (BTEP) has	
	increased over the years and new courses have been introduced	
	Senior Secondary Schools were constructed in	

	Botswana Democratic Party (B	BDP)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	Mogoditshane, Nata, Shakawe and Mmadinare at a combined cost of P2.1 million	
	Gaborone Technical College was upgraded and Serowe College of Education was expanded. Francistown College of Education was completed. Oodi College of Applied Arts and Technology was completed and so was the first phase of the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BUIST) in Palaype	
Children and Youth	BDP has introduced talent identification programmes such as <i>Re ba bona ha</i>	Plan to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to tackle youth unemployment
II. Sports and Culture	programme in sport development	Ensure that the youth is competitive in the global
	The Youth Development Fund, Boot Camp, Youth and ICT and Internship programmes have absorbed a substantial number of youth	economy  Offer employment incentives in exchange for creating jobs for the youth Improve schools' sport programme
	President Day performing arts competitions have been held annually since 2008 and continue to demonstrate the diversity of the culture in Botswana and to promote national unity and pride	Increase the hosting of high- profile sports events and facilitate enhanced sports decentralisation and talent identification

	Botswana Democratic Party (E	BDP)
Issues	What Party manifesto says	What Party Promises to do on
	in relation to the issue	the issue (Electoral Promises)
	In order to create a	
	conducive environment for	
	learners and support the	
	national Vision 2016 pillar	
	of an educated and	
	informed nation, libraries	
	were completed in a number of locations such as	
	Tonota, Serowe,	
	Molepolole, Ramotswa and	
	Jwaneng	
	Other libraries have been	
	built through support from	
	donors like the Bob and	
	Sara Rothchild Foundation at Molalatau, Matlhako,	
	Shakawe and Sebina	
	According to the Legatum 2012 Personal Freedom	Continue to create a conducive environment for a free,
3. Freedom of Information	Index, Botswana is among	independent and professional
	the top 30 high ranking	media in Botswana
	countries in the world	
	whose "citizens enjoy high	With the advent of a plethora
	levels of personal freedom of expression, belief and	of private newspapers, radio stations and social media in
	organisation, as well as	recent years, the BDP will
	personal autonomy in a	continue to help the growth of
	society welcoming of	the media and enhance media
	diversity"	professionalism through
		various policy and legislative
		The media is a platform for the
		free flow of information and to act as a watchdog on the
		public discourse and resource
		mobilization, while
		contributing to public
		accountability and good
		governance

Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)		
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		Continue to work towards sustenance of democracy, good governance, respect for the rule of law and the promotion of human rights through free press and protection of freedom of expression and personal communication rights
4. Gender	Government coordinates gender relations in Botswana through the Department of Gender Affairs, in the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs. The Department has developed a national policy on gender and development  Broad-based economic empowerment of women	BDP continues to strive to create a society in which women and men are equal  Continue to advocate for gender equality in all areas of society  Create and strengthen a supportive environment for an effective national gendersensitive response  Adopt and apply affirmative
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has been domesticated into the national statutes  Public education and sensitisation about gender- based violence is continuing as well as various gender mainstreaming efforts	measures where necessary  Advocate for and support the strengthening of national capacity for gender mainstreaming in sector policies and programmes and eliminate all forms of gender-related discrimination and gender-based violence
	In 2012 Ibrahim Index of African Governance rated Botswana number one in	Continue to work towards enhanced democracy, governance and respect for the

	Botswana Democratic Party (B	BDP)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
5. Governance and Accountability	Africa with an overall score of 88% on accountability  According to the World Bank Governance Indicators, Botswana's performance has improved over the years  In the 2012 African Leadership Index, President Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama was one of two African Leaders awarded an "A" grade as a "best performer"	rule of law  Continue to work towards sustenance of democracy, good governance, respect for the rule of law and the promotion of human rights through free press and protection of freedom of expression and personal communication rights
	In 2012, the Mo Ibrahim Index placed Botswana high in Africa in overall governance at third place and first in Africa in the areas of accountability and the rule of law Overall Botswana was one of 12 countries and territories, out of 200 surveyed, which are considered to have "negligible risk" in terms of political risk, civilian unrest and acts of terrorism The 2012 Global Peace Index (GPI) and Positive Peace Index (PPI) both ranked Botswana as one of the world's most peaceful countries	
	Transparency International has ranked Botswana the least corrupt country in Africa and as well as one of	

	Botswana Democratic Party (E	BDP)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	the least corrupt countries in the world	
	The efficient management of the public sector plays a strategic role in shaping the growth and success of the economy	
	Leadership development programmes have been developed for all employees to efficiently and effectively perform at all levels of responsibility	
	The 2012 Democracy Index ranked 30 out of 167 countries in terms of the overall democracy in the country	
7. Land Rights	The Town and Country Planning Act, Land Policy and Land Tribunal Act have been reviewed to bring efficiency and effectiveness in the planning process Many achievements in	Strive to increase access to land for all  Mount land tenure reforms that respond to emerging land rights issues and promote equitable and transparent land distribution
	housing programmes, especially targeting low income groups	Promote access to land and property rights as a basis for economic development and poverty reduction
	Government continues to fund housing initiatives such as Self-Help Housing	Promote private sector participation in land servicing and delivery
	Agency (SHHA) and Poverty Alleviation Schemes	Promote settlement planning and development

	Botswana Democratic Party (I	BDP)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	Introduction of integrated farming. This will allow for new farming practices	Strengthen land institutions for effectiveness in administering land in a transparent, predictable and accountable way.
		Manage the emerging tensions between customary and state land
		Secure property issuance of registrable certificates for tribal land, computerising and surveying all plots before allocation
		Making land servicing a priority
		Committed to provision of affordable housing in urban areas
		Develop policy to enable the efficient delivery of shelter and increased use and maintenance of the existing stock, through ownership, rental and other options
		Continue to increase access to decent housing for all Batswana
		Accelerate delivery of housing by the public and private sectors
		Promote and support housing for vulnerable groups
		Support innovative strategies aimed at improving access to

	Botswana Democratic Party	
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		materials
12. Substance Abuse		To continue to educate our communities on the dangers of the abuse of drugs and alcohol and how they are detrimental to our moral and family fabric
13. Workers' Rights	The government has been ensuring harmonious labour relations in the country through the Department of Labour and Social Security	Cherish and promote the prevalence of harmonious labour relations  Continue to comply with obligations under ratified
	The Trade Dispute Act is under review to facilitate speedy resolution of labour disputes	International Labour Organisations (ILO) conventions
	Providing efficient, effective and friendly services in dispute resolution, work permit	Review relevant national labour laws to ensure that they meet prevailing labour market needs
	processing, labour inspections, workers' compensation, registration and servicing of trade unions and the facilitation	Nurture harmonious relationships among all stakeholders in the labour market
	of training and localisation management and employment services	Ensure that trained personnel are available to deal with labour disputes
		Promote high work ethic in the labour force

The	: Umbrella for Democratic Cha	inge (UDC)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
1. Access to Justice	Current Laws give Central Government excessive powers, and unduly restrict Local Government authorities' ability to plan, budget and implement development and service mandates efficiently  Appointments of the Chief Justice and Judges is not subject to rigorous checks and balances	Consult citizens on proposed review of the Constitution  Review the Constitution to grant Parliament its full legislative mandate  Promulgate law that makes the appointment of Executive such as Permanent Secretaries, Commissioner of Police, Commander of the Army, Head of the military departments, Head of DIS, Head of National Security Council, Ambassadors, Governor of Bank of Botswana and other key government officials subject to confirmation by a parliamentary process and others by the Public Service Commission  Develop a Bill of Rights which includes second generation rights such as the right to reasonable levels of education, healthcare, housing and minority language rights.  Establish a Human Rights Commission to consider, probe and solve human rights violations  Erect an Independent Police
		Appeals Commission as a

Th	e Umbrella for Democratic Chi	ange (UDC)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		check and balance against police brutality or neglect
		Reform the DIS law to ensure that the rights of citizens are safeguarded and to ensure oversight by the Legislature
	A mismatch between the	Improve the education
Children and Youth     I. Education and	graduates produced and the professionals needed by the economy	system and focus on making the system more practical and technical
Training	Poor collaboration of	Introduce/Establish
	universities with the private sector	compulsory pre-primary education through
	Inadequate technical education	expanding existing primary schools and involving non- governmental organisations and churches
	Underdevelopment of	
	entrepreneurial skills among the young	Create the best learning environment and learning systems which empower the
	Shortage of teachers, especially in the sciences	people of Botswana with skills and information.
	Poor management of and in schools	Improve the management of
	Less than satisfactory development of non-academic fields	education and training systems in all fields and institutions of learning.
	Large disparities in the quality of education between public and private schools or between urban and rural	Empower all citizens with lifelong learning skills and knowledge that will lift them from poverty
	schools	Introduce modern school

	The Umbrella for Democratic Ch	ange (UDC)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	Access to higher learning and tertiary institutions is low	management systems and practices
	Life-long learning is not developed  Non-existence of centres of excellence or	Involve private stakeholders in syllabi formulation  Allow students the choice of a technical stream, music/arts stream, sports
	specialisation at the early stages  Low morale of teachers	stream and general stream as early as secondary school Vastly expand the national
	Poor sporting and other facilities in schools  Lack of computers in	stock of teachers at all levels, especially science teachers and for technical subjects
	schools and other modern learning technology	Improve teacher remuneration by establishing incentives linked to outcomes
		Significantly enhance tertiary uptake to at least double the current uptake within five(5) years
		Establish Botswana as a continental centre of excellence in education and educational services
		Broaden access to tertiary education to the rural and marginalised youth
		Ensure that every student graduate from the tertiary education system is self- confident and skilled in at

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)		
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		least one functional area within the nation's selected priority sector
3. Freedom of Information		Introduce an accountable, transparent and ethical system of governance through a regime declaration of assets by public officials, freedom of information bill and the establishment of an electoral tribunal  Appoint a public
		broadcasting board independent of government control, and responsible for Botswana Television, Radio Botswana and future public broadcasters
4. Gender	High incidents of violence against women  Low participation of	Promote gender parity and empower the girl-child and women, in particular, to enjoy similar social and economic rights and opportunities as males
	women in national decision-making and in reaping from economic opportunities available in Botswana	Create a legal, practical, and psycho-social environment conducive to embracing women as equals (to men) as stakeholders in the development process of the nation
		Important to provide women with access to good education and health, land, and economic opportunity

$oxed{Th}$	e Umbrella for Democratic Chi	inge (UDC)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		Work towards the equality of women with men before the law
		Eliminate violence against women
		Ensure equal access to economic opportunity, education and resources
		Eliminate violence against women
		Erect support structures to empower the girl-child and also empower the boy-child to appreciate the equal status of women
		Appoint women to key positions based on merit and the ratification of the SADC protocol on gender and development, with acknowledgement that it is necessary to consult citizens for the most appropriate timeframe for the implementation of its provisions
5. Governance and Accountability	Leakage of large sums of money in the government tender system and tender awards based on favouritism are common Poor implementation of	Revitalise and entrench a culture of commitment to transparency, accountability and aspirations for effectiveness and efficiency among civil and political servants
	projects including cost overruns, poor adherence to agreed - to deadlines	Restore professionalism in public service management

	The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)	
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	and generally low delivery standards	Forge a culture of open assessment of service
	Long lag times for service delivery to citizens (including long waiting times for land	delivery by recipients (the public) as a base for development of an accountable bureaucracy
	applications, water connections, power connections, sewerage connections and other services)	Encourage and improve systems which enable participation of ordinary citizens, non-governmental
	Poor maintenance of public infrastructure (in schools, hospitals, roads	organisations, media and other institutions in the democratic process
	and other infrastructure)	Introduce strict standards for efficient infrastructural
	Human and financial resources are thin at the local authority level	systems, quality services and products offered by, or to government
	Low morale in public service, including the teaching service, police, Botswana Defence Force and workers in general	Reduce over-reliance on Central Government for service delivery that places unnecessary burden on local communities when accessing such services
	Poor coordination of government institutions, plans and assignments to the nation	Build institutional capacity to manage and implement large-scale projects and programmes
	Lack of capacity to conceive and execute efficiently and effectively largely infrastructure projects necessary to boost economic development	Review current electoral system with a view to developing proposals for a more democratic hybrid of proportional representation
	Poor information management and	and first past the post system

Issues	e Umbrella for Democratic Cha What Party manifesto says in relation to the	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral
	integration for purposes of managing performance and improving delivery within government  Poor government-labour relations  Absence of political will to cultivate a culture of fairness, excellence and meritocracy  Low participation of citizens in the democratic process (including voter apathy, underrepresentation of people living with disabilities, youth and women in key decision making bodies)	Create a culture of fairness and excellence by appointing on merit, including sending nominations for key government offices for approval by parliament  Give local/town councils more powers, stronger budgets and introduce direct elections for mayors, regional police chiefs and regional premiers as will have been determined by the constitution's review/revision process  Restructure Ministries to align more efficiently with plans to transform Botswana  Provide training to develop capacity (i.e. required human resources) to manage large scale projects.  Introduce e-government to facilitate service delivery (e.g. check applications for licenses, status of applications and making queries online)  Integrate government services by providing service points at which citizens will receive a menu of government from a single service point

	The Umbrella for Democratic C	hange (UDC)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		Introduce transparency by publishing a six (6) monthly review of the nature of involvement in business by government Ministers and senior government officials based on guidelines as will be prescribed by the auditor general
		Restore cordial relations between government and trade unions, as well as embrace the strengthening of established institutions such as the Bargaining Council
		Improve overall morale in the civil servant through a raft of incentive-based initiatives (linking increases to performance of government services and revenues)
		Change legislation of the Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS) to make it a more accountable arm of government
		Restore professionalism in the top echelons of the security forces by curtailing undue influence of the Presidency in the affairs of such institutions
		Consult citizens on the proposed review of the constitution, based on the

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)		
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		need to improve the democratic structure of our governance institutions and processes
		Review the Constitution to grant Parliament its full legislative mandate through the establishment of its fully-fledged administrative autonomy (an office with full administrative and economic analysis capacity independent of the Executive wing of government)
		Entrench all key institutions in a democracy: make the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Auditor General and Ombudsman directly accountable to government
		Promulgate law which makes the appointment of executives such as Permanent Secretaries, Commissioner of Police, Commander of the Army, Heads of the military departments, Head of the DIS, Head of National Security Council, Ambassadors, Governor of Bank of Botswana and other key government officials are subject to confirmation by a parliamentary process by the Public Service Commission

	The Umbrella for Democratic C	The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)	
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
		Review the electoral system to promote broader representation (particularly women, and also youth and people living with disabilities), as well as take all the steps necessary to cultivate an environment of fair and credible elections	
		Introduce an accountable, transparent and ethical system of governance through a regime declaration of assets by public officials, freedom of information bill and the establishment of an electoral tribunal	
		Appoint a public broadcasting board independent of Government control, and responsible for Botswana Television, Radio Botswana and future public broadcasters	
		Introduce political funding in accordance with international best practice. Private contributions should also be made subject to full declaration to an appropriate authority and to the Botswana public to ensure transparency and accountability	
		Strengthen parliamentary oversight committees to	

Th	e Umbrella for Democratic Cha	ange (UDC)
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		accountability of security organs
		Establish a Human Rights Commission to consider, probe and solve human rights violations
		Erect an independent Police Appeals C commission as a check and balance against police brutality or neglect
6. Indigenous Peoples' Rights	Rights and freedoms of the people of the Kalahari (prefer to be called bushmen) are trampled upon by the current government	Ensure elimination of any form of discrimination through development of social and economic support systems which are accessible to all hunting rights and application mechanisms for such rights
		Rights to establish or manage through collaboration certain tourist attraction sites
7. Land Rights	Ordinary citizens should have timely and fairer access to land for establishing a home and for improving their sustenance	Ensure that every citizen is assisted to acquire or build that first home through a combination of progressive home-ownership and housing policies
	Few citizens own land or a home and most do not participate meaningfully in the means of production	Housing policy will focus on creating an environment for adequate availability of affordable serviced land and adequate supply of houses and flats for sale

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)		
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		Significantly enhance land planning and swift affordability of land and homes to ordinary citizens
		Ensure smart mechanisms for ensuring affordable housing especially for low and medium income groups
9. People with Disabilities		Put in place an overarching legislation for people with disabilities
		Enhance their rights and access to good health, education and economic opportunities
		Create a quota system for representation in parliament and other decision-making bodies
		Create comprehensive access to special education until tertiary levels and beyond Consider people with disabilities in the design for access to public transportation and infrastructure
13. Workers' Rights	High unemployment rate and experiences of jobless economic growth  Poor nurturing and developing of	Create a balanced supportive eco-system of civil service, tradesmen, entrepreneurs and small businesses, private sector and corporations
	entrepreneurs and small	•

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)		
Issues	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	developing of entrepreneurs and small	and corporations
	businesses	Catalyse a balanced industrial organisation that
	Lack of fairness in the Government procurement	generates sustainable jobs
	system which tends to favour those who have close ties with high ranking Government political leaders	Build cordial relations between employers and trade unions and ensure mutually beneficial rewards of a robust economy

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)		
	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
1. Access to Justice	Botswana's democracy is underdeveloped  Parliament lacks independence and is virtually under Office of the President  There is no separation of powers, because Judiciary is shrouded in absolute secrecy and is primarily decided by the Executive	Set up a Constitutional Review Commission headed by a Judge to look into possible amendments of the constitution including the bill of rights to include socio-economic and cultural rights, the right to a clean environment, reduction of powers of the President and qualifying the immunities given to a sitting President Introduce legislation to ensure that resolutions of Parliament are binding on the Executive for implementation  Entrench the position of Leader of Opposition in the constitution and make it accountable to the Speaker  Ensure that the Botswana judiciary fully complies with the international Bar Association minimum standards of Judicial Independence  Improve the conditions of service for the Judiciary so that we attract and retain the best judicial officers  Ensure that all judicial officers (Judges and magistrates) enjoy personal and substantive independence.

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)		
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
		duties, judicial officers will be subject only to the law and their conscience
		Review the composition of the Judicial Service Commission to increase the number of members not appointed by the President
		Include representatives from the Judges and Magistrates Association, civil society and academia in the Judicial Service Commission
		Allow for transparency in the appointment process of the judges and introduce public hearings by a Parliamentary Select Committee
		Broaden the scope of Legal Aid to cover more deserving cases
		Ensure one centre for power of the judiciary and also the President of Court of Appeal
Children and Youth      I. Education and     Training	Education system is in a state of crisis.  In the past five (5) years students' performance in public schools has been declining	Transform Botswana into a truly educated and informed nation by giving all its citizenry quality education relevant to the real world of work  Segment education ministries into Ministry of

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)		
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	3	`
	remuneration and poor opportunities for professional and self-development are amongst some issues which teachers are faced with  Relations between the Ministry of Education and teacher organisations are acrimonious and not conducive for the development of the education sector  Graduates of tertiary	higher education and providing government sponsorship for post-graduate studies, facilitating universities and other tertiary institutions to develop relevant and appropriate distance education programmes at both graduate and post-graduate levels to reach out to the needs of learners in all parts of the country and maximising shared use of government institutions' resources by Distance Education providers

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)		
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)
	institutions remain largely unemployed after graduation	Promote education equality by establishing an autonomous Educational Inspectorate which audits educational provision and monitors quality at all levels of the education system
		Develop and implement a policy of multicultural education. The policy is aimed at building a nation which respects unity in diversity and equality.
		Promote teacher professional development by setting up a staff development agency to ascertain opportunities for professional development and reward excellence in teaching
		Restore teachers' self-esteem and dignity, provide teachers with adequate accommodation, remunerate teachers fairly and establish a teaching council to professionalise teaching
		Transform the school curriculum for relevance and to highlight vocational skills acquisition
		Strengthen collaborative partnerships in educational development through fostering participation of

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
		students, teachers, parents, community and industry in the education process	
		Introduce boards and councils to oversee technical and higher education institutions	
		Encourage leadership development in schools by supporting Student Representative Councils, which will be supported through legislation	
3. Freedom of Information	Fundamental laws required to ensure freedom of information are not in place	Guarantee press freedom in the constitution and forbidding Parliament passing any law which restricts press freedom	
		Transform state broadcasters such as Radio Botswana and Botswana Television into public broadcasters with independent boards free from political control	
		Establish Community-based media platforms such as radio stations and newspapers to promote cultural diversity	
		Promote access to parliamentary debates through live broadcasts of debates	
		Enact, as a matter urgency,	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
		the Freedom of Information Act and a Whistle Blowers' Act	
4. Gender	Women in Botswana form 52% of the population and despite this dominance in numbers, women remain the most	Establish the Ministry of Home Affairs, Gender Development and Culture to coordinate the mainstreaming of gender in all government ministries	
	marginalised in society	Promote public awareness on issues of gender development	
	Efforts to empower women have not yet yielded much success, mainly because development	Introduce curriculum geared at promoting gender equality at an early age	
	processes have continued to encompass patriarchal values and norms	Incorporate gender issues and analysis in all policy making and programme development in all sectors	
	To a large extent women are not seen as legitimate actors in the political, economic and social arenas of	of the economy  Adopt, domesticate and ensure compliance with the SADC Gender Protocol, the Convention on the	
	society  Women need to	Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and	
	transition to a level where they can participate as equal	other conventions which seek to end discrimination and violence against women	
	partners in development  Women are faced with	Strengthen legal instruments to protect women, including legal	
	limited access to higher education, particularly in the	obligations of paternity and equality of access to property and inheritance	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
	areas of science and technology  Women are faced with high unemployment, high levels of vulnerability to diseases and limited access to social, political, economic and cultural resources  Low level of participation in business and political leadership  Gender-based violence	Facilitate economic justice for women by mainstreaming gender issues in economic structures and policies Ensure that there are specific policies which ensure increased access for women to employment, credit facilities and appropriate training  Tax incentives will be provided to companies and groups that support women's economic projects  Strengthen health services for women, with emphasis on the improvement and strengthening of diagnostic and clinical technology and services to address women specific illnesses such as breast cancer and cervical cancer  Make education and training more accessible to women. The curriculum and other school programmes and activities will address subject choices by girls to ensure girls entry into the science and technology streams in larger numbers  Promote the participation of women in politics, by introducing civic and	
		leadership training	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	sto What Party Promises to do	
		programmes to empower women	
		Affirmative Action will be used as an instrument to ensure a fair representation of women at both local and national levels	
5. Governance and Accountability	Botswana's democracy is underdeveloped  The election process is	There is a need for an ethical, accountable and transparent government which promotes	
	presided over by the government of the day and the Independent Electoral Commission	participatory democracy and collective decision making	
	(IEC) is not truly independent	Ensure that the Ombudsman and the Auditor General are directly accountable to Parliament	
	The security sector, especially the Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS) is personalised and serves the interest of the presidency with	Ensure that oversight institutions are made more accessible to the public and are capacitated to undertake their duties efficiently	
	no oversight or accountability  Absence of certain laws (Disclosure of Assets and Liabilities, Protection of Whistle - blowers, Conflict of Interest and Insider	Ensure an open and transparent recruitment process for the Ombudsman by providing for vetting of candidates by a Parliamentary Select Committee	
	Trading) has made it difficult to convict ministers and other officials suspected of corruption	Undertake a comprehensive review of all relevant legislation dealing with and /or linked to corruption including, but not limited to: The Penal Code, The Criminal Procedure and	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
		Evidence Act, the Finance and Audit Act, The Public Service Act, the Police Act, the Ombudsman Act, the Corruption and Economic Crime Act and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act	
		Make the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) truly independent by reporting directly to Parliament	
		Establish a special Parliamentary Oversight Committee on anti- corruption to monitor the work of the DCEC	
		Expand the DCEC and provide it with the necessary professional mix that can meet the demands of the job	
		Introduce a system of Declaration of Assets and Liabilities by senior civil servants, Chief Executives of parastatal organisations, judicial officers and Members of Parliament	
		Introduce a law to prohibit political and public officers from participating in decision making processes where their interests or those of their immediate relatives are involved	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
		(conflict of interest)	
		Effective development must be anchored on a decentralised system to allow for the voices of the people to inform planning and service delivery	
		Empowering local authorities to expand their revenue generating opportunities and reduce their reliance on central government for financial support	
		Carry out an extensive review of all government departments to identify services that will be more efficiently delivered by local authorities in line with our policy of decentralisation	
		Enhancing efficiency of local government by strengthening their capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled personnel	
		Formulate a law on citizen economic empowerment compelling the involvement of citizens in all major economic activities	
		Re-formulate the citizen reservation policy to target more high value ventures	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
		Improve the capacity of the government to monitor the implementation of the citizen empowerment strategy	
7. Land Rights	Many Batswana unable to secure land for residence, business and farming activities despite the huge mass of land in Botswana	A just, equitable, transparent and accountable institutional structure for land administration is an essential prerequisite to establishing a just society	
	Huge tracks of land belonging to absentee landlords remain underdeveloped while state land allocation is	Undertake a comprehensive land audit to appreciate the current land ownership scenario	
	shrouded in secrecy  In some parts of the	Impose a development covenant on undeveloped free hold land	
	country residential plots are allocated in areas without services such as roads and water, but are required to be developed within short periods	Phase out the Certificate of Right and the Land Grant Certificate issued for tribal land plots and replace them with the title deeds to allow those allocated	
	Allocation criteria is inconsistent across different land boards	Prohibit the allocation of land without services	
	On account of the poorly managed land allocation, most people find it difficult to develop property	Impose a tax on allocated freehold land that remains underdeveloped beyond the development covenant	
	The artificial shortage of land has led to high property prices and a thriving black market	Undertake accelerated land servicing and reduce the waiting period for land applications to twelve (12) months by 2019	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
	for land  The Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) houses are unaffordable for the average working Motswana  Huge pool of people exist who can not afford BHC low cost units but are considered to be above the income threshold for the Self Help Housing Agency	Stronger role for government in housing delivery particularly for low income groups and the poor. For the middle income and high income groups, priority will be to avail them the serviced land  Ensure a fast and efficient acquisition, servicing and allocation of land for housing to reduce the waiting periods  Transform BHC to focus on building affordable houses and its mandate will shift from treating provision of housing as a profit driven commercial undertaking to a basic need for citizens  Introduce flexible packages for BHC tenants to buy the houses they rent  Offer tax incentives to private companies that promote home ownership for their staff  Abolish Value added Tax on home purchases by first time home owners  Engage private property developers to construct multi residential units for sale at pre-determined prices	

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)				
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)		
		sale at pre-determined prices		
8. Marginalised Groups	High levels of poverty and deprivation in Botswana  Government should specifically target and prioritise for social and economic upliftment as well as sustenance	Create economic opportunities for all people who are poor and vulnerable as this is the best form of social welfare  Re-orientate social welfare policies and programmes towards a developmental approach, where emphasis is placed on human development and rehabilitation  Accord social safety nets to the poor, people living with disabilities, orphans and the elderly Extend psychosocial and financial assistance to child headed households  Set 60 as the age for which people qualify for old age pension and this will be based on the prevailing cost of living  Introduce special programmes for children in difficult circumstances such as street children to integrate them into society  Provide support services and facilities for people living with disabilities		

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
9. People with Disabilities		Accord social safety nets to the poor, people living with disabilities, orphans and the elderly. The value of safety nets will be guided by the cost of living as well as the need to prioritise graduation out of dependency on government assistance  Provide support services and facilities for people living with disabilities	
12. Substance Abuse		To provide access to youth friendly reproductive health services and establish substance abuse rehabilitation centres.	
13. Workers' Rights	Botswana workers are confronted by multiple challenges which include inadequate earnings; jobs insecurity, unsafe working environment, limited social security, ineffective dispute resolution mechanisms and limited engagement between the tripartite partners (employer, employee and government)  Government has adopted an anti-trade union stance and perceives organised labour as an impediment to good		

Botswana Congrees Party (BCP)			
Issue	What Party manifesto says in relation to the issue	What Party Promises to do on the issue (Electoral Promises)	
	economic development		
	Labour Department is under resourced and lacks capacity to resolve routine labour disputes, which has resulted in the Industrial Court being flooded with cases up to four (4) years to resolve		
	Employees have no regard for the Labour Department and employees have lost faith in the Departments' ability to ensure justice in the work place.		
	Low wages have expanded the pool of people who can be termed as the working poor		
	Upon retirement most workers are declared destitute because of limited social security		

## Conclusion

All of the thirteen issues identified by civil society organisations, except for two, were addressed in all of the political party manifestos. The rights of **Refugees and Asylum Seekers**, as well as **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** rights are not addressed by any of the parties.

The rights of **Indigenous Peoples'** and the rights of **Marginalised Groups** are dealt with by only one of the three political parties.

It is hoped that following these 2014 elections, these thirteen human rights issues, identified by civil society through the Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP) will be addressed through awareness-raising and human rights education of all.

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