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An exploration of theatre as activism as an anti-homophobia intervention amongst Zimbabweans living in South Africa : a practice led research project of The Trial of the Senior Citizen.

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APPENDIX D- ZIMBABWE AUDIENCE MEMBER'S REFLECTIONS

I walked in to the nunnery, and went to take a seat but just before I could take the seat, I picked up some sheets of paper that had been placed there. One was a bond printed newspaper article and the other was a paper indicating that I was part of a jury. From the stage set up, I could identify that this was going to be a court session. All my assumptions turned out to be correct. It was the trial of the Senior Citizen, a character I could easily identify from my history. The play progressed well and all evidence pointed that the senior citizen was guilty. However, a twist came along. The trial, which was over the senior citizen's abuse of human rights suddenly zeroed in on gay rights. I felt uneasy. Even though I had wanted to hang the senior citizen at first, my verdict was reversed.

But why? I considered myself a human rights activist with a background of activism in Zimbabwe particularly during the reign of terror of the 2008 elections. I told myself ' surely I know what human rights are and I know what it's like to struggle to have a voice'. But this? The issue of gay rights, is it a priority for my nation?

But at the end of the day, I gathered something new from the discussion. Do we have to compartmentalize human rights or give other rights priority over others? Was I willing to tolerate minority interests as a human rights defender?

I cannot ignore the fact that there is a gay community in Zimbabwe. I had always locked that fact out of my mind. The question I now pose to myself is what am I doing about this issue instead of what am I not doing?