



## **ABOUT ZIMFEST**

Zimfest was established in 2001 by a group of Zimbabweans based in the UK. We had all left Zimbabwe for the UK wide-eyed and enthusiastic, ready to take on the world. We had come from every walk of life in Zimbabwe, Engineers, Writers, tree huggers, the lot. Black, White, Shona, Ndebele, and Coloured even a random guy from Malawi called Smudger! All of us had been born touched by the turbulent times at home back in 2000; all of us were not the type to take things sitting down.

The idea came about when Ros 'Chairman Mao' Smith from Harare (a nick name that came about due to her never being seen without a thick red book which was essentially the Zimfest Bible) basically said "I know, let's have a beer-fest"! Zimbabweans, beer, braai (bbq), sun - well hopefully on mud Island. It really was a no brainer. So we started this thing with 700 of our beautiful countrymen and women on a field behind a prison in Wandsworth South West London in a celebration that has come to feature a Rugby Sevens tournament, 5 a side football, Cricket Six's and an array of fun for the whole family in what is now known to be one of the friendliest events in London.

### **We dare to believe**

The rest as they say is history although we look at it as a glimpse into the future to a Zimbabwe that we believe is possible where we define ourselves as Zimbabwean first and our races and tribes later. A place where we can respect each other's differences while embracing and enjoying the things that we love to do.

Zimfest uses the things that we all know and love about Zimbabwean life like good food, sport, and music to take everyone home for a day without having to travel too long a distance. We also welcome anyone who has been to or has an interest in Zimbabwe to join us in this celebration.

### **Why?**

The most important aspect of Zimfest is that it is entirely a charity event. Funds raised at Zimfest and other events organised by WEZIMBABWE are channelled towards supporting Zimbabwe in the main areas of focus for the charity, these being youth development, education, human rights delivery and the provision of basic support for the victims of the crisis in Zimbabwe.

Zimfest is also about you and your participating in an event that celebrates Zimbabwe during a time when we all feel that there is little to celebrate. It is an expression of our hope in the future and our belief in all of our people and our collective future. We trust you share in this hope and belief and look forward to your support this year

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**WEZIMBABWE**  
together for the people



Zimfest London 2008

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