

# Harare Disability Forum

4TH OCTOBER 2019

Whilst in Harare I sat on a panel at the Harare Disability Forum, hosted by Signs of Hope. The other panellists represented a diverse group of individuals working in Zimbabwe in the field of disability, This included lecturers from Zimbabwe Open University's Department of Special Needs Education and Disability studies (Professor Phillipa Mutswanga), those working in the field of inclusive education for deaf children, as well as parents lobbying to increase rights and awareness around Autism. I presented how Montessori Education can accommodate for disability within the mainstream education setting.

The forum was attended by members of the public, heads of services for disability in Zimbabwe as well as various NGO's operating in Zimbabwe, including Dr. Christine Peta - UNICEF Disability Expert. The latest recipient of the Nelson Mandela Fellowship presented to inspire young Zimbabweans to find their voice and purpose. The forum was an inspiring example of Zimbabwe's communities rallying together during tough times.



## SAMANTHA MANGOMA - SIGNS OF HOPE

*Samantha (featured in the photo with me above) is an inspiring community activist. Her trust, Signs of Hope, facilitates activities that provide a platform for dialogue concerning disability issues. "We exist to serve persons with disabilities, to be a source of hope; to inspire and empower them by magnifying and being a part of activities that advocate for equal rights and societal inclusion." Find them on Facebook.*