

Milimo Mwiba, (Caritas Zambia)

I believe in God and that everyone is created in the image of God. Each person should be treated fairly, should have access to basic needs. If we persist and keep fighting we can get these things from the government.

We don't always get the relationship with government right. Sometimes they listen, sometimes they don't. Of course, it's not just Caritas Zambia working on mining, it's the church and other civil society organisations, but we made press statements together, the government listened.

If we work on these issues, the government tries to label us as opposition, they do not take criticism positively. "Why not just join the politicians, and not pretend to be church" they say. We do have Caritas Friends among parliamentarians, we give them technical information or analysis of the budget, and this too can lead to changes.

To those in the UK, please continue the solidarity. We appreciate so many people standing by our side for the lives of the poor in Africa. Those are your leaders, continue advocating for policies that do not disadvantage the poor. Mining companies in Zambia, come from here, from developed countries, you can do things that will help.

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