

## **Converting compassion into impact**

Rosalind Tosh – Editor, *Justice*

This article offers glimpses into the minds, hearts and spirits of a few of the people who propel CABP onward and upward towards our goal of pension equity. You will notice that many of them are heavily engaged in many other causes and activities as well – a classic example of “If something needs doing, ask a busy person.” Why would they choose to give CABP a good chunk of their precious time and not just their financial support?

I have to think it’s because it is very rarely in our lifetimes that an opportunity is given to us that will transform the lives of tens of thousands of vulnerable people across the globe with a simple stroke of a pen. That’s what us winning the fight for indexed pensions will do! When the Court of Human Rights signs off in our favour, almost instantly life will become easier for all frozen pensioners, and most strikingly for those living in countries that do not provide any income supplement.

Thirty-eight thousand people in South Africa are thus dependent on their unindexed British pension. Tens of thousands spread across a hundred other countries are all most likely in the same boat. And it is in Zimbabwe where the difference may be most felt; there, soaring inflation has turned basic items such as bread, canned foods and toilet tissue into luxury items for that country’s 5000-plus frozen pensioners, adding to their misery trying to survive under a regime of tyranny.

Besides being in our own self-interest, actively participating in CABP’s work has to be a compelling opportunity to convert compassion into positive impact for others. Whether doing something as simple as stuffing envelopes or as public as hosting a PR blitz in a shopping centre, CABP volunteers (at worst) provide all frozen pensioners the ability to hope, knowing someone somewhere is devoting serious and sustained effort to bringing an end to the injustice they suffer.