

EDITORIAL COMMENT

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ABSTRACT

Although diverse in disciplinary orientation, the five articles featured in Issue 4 of Volume 6 of the University of Zambia Journal of Law and Social Sciences converge around three thematic pillars. These are environmental consciousness and human agency, social justice and structural inequality, and the persuasive power of narrative.

INTRODUCTION

The first thematic thread explores human agency in environmental transformation. Kalinde's analysis of *The Last Fishing Boat* and *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* underscores the role of human behaviour in shaping ecological landscapes. The second theme addresses social justice and structural inequality. Mwewa et al conducted a comparative study of spousal violence across three Zambian Demographic Health Survey cycles, revealing the complex interface between education disparities and domestic abuse. On the other hand, Aso, Alabi, and Nasir's legal examination of electoral jurisprudence in Nigeria interrogates the legitimacy of democratic processes, highlighting emerging legal frameworks that question the integrity of elections and advocate for change.

The final thematic thread projects narrative as a tool for persuasion and resistance. This indeed is the case in Moyo's exploration of Julius Chongo's *Poceza M'madzulo* and *Fumbi Khoboo!* Mwansa's literary analysis of *Meridian* by Alice Walker delves into the psychological and emotional coping mechanisms employed by the protagonist in response to racial discrimination.