



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

RIGHTING *Wrongs*

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Centre for
Human Rights
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Editorial

Our continent in good hands!

The Moot in Nairobi was a week-long event to remember. It was my first time in Kenya, a country much famed as one of the powerhouses of East Africa. I do not recall at which point I fell in love with Kenya but I must say that I fell hard. Not only did it remind me of Lagos with the traffic and the organized chaos but it also gave me a reason, lots of reasons in fact, to smile.

The University of Nairobi along with our Alma Mater hosted a brilliant moot court competition. And the icing on the cake to this wonderful experience was meeting the Kenyan alumni.

It was on an evening SAROVA PANAFRIC on 5 September 2014. I must give all the credit for this meeting to our lovely national leader Evelyne Asaala (Class of 2009) and her wonderful husband, John Ambani (Class of 2006).

I must say that the Kenyans have a certain *je ne se quoi*! One which I am not sure is rivaled. They are truly a good host. It was a beautiful evening of laughter; tales and grandeur. It was a privilege to hear about the great things people were doing in different spheres. It was exciting to listen, know and see that the wheels of change on our continent are in good hands!

Truly, in other parts of our continent, alumni have also demonstrated this. In Uganda, Salima Namusobya (2004) founded the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights. Christiopher Mbazira (2003) is also at the vanguard of public interest litigation through the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC). In Rwanda, Thierry Gatete (2013) has initiated the Centre for Human Rights in Kigali.

In this edition, Fasil Mulatu Gessesse (2008) tells us about the Center for Human Rights at the Addis Ababa University.

Significantly he mentions that “the Center for Human Rights aims at pursuing multidisciplinary studies in the field of human rights. The Center realizes its missions through the provision of education and training, including its Master of Arts (MA) program in Human Rights, as well as through the promotion of human rights research and the dissemination of human rights information in national, regional, and global contexts.’

Also, this year, two of our alumni (Estelle Nkounkou (2007) and Bruno Menzan (2010) gained employment at the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights as legal officers; joining our other notable alumni in the African Commission: Abiola Idowu-Ojo (2003); Irene Mbengue-Eleke (2006); Horace Adjolohoun (2007); Samuel Tessema (2008); Tem Fuh Mbuh (2010); Charles Nguena (2011); Albab Tesfaye (2012) and Eric Bizimana (2013).

When one thinks of all these great things being done by great people and indeed our alumni, it brings a sense of happiness that truly our continent is in good hands.

And on this note, permit me to say, congratulations to you! Keep up the good work! Our continent, in your hands, is in good hands!

Romola Adeola (Nigeria, 2012)
Alumni Coordinator



Centre's Word

Live up to the name of 'righting wrongs'

I am **Sydney Ndlhope** and I work with Lizette Hermann (my boss: an amiable woman in charge of the Pretoria University Law Press) and I am honoured to be contributing to this edition. Working for the Centre for Human Rights is a remarkable experience.

The Centre has injected in me a culture of learning. I feel blessed to be part of such a loving, caring and sensitive family in the Faculty of Law. The Centre has also assisted me in establishing networks with highly professional individual, both locally and internationally through my involvements with Moot court organisations.

The Centre is not only a family of people with shared vision; it is a community that extends beyond the Faculty of Law in the University of Pretoria.

Through the Masters Programme, the short courses, the conferences and the various projects, the Centre has established itself as a notable institution in the protection of human rights in Africa.

And it is through the publications of the Centre that I have mostly felt the vibe of this prestigious institution.

Working under Lizette, around a world of books originating from the Centre has made me realise that ideas are important in shaping the world. Through the platform of the Pretoria University Law Press, the Centre ignites these ideas in the realm of academics.

And it is through this channel that I encourage you as alumni of the Centre to brighten our continent.

Write about the wrongs. Write about means to correct the wrongs. Live up to the name of this newsletter by 'righting wrongs'.

Sydney Ndlhope
Pretoria University Law Press (PULP) Assistant



Alumni Meetings

Meeting of Alumni in Kampala

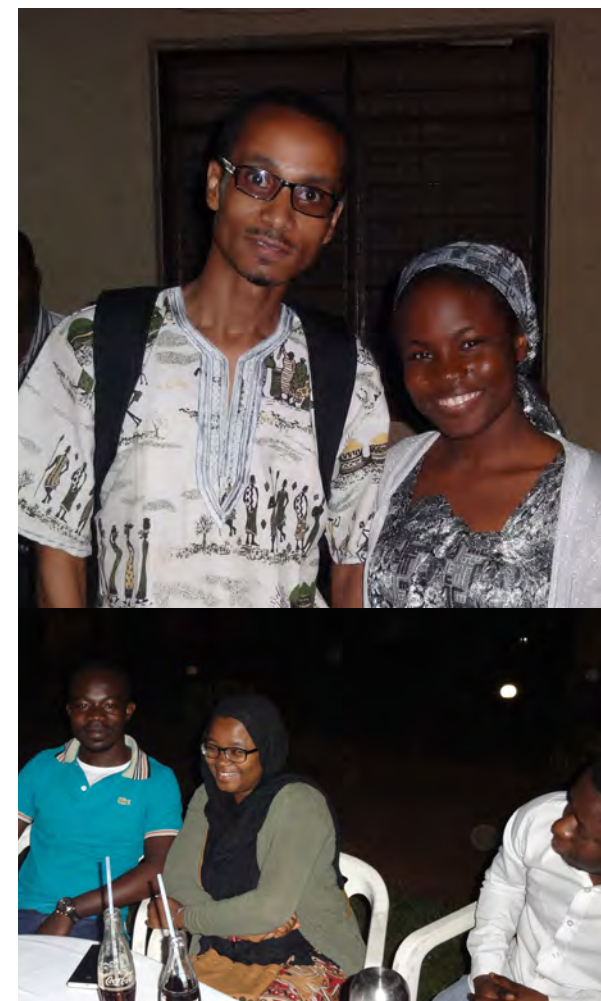
My first time in Uganda was lovely. I was impressed by the people. I got to visit the famous Makerere University and I had the privilege of meeting our wonderful alumni in Uganda. On 19 August 2014, an alumni meeting was held at the Makerere University.

In attendance were the lovely and wonderful:

- Christopher Mbazira
- Salima Namusobya
- Sisay Yeshanew
- Lydia Mugambe
- Jegede Ademola Oluborode
- Freda Apio

The meeting was held on 19 August 2014 and was a delight and an experience I sure will cherish for a long time. Here are photo highlights.

Romola Adeola (Nigeria, 2012)
Alumni Coordinator



Highlight

Addis Ababa University Center for Human Rights, Ethiopia

Fasil Mulatu Gessessese, who is a Lecturer and Child Rights Project Coordinator at the Addis Ababa University Center for Human Rights in Ethiopia, sheds some light on the organisation and its work.



The Center for Human Rights in Addis Ababa University is organized under the College of Law and Governance Studies, an umbrella institution for the Center, the Institute of Federal Studies and the School of Law.

The Center for Human Rights aims at pursuing multidisciplinary studies in the field of human rights. The Center realizes its missions through the provision of education and training, including its Master of Arts (MA) program in Human Rights, as well as through the promotion of human rights research and the dissemination of human rights information in national, regional, and global contexts.

The inception of the Center for Human Rights is the collaborative efforts of many renowned scholars at the University. Among them Professor Andreas Eshete was at the forefront in making the initiative a reality. As part of the epistemological and structural transformation of the University to becoming a research oriented graduate institution, various multi-disciplinary centers of excellence were proposed to be established. Among these Centers of excellence, Center for human rights

was established in October 2008. One of the rationales for establishing this Center was to provide human rights education to professionals from different disciplines as the existing LLM in Human Rights provided by the School of Law entirely focused on lawyers. To this end the MA curriculum were designed to meet the needs of a wide range of professionals' from multiple disciplines particularly from, law, political science, sociology, philosophy and development. During the curriculum development process, experts from reputable Centers that have vast experience in the field of human rights were involved. Among these Frans Viljoen from University of Pretoria- Center for Human Rights (UP-CHR) and Alejandro Lorite from the American University in Cairo- Faculty of law played a major role. Particularly, Professor Viljoen was the external assessor of the Curriculum. He has left his legacy especially in crafting the traditional African Human Rights System Module into the African Union and Human Rights to formulate a unique course and to make use of the site advantage of the African Union. Some of the modules of the MA program are also inspired by the UP-CHR.



The MA program was officially launched in October 2009. The overall aim of the M.A Program in Human Rights is to provide quality and rigorous training in human rights



as a subject of multidisciplinary inquiry at the graduate level. Moreover, the program aims at training high-level professionals in the field of human rights qualified to work as academics and members of inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations; producing human rights professionals who could bring broader interdisciplinary perspectives missing in the current practice of human rights, and providing students with practical experience through partnership and internship programs with local and international organizations.

The distinctness of the program is also reflected in the pool of its students who are drawn from different sectors, such as government offices, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and private practitioners; and with different academic backgrounds such as the law, different disciplines within the social sciences and the humanities.

Currently as part of the internal quality enhancement scheme of the Center, the existing curriculum is being reviewed and revised. The revision of the curriculum was made based on the needs assessment of stakeholders (such as students, alumni, staff and external stakeholders) and identified strengths and weakness of the existing curriculum. The revision has introduced new modules on contemporary discourses and a wide range of perspectives such as history, economics, religion, media, science and technology. Such

curriculum revision is also making a unique contribution in bringing up an alternative non-thesis MA program in human rights.

The Center also runs a PhD program in 'Peace, Federalism and Human Rights' in Collaboration with Institute of Peace and Security Studies and Institute for Federal Studies. The core objectives of the program include producing researchers and educators in the three interrelated fields of peace, federalism and human rights, and promoting interdisciplinary research in the designated thematic areas. The academic program has been designed to overcome the shortage of teaching and research expertise at postgraduate levels both at the AAU and nationwide in the fields of human rights, peace and federalism. The curriculum is principally intended to enhance the capacity of higher educational and research institutions.

The Center for Human Rights focuses in research and publications on certain thematic areas to deliver strategic contributions to the study as well as to promote effective implementation of human rights in Ethiopia. This aims at bridging the gap in the availability of primary textbooks in human rights and the national human rights system, inadequacy of research outputs on the normative and practical aspects of human rights, and a significant lack of monitoring human rights compliance by independent institutions. To achieve such objectives, the Center publishes the annual Journal of Human Rights on diverse themes

in close collaboration with stakeholders. The Center has also managed to publish books on Human Rights Research Methodology and Methods and Human Rights in Ethiopia. In addition, it has forthcoming publications on Assessment of Legal Aid in Ethiopia and peer-reviewed book on Human Rights and Good Governance in Ethiopia.

Since 2012 the Center has been undertaking a research, advocacy and capacity building project on child rights issues. The child rights project is the collaborative efforts of the Center and Save the Children. Under such project the Center has published books such as the handbook on the rights of the child in Ethiopia and baseline study for a comprehensive child law in Ethiopia. There are also three research publications underway in the areas of policy evaluations from child rights perspective and curriculum integration of child rights at the University. The project has further planned to carry out research and capacity building trainings to pertinent governmental and non-governmental organizations working on children issues. The research outputs have practical and policy relevance and have been presented to the pertinent government organs for their considerations.

Under the Center's community service program, the Center has engaged in access to justice and legal aid issues. The access to justice project has been implemented since November 2012 with the financial assistance obtained from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project aims at contributing to poverty

reduction through raising awareness on rights and providing the indigent section of the society with the means to enforce their rights and achieving social justice through legal empowerment. To achieve this end, the project embarks on provision of legal aid service, public information and legal literacy, and capacity building training for legal aid providers. The project has also been engaged in research activities to methodologically articulate gaps and problems within the law, policy and practice and advocate for reforms. Moreover, to facilitate experience sharing and help identify and adopt best practices, the project offers the opportunity for internship and experience sharing visits both local and international. The Center has good working relationships with institutions such as Bluhm Legal Aid Clinic in Northwestern University, Chicago. This project also managed to be part of the collaborative network with the Supreme Court Child Justice project, Ethiopian Women Lawyer's Association and Ethiopian Christian Lawyer's Fellowship. Currently the Center under its access to justice project is managing 18 legal aid centers in different parts of the country.

This access to justice project is the successor of the project "Legal Literacy, Rights Advice and Information for Poor People" which was commenced in October 2008 through a partnership agreement entered into between the Active Learning Center of the University of Glasgow in the UK and the then Organization for Social Justice Ethiopia. The project has made a difference in the lives of poor people



In its academic endeavors, the Center has been successful in promoting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarships that look beyond legal rules and investigates the socio-economic context of human rights.

and vulnerable by raising awareness of their legal rights and assisting them in seeking legal remedies to violations of their rights in cities in Addis Ababa, Adama, and Hawassa.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, the Center has been embarking on various capacity building initiatives which targets academic institutions, independent human rights monitoring institutions of Ethiopia and other government organs. In this regard, the human rights academy, and human rights monitoring, investigations and advising trainings which were conducted in collaboration with various stakeholders are worth mentioning. Further, the Center has been carrying out internal capacity building programs to equip its staffs with the experience and knowledge required to discharge their duties as well as to enhance the quality of its academic programs. The Center has partnered with University of Graz-Austria, Civil Service University under the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research Development (APPEAR) Project, Academic partnership on Legal and Human Rights Education (APLHRE), to carry out the

aforementioned capacity building initiatives and also to conduct curriculum revision, research and publications.

Since its establishment the Center has been trying to meet both its academic objectives as well as serving the community and the nation as a whole by undertaking the aforementioned activities and projects. In its academic endeavors, the Center has been successful in promoting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarships that look beyond legal rules and investigates the socio-economic context of human rights. It has managed to produce academics and practitioners that would mainstream human rights in several sectors.

The PHD program is also vital in producing high-level professionals in the field of human rights. Particularly, it supports the Ethiopian higher Institutions capacity building initiatives by training academia from various Universities in the country. The research and publications are also bridging the human rights knowledge, information and scientific research gap in the country. Beyond the shelf, the Center is actually helping the poor and vulnerable portion of the society through legal aid provision and its advocacy initiatives which targets various vulnerable groups.

Fasil Mulatu Gessesse (Ethiopia, 2008)
Lecturer and Child Rights Project
Coordinator, Addis Ababa University
Centre for Human Rights, Ethiopia

Class of 2014

Second semester experience: Senegal

Petronell Kruger, a former student and alumna of the Class of 2014 gives insight into her experience of Senegal, the West African country where she spent the second part of 2014.



As a human mosquito-magnet, I sometimes question the wisdom of choosing Senegal as my second semester destination during its rainy (read mosquito) season. Senegal was amongst the top choices for both me and my roommate, Gamuchirayi Mandangu-Bakasa (Zimbabwe). We were looking for a culturally distinct, more independent experience for the last four months of our degree and we were not disappointed.

Our first two months were spent in Dakar, where one's internship is completed over a short but more intense period. Items of clothing that never left my bag included any type of sweater and jeans. The humidity and the heat were striking and the nights offered no reprieve. Living in Dakar meant constant noise and really packed bus rides to work every morning. Packed means that the default was finding standing room and, on a really bad day, your full body might not be inside the vehicle. It included valuable experiences from visiting the tallest statue in the world (stuff the Statue of Liberty!) and meeting exceptionally friendly people to a murkier side of the city, which included begging women and children around every.

My host institution for the internship was Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). The

building, the atmosphere, the staff, all of it contributed to a memorable and rewarding experience of personal development, hard work and lots of office laughs. I worked there during the Ebola break-out and a member of a sister office lost loved ones due to the endemic. OSIWA fought tooth and nail to focus more international attention on the issue and to raise funds. However, the staff also kept the appropriate balance of lightness in the office – the in-office



fund-raiser was a crazy accountant beating a faux drum, while circling the building with his donation bucket. It was the era of shaking elbows, not hands, and lots of sanitiser.

The last leg of our stay was in Saint Louis. We lived on an island, next to the Senegal River (which is also the border between Senegal and Mauritania). The whole island is a UNESCO protected site, ensuring it was old-world and less congested. I speak for both my roommate and myself when I say that this was our preferred part of the trip. In Saint Louis we were to finish our dissertations and complete thirty hours of language class at the University of Gaston Berger. Our accommodation was spacious and well-located. However, future travellers be warned – bug spray is useful for both the flying and crawling cockroach-y types. I am happy with my choice of Senegal. It is a destination that allows for a lot of freedom in determining your own activities and experiencing the unknown. During my stay, I received my traveller's badge of honour with a double-dose of tropical disease – not a pleasant experience – but also nothing new for first time travellers in West Africa. I will remember the amazing dark chocolate and cashew nuts and hopefully forget the taste of the less popular taste-like-rubber chicken.

Must-haves for Senegal: A big hat, a French phrase book, mosquito repellent and some courage.

Petronell Kruger (South Africa, 2014)
Researcher, Institute for International and
Comparative Law in Africa,
University of Pretoria

Congratulations Alumni appointed as Legal Officers (Promotion)

Estelle Nkounkou (2007) and Bruno Menzan (2010) were recently appointed as Legal Officers (Promotion) at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights starting in September 2014.



Dear Estelle...
Your lovely colleagues have a word for you...

The Commission is lucky to have someone as talented and hard-working as you. Best wishes for a bright future!

- David Simmons (South Africa)

A hearty congratulations to you Estelle on your appointment. I wish you all the best.

- Akinola Akintayo (Nigeria)

That is indeed great news. I am glad that Estelle Nkounkou was my classmate in 2007 and now that she has made it to that position. We are proud of her. Congratulations Estelle!

- Grace Kamugisha (Tanzania)

My hearty congratulations to Mama Africa, Estelle. Continue flying that flag high. So honoured to know you.

- Njeri Kamau (Kenya)

I am very happy to hear that one of my classmates, especially you, have joined the Commission. Congrats and I am confident that you will live up to the expectations!

- Dejene Girma Janka (Ethiopia)



Dear Bruno...
Your amiable colleagues from the Class of 2010 have loving words for you.

Another rung up on the Hatfield Declaration Bruno. Human right issues are not artificial constructs on your mind, they are inbred in your humanity. Best wishes on your new assignment at the Commission.

- Augustine S. Marrah esq (Sierra Leone)

Congrats bro... really proud of you. Keep up the good work :)

- Desset Teferi (Ethiopia)

Congratulations and all the best in your new venture.

- Geraldine Geraldo (Namibia)

Latest PULP Publications Pretoria University Law Press (PULP)

The Pretoria University Law Press (PULP) held a book launch on Tuesday 4 November 2014, where seven of PULP's latest titles were introduced. PULP's third open-access online journal, the African Disability Rights Yearbook, was also launched and can be viewed at www.adry.up.ac.za.

The seven titles launched included:

- Can rights cure? The impact of human rights litigation on South Africa's health system
Author: Marius Pieterse - monograph
- African Disability Rights Yearbook 2014
Editors: Charles Ngweni; Ilze Grobbelaar-du Plessis; Hélène Combrinck; Serges Djoyou Kamga
- Promoting effective enforcement of the prohibition against corporal punishment in South African schools
Written by Faranaaz Veriava, Commissioned by the Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria
- Mud to bricks: A review of school infrastructure spending and delivery
Written by Carmen Abdoll and Conrad Barberton, Economists with Cornerstone Economic Research, Commissioned by the Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria
- Human dignity and fundamental rights in South Africa and Ireland
Dr Anne Hughes Trinity College, Dublin - monograph
- Property law in Namibia
Prof Sam Amoo- Acting Director - Justice Training Centre (JTC) Faculty of Law, University of Namibia - monograph
- Transformative constitutionalism: Comparing the apex courts of Brazil, India and South Africa
Editors: Oscar Vilhena, Upendra Baxi and Frans Viljoen - collection of work from various authors

PULP's open-access online journals are:

- African Disability Rights Yearbook (ADRY)
www.adry.up.ac.za
- African Human Rights Law Journal (AHRLJ)
www.ahrj.up.ac.za
- De Jure Law Journal
www.dejure.up.ac.za





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Defending with Excellence, Advocating with *Ubuntu*
A network of 401 Alumni from 36 African countries, Spain and the USA

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