



**PROGRAMME**  
**Advanced Human Rights Courses (AHRC)**  
Women's rights in Africa

*Venue: Zoom (Online) and Future Africa Campus, University of Pretoria*  
*All times are SAST / CET*

**18-22 October 2021**

# Day 1

## Monday 18 October 2021



**Theme: Women's rights; introduction and context**

Moderator: Matilda Lasseko-Phooko

*Project Manager: Women's Rights Unit*

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Time	Activity
09:00 – 09:30	<p><b>Welcome remarks, setting the scene, course logistics, and introduction of participants</b></p> <p>Prof Frans Viljoen <i>Director, Centre for Human Rights (CHR) University of Pretoria (UP)</i></p> <p>Dennis Antwi <i>Project Manager, Advanced Human Rights Courses (AHRC) Centre for Human Rights, UP</i></p> <p>Matilda Lasseko-Phooko <i>Project Manager, Women's Rights Unit (WRU) Centre for Human Rights, UP</i></p>
09:30 – 11:00	<p><b>Overview of the human rights framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What is the international human rights law framework?</li><li>○ What is the regional human rights law framework?</li><li>○ Domestication and application of regional and international human rights law treaties</li><li>○ How is the African Human Rights system set up?</li></ul> <p>Prof Frans Viljoen <i>Director, Centre for Human Rights</i></p>
11:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Tea Break</b></p>
11:30 – 13:30	<p><b>Women, law, and human rights: An African perspective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Addressing negative social, historical, and political norms affecting women in Africa using the law</li><li>○ An overview of the African regional human rights law framework on women's rights.</li></ul>

- What mechanisms are available within the African human rights system for the protection and promotion of women's rights?
- Is anything African about the African women's human rights system?

Dr Zahara Nampewo  
*University of Makerere, Uganda*

**13:30 – 14:30**

**Lunch Break**

**14:30 – 16:00**

**Gender equality and women's rights in the UN system**

- How does the UN system envision women's rights?
- What treaties in the UN protect women's rights?
- What are the mechanisms available in the UN system to protect women's rights?
- How does the UN system relate to African states?

Dr Ashwanee Budoo-Scholtz  
*Programme Manager, LLM/MPhil (HRDA)*  
*Centre for Human Rights*

**16:00 – 16:30**

**Practical Exercise**

**Introduction to Group Work: Instructions and Guidelines**

Oluwaseyitan Solademi - Ibrahim

*Project Officer, Women's Rights Unit &LLD Candidate*  
*Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria*

**End of Day 1**

# Day 2

Tuesday 19 October 2021



**Theme: Women's rights; Regional and International Human rights law**

Moderator: Susan Mutambasere

*Project Officer: Women's Rights Unit &LLD Candidate*

All times are SAST / CET

## Time

## Activity

10:00 - 12:00

### The Maputo Protocol and women's rights in Africa

- How did the Maputo Protocol come to be?
- How many countries have ratified the Maputo Protocol? Does this affect enforcement?
- What are the main provisions of the Maputo Protocol?
- What novel provisions does the instrument bring to the protection of women's rights?
- What are the weaknesses of the Maputo Protocol and how can they be overcome?

Dr Adetokunbo Johnson

*Postdoctoral Fellow*

*University of the Free State*

12:00 – 13:00

### Overview of the General Comments and Guidelines issued by the African Commission on the Maputo Protocol

- What are General Comments and Guidelines?
- Which General Comments have been issued on the Maputo Protocol and what is their purpose?
- How can the General Comments and Guidelines be used by states and other stakeholders?
- In what ways can stakeholders participate in the process of developing General Comments and Guidelines

Dr Satang Nabaneh

*Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Human Rights,*

*University of Pretoria*

13:00 – 14:00

**Lunch Break**

14:00 – 16:00

**The gender responsiveness of the African human rights system: The jurisprudence of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights**

- How does the African human rights system consider gender in its protective mandate?
- Which cases decided by the Commission deal with women's rights issues?
- What cases decided by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights deal with women's rights issues?
- Highlight the relevance and value of key jurisprudence from the African Commission and the African Court for the advancement of women's rights

Dr Mariam Kamunyu  
*Gender Equality Specialist*  
*Catholic University of Eastern Africa*

**End of Day 2**



# Day 3

**Wednesday 20 October 2021**



**Theme: Selected thematic women's rights issues**

Moderator: Oluwaseyitan Solademi - Ibrahim

*Project Officer: Women's Rights Unit &LLD Candidate*

All times are SAST / CET

## Time



## Activity

**09:30 – 11:30**

### **The Dilemma of Women's Rights within the Domain of Cultural Relativism: Finding Common Ground**

- What is cultural relativism?
- Is there an African culture and does culture change?
- What is the intersection between women's human rights and African cultures?
- How can women's rights be protected within the cultural bounds?

Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo

*University of Cape Town*

**11:30 – 11:45**

### **Tea Break**

**11:45 – 13:00**

### **Advancing sexual rights of older women in Africa**

- Who are defined as older women?
- What is the composition of sexual rights?
- What are the sexual rights issues that older women face?
- What laws (domestic and international) protect the sexual rights of older women?
- What are the strategies that can be used to advance these rights?

Oluwatomi Okeowo

*Women's Rights Specialist*

**13:00 – 14:00**

### **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 16:00

### Sexuality and the Law

- Gender norms and women's sexuality in Africa.
- How the law perceives women's sexuality beyond their reproductive function?
- Does the law protect women's sexuality beyond their reproductive function?
- What are the issues surrounding the sexuality of women with disabilities and how can the law advance them?

Oluwatomi Okeowo  
*Women's Rights Specialist*

**End of Day 3**

## Day 4

**Thursday 21 October 2021**



**Theme: Engaging with policy makers, civil society, and States on women's rights**

Moderator: Matilda Lasseko-Phooko

*Project Manager: Women's Rights Unit*

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**Time**

**Activity**

09:00 – 11:00

### Advocacy, activism and social justice

- What is advocacy?
- How do you design effective advocacy strategies?
- How do you choose advocacy and activist strategies based on target, and messages to be delivered?
- What are examples of strategies that have had an impact?

Ishtar Lakani  
*Advocacy & Human Rights Defence Practitioner*

11:00 – 11:30

**Tea break**

**11:30 – 13:00**

**Using human rights principles to realise sexual and reproductive health rights:**

**Legal and advocacy approaches**

- What are SRHR?
- How have domestic courts handled cases of SRHR?
- What legal and advocacy strategies have worked and what strategies have not worked?
- How do you combine legal and advocacy strategies?

Saoyo Tabitha Griffith  
*PhD Candidate, Cardiff University*

**13:00 – 14:00**

**Lunch Break**

**14:00 – 15:30**

**State party reporting & Shadow reporting processes**

- What is state reporting? Why is it important?
- Who are the stakeholders involved?
- How is a state report developed?
- How is the state report considered?
- What is a shadow report, and how is it drafted?
- What are the next steps after a state report has been considered?

Susan Mutambasere  
*Project Officer: Women's Rights Unit &LLD Candidate*

**End of Day 4**



# Day 5

Friday 22 October 2021



**Theme: Selected thematic women's rights issues**

Moderator: Lydia Chibwe

*Project Officer: Women's Rights Unit & PhD Candidate*

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## Time

## Activity

09:00 – 10:30

### Women's rights in the digital age

- What are digital rights?
- How does the increased use of digital spaces on the continent threaten or enhance women's rights?
- What are the challenges that women face in accessing the digital space?
- What are the laws that advance women's access to digital rights?
- What are the laws that protect women on the digital space?
- How can the digital space be used to advance women's rights?

Hlengiwe Dube

*Project Manager: Expression, Information and Digital Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights*

*University of Pretoria*

10:30 - 12:30

### Practical exercise: Group Presentations and discussions

Oluwaseyitan Solademi - Ibrahim

Project Officer, Women's Rights Unit & LLD Candidate

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

12:30 – 13:00

### Course Evaluations

Dorcas Basimanyane

*Project coordinator: AHRC & LLD Candidate*

*Centre for Human rights, University of Pretoria*

13:00 – 13:30

### Final remarks: Conclusion / Wrap up of cross-cutting issues & Certificate ceremony

Dennis Antwi

[www.chr.up.ac.za](http://www.chr.up.ac.za)

*Project Manager: AHRC  
Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria  
Matilda Lasseko-Phooko  
Project Manager, Women's Rights Unit (WRU)  
Centre for Human Rights, UP*

**End of Course**

## About the Womens' Rights Unit

The Women's Rights Unit aims to promote implementation and popularisation of the Maputo Protocol through research, training and advocacy. The Unit aims further to support the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, to strengthen regional mechanisms with a commitment to the advancement of women's rights, to promote gender sensitive policies and practices, and strategise for the provision of equal opportunities for women in Africa. The Unit provides technical support to states and civil society actors on a number of areas including state reporting, shadow reporting and engaging with concluding observations.

## About the Centre for Human Rights

Recognised internationally for excellence in human rights law in Africa, the Centre for Human Rights is uniquely positioned as both an academic department and a non-governmental organisation. A leader in human rights education in Africa, the Centre works towards a greater awareness of human rights, the wide dissemination of publications on human rights in Africa, and the improvement of the rights of women, people living with HIV, indigenous peoples, sexual minorities and other disadvantaged or marginalised persons or groups across the continent.

### Important **links**

Women's Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria:

[www.chr.up.ac.za/womens-rights-unit](http://www.chr.up.ac.za/womens-rights-unit)

Advanced Human Rights Course: Women's Rights in Africa:

[www.chr.up.ac.za/ahrc](http://www.chr.up.ac.za/ahrc)

Virtual Platform on State Reporting on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol):

[www.maputoprotocol.up.ac.za](http://www.maputoprotocol.up.ac.za)

#AgeWithRights Campaign

[www.chr.up.ac.za/AgeWithRights](http://www.chr.up.ac.za/AgeWithRights)

[www.chr.up.ac.za](http://www.chr.up.ac.za)

## Advanced Human Rights Courses (AHRC)

For more information about the Advanced Human Rights Course on  
Women's Rights in Africa,

presented by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria,

please contact: [dennis.antwi@up.ac.za](mailto:dennis.antwi@up.ac.za)

[matilda.lasseko-phooko@up.ac.za](mailto:matilda.lasseko-phooko@up.ac.za)

Website: [www.chr.up.ac.za](http://www.chr.up.ac.za)

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## Upcoming Advanced Human Rights Courses

**Indigenous people's rights in Africa**

1 – 5 November 2021

**Protection of forcibly displaced persons in Africa**

22 – 26 November 2021