



Advanced Human Rights Courses (AHRC) Sexual Minority Rights in Africa

Venue:

Online via zoom and Graduate Centre 1-56, Hatfield campus
University of Pretoria, South Africa

Dates:

Mon – Fri, 23 - 27 February 2026

PROGRAMME



Day 1

Monday, 23 February 2026

Moderator: Tholoana Mosia

Time	Activity
09:00 - 09:30	WELCOME: Course logistics opening and course objectives. Introduction of participants, introduction to class exercises Mr Dennis Antwi <i>Manager, Advanced Human Rights Courses (AHRC)</i>
09:30 - 09:45	Opening remarks Prof Nkatha Murungi <i>Assistant Director, Centre for Human Rights</i>
09:45 - 10:45	Introduction to SOGIESC/LGBTIQ+ concepts and terminology Pierre Broaurd <i>Research associate, Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender (UP); Extraordinary Lecturer, Centre for Human Rights (UP); Executive Member, Sexuality and Gender Division, Psychological Society of SA; Board Member, Professional Association for Transgender Health SA (PATHSA)</i>
10:45 - 11:15	Tea Break and group photo
11:15 - 12:30	Introduction to SOGIESC/LGBTIQ+ concepts and terminology (cont.) Pierre Broaurd <i>Research associate, Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender (UP); Extraordinary Lecturer, Centre for Human Rights (UP); Executive Member, Sexuality and Gender Division, Psychological Society of SA; Board Member, Professional Association for Transgender Health SA (PATHSA)</i>
12:30 - 13:30	Human rights violations and anti-sodomy laws in Africa Dr Landilani Banda <i>Post-doctoral fellow, Centre for Human Rights</i>
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:30	Accountability for violence and torture against LGBTIQ+ persons in Africa Renata Politi <i>Legal Advisor, REDRESS</i>
15:30 - 16:30	Recap & Group Allocation (including assignments)

Day 2

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Moderator: Ntandoe Moyo

Time	Activity
09:00 - 10:00	Role of religion in regulating sexual minority rights in secular states Prof Osogo Ambani <i>Dean, Kabarak Law School, Associate Professor of Law, Public Law & Governance Scholar, Legal Philosopher</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Tea break
10:30 - 11:30	Role of religion in regulating sexual minority rights in secular states (cont.) Lakshita Kanhiya <i>Doctoral Candidate, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria</i>
11:30 - 13:00	The reality of discrimination and hate crimes: Case study of South Africa Prof Anton Kok <i>Lecturer, Department of Jurisprudence, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Group presentations
15:00 - 15:30	Refresher break
15:30 - 16:30	A multidisciplinary or historical context to issues around the realisation of LGBTIQ+ rights in Africa Prof Marc Epprecht <i>Professor, Queen's University, Canada; Research fellow, History Workshop Wits</i>

Day 3

Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Moderator: Pierre Broaurd

Time	Activity
09:00 - 09:30	RECAP & MID CHECK IN
09:30 - 11:00	Sexual and gender minority rights: the law and politics of international human rights Prof Frans Viljoen <i>Professor of International Human Rights Law, Interim Chair, SARChI Chair on International Constitutional Law, Member, Advisory Committee, UN Human Rights Council, Editor-in chief, African Human Rights Law Journal Convening editor, African Human Rights Yearbook</i>
11:00 - 11:15	Tea Break
11:30 - 13:00	The myth of heteronormativity and fluidity in expression Dr Mzikazi Mzi Nduna <i>Divisional Executive, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Strategic litigation and advocacy in criminalised environments: the case of Uganda Adrian Jjuuko <i>Executive Director of Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)</i>
15:30 - 16:30	Trans identity and lived experience: perspectives from a healthcare provider Dr Anastacia Tomson <i>Medical Doctor, My Family GP, author, activist</i>

Day 4

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Moderator: Nathan Milanzi

Time	Activity
09:00 - 10:00	Law school and film school on queer rights Dr David Ikpo <i>Postdoctoral fellow and Communications and Advocacy Officer, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria</i>
10:00 - 11:00	Intersex Rights Advocacy in Africa Peace Maquba <i>Intersex Rights Officer, Iranti</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Tea break
11:30 - 13:00	Introduction Resolution 275: Context, Implementation, and Challenges Dr Ayodele Sogunro <i>Senior International Research and Campaigns Officer, Dignity Network Canada; Global Fellow, Centre on Law and Social Transformation, Chr. Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Understanding and Challenging Conversion Practices in Africa Thiruna Naidoo <i>Human Rights Lawyer & Multidisciplinary Artist, OUTRIGHT International</i>
15:00 - 15:15	Refresher break
15:15 - 16:30	The UN Independent Expert on SOGI: Mandate, Impact, and Global Protection Dr Graeme Reid <i>United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGIE)</i>

Day 6

Friday, 27 February 2026

Moderator: Mansah Amoah

Time	Activity
09:00 - 10:00	Criminalisation, HIV and access to health care for sexual and gender minorities in Africa Dr Landilani Banda <i>Post-doctoral fellow, Centre for Human Rights</i>
10:00 - 11:00	Strategies on countering the anti-rights movements in Africa Chanel van der Linde <i>Senior Researcher, Helen Suzeman Foundation</i>
11:00 - 11:45	Evaluation and Certificates Mansah Amoah <i>Project Officer: Advanced Human Rights Courses</i>
11:45 - 12:15	Closing remarks
12:15 - 13:30	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	HRDA and SRRA class tests

PRESENTER BIOS

Dr Adrian Jjuuko

Assistant Lecture, School of Law, Makerere University

Dr. Adrian Jjuuko is a Ugandan human rights lawyer, researcher, and activist. He is an Assistant Lecturer at the School of Law, Makerere University. He was until September 2025 the Executive Director of Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), an organisation that operates a specialised legal aid clinic for LGBTI persons in Uganda, and advocates for legal change for LGBTI and other minority rights. He has been involved in designing strategic litigation cases in Uganda since 2009. He is currently involved in the case challenging Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 at the Constitutional Court and at the East African Court of Justice. He is the author of 'Strategic litigation and the struggle for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual equality in Africa' Daraja Press, Ottawa (2020).

Dr Anastacia Tomson (she/her)

Medical Doctor: My Family GP, author, activist

Dr Anastacia Tomson is an author and an activist, in addition to being a doctor. She's regarded as an expert on LGBTQIA+ and transgender healthcare and led the team that wrote South Africa's first official guideline on gender-affirming hormone therapy. Anastacia's lived experience as a queer, trans, autistic doctor drives her passion for making healthcare safer, more accessible, and kinder. She has an irrepressible drive for justice, and a profound capacity for compassion. When she's not working herself ragged, you might find her running, building LEGO, gazing at her collection of fountain pens and exquisite inks whilst feeling guilty that she's not using them to write or draw, or cooking up a delicious vegan storm.

Prof Anton Kok (he/him)

Lecturer, Department of Jurisprudence, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria

Professor Anton Kok holds the degrees BCom (Law) ,LLB, LLM, LLD (Pret). After completing his articles of clerkship at Deneys Reitz Inc (now Norton Rose Fulbright), Sandton, Anton was appointed senior lecturer to the Department of Legal History, Comparative Law and Legal Philosophy (now the Department of Jurisprudence) in 1999. He completed his doctorate in March 2008, entitled "A socio-legal analysis of the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000". He was promoted to associate professor in 2010. He was appointed as the Programme Coordinator for the LLB for 2008 and 2009 and as Deputy Dean of the Faculty in 2010. He was appointed as acting dean from January to October 2011. He was reappointed for a second term as Deputy Dean in 2014 until June 2018. He also served as an Acting Judge of the Pretoria High Court during the first term of 2024. At undergraduate level, Anton has taught Legal Skills, Critical Race and Gender, Introduction to Law, Law and Literature and Human Rights and coordinated Essay and Seminar 410. At postgraduate level he has taught on Discrimination Law in the LLM (Human Rights and Constitutional Practice), LLM (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) and the LLM/MPhil (multi-disciplinary human rights).

June 2018. He also served as an Acting Judge of the Pretoria High Court during the first term of 2024. At undergraduate level, Anton has taught Legal Skills, Critical Race and Gender, Introduction to Law, Law and Literature and Human Rights and coordinated Essay and Seminar 410. At postgraduate level he has taught on Discrimination Law in the LLM (Human Rights and Constitutional Practice), LLM (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) and the LLM/MPhil (multi-disciplinary human rights).

Dr Ayodele Sogunro (he/him)

Senior International Research and Campaigns Officer, Dignity Network Canada; Global Fellow, Centre on Law and Social Transformation, Chr. Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen

Dr Ayodele Sogunro is a lawyer, scholar-activist, and writer known for his unwavering commitment to advancing human rights and democratic freedoms across Africa. He holds a Doctorate in Law and a Master of Laws in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA), both from the University of Pretoria. He also holds a research-based Master of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Canada. With over fifteen years of experience spanning legal practice, academic research, and public advocacy, Dr Sogunro brings a wealth of expertise to his work. As a former Senior Postdoctoral Fellow and Project Manager at the Centre for Human Rights, Dr Sogunro led initiatives to bolster the rights of sexual and gender minorities through pioneering research on areas such as Resolution 275 and conversion practices, public policy advocacy at forums like the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and capacity-strengthening trainings for judges, parliamentarians and human rights advocates, including coordinating the first African scholarly conference on decriminalisation of same-sex laws in Africa. In his previous role as the Sexual Rights Lawyer at the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA), Dr Sogunro oversaw the development and strategic direction of SOGIE-related cases across multiple African countries and co-led the rebuilding of the regional SOGIE coalition at the African Commission. His contributions to legal scholarship are marked by several scholarly and personal publications.

Chanel van der Linde

Senior Researcher, Helen Suzeman Foundation

Chanel van der Linde is a Senior Researcher with over ten years of experience in LGBTIQ+ activism and human rights work. She previously served as SOGIESC Unit Manager at the Centre for Human Rights. Chanel holds a BA in International Relations and Political Studies and an LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand, as well as an LLM in Multidisciplinary Human Rights from the University of Pretoria. Her areas of expertise include regional human rights mechanisms, international human rights law, and public law.

Dr David Ikpo (Dr Dee) (he/him)

Postdoctoral fellow and Communications and Advocacy Officer, Centre for Human Rights

David is a Nigerian lawyer and storyteller. He comes from international human rights and motion picture backgrounds. His debut novel *Fimisile Forever* was shortlisted for the 2017 Lambda Literary Prize for Best Gay Fiction. His recent project includes *HOLD*, a Centre for Human Rights documentary celebrating decades of legalised same-sex marriage in Belgium, France and South Africa. At the moment he is a postdoctoral fellow as well as Communications and Advocacy Officer at the Centre for Human Rights.

Prof Frans Viljoen (he/him)

Professor of International Human Rights Law, Interim Chair, SARChI Chair on International Constitutional Law, Member, Advisory Committee, UN Human Rights Council, Editor-in-chief, African Human Rights Law Journal Convening editor, African Human Rights Yearbook

Prof Frans Viljoen is professor of law and immediate past Director of the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. His area of research is regional human rights protection, with particular attention to the African Union human rights standards, institutions and processes. He is the author of one of the leading texts on the African human rights system, and is the founding editor of the *African Human Rights Law Journal* and *African Human Rights Yearbook*. He has served as visiting professor on the African human rights system at various Universities. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council.

Dr Graeme Reid (he/him)

United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGIE)

Dr Graeme Reid is a South African scholar, who has conducted research, taught and published extensively on gender, sexuality, LGBT issues, and HIV/AIDS. Reid attended the University of Witwatersrand where he received his bachelor's degree in literature and master's degree in anthropology. He also holds a PhD from the University of Amsterdam. He is currently a research scholar and lecturer at the Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs. Before his appointment as Independent Expert, Reid acted as director for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, an organization he joined in 2011. He has taught as a lecturer in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Anthropology at Yale University and at the School of International Public Affairs at Columbia University. Reid is the founding director of the Gay and Lesbian Archives of South Africa, and previously worked as a researcher at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research. Reid's published monographs are: *How to be a Real Gay. Gay Identities in Small-Town South Africa* (2013) and *Above the Skyline. Reverend Tsietsi Thandekiso and the founding of an African gay church* (2010). He also co-directed the video documentary *Dark and Lovely, Soft and Free* (2000).

Lakshita Kanhiya (she/her)

Doctoral Candidate, Centre for Human Rights

Lakshita Kanhiya is a human rights advocate and scholar from Mauritius, with particular focus on the intersections of religion and sexuality, climate justice, rule of law, investigative journalism, and digital surveillance. Currently pursuing her doctoral studies, Lakshita holds two master's degrees: an LLM from the University of Pretoria and an MA from Amity University, India, (both with distinction) and a bachelor's degree from the University of Mauritius. She brings a wealth of experience from her work with civil society organisations, NHRIs, academia, media, regional human rights mechanisms, government agencies, the private sector, and donor partners. Her expertise spans program development, project management, strategic litigation, advocacy, campaigns, research, and coalition building. Multilingual and a well-rounded facilitator, Lakshita is deeply committed to advancing transformative justice and fostering inclusive, rights-affirming social change across Africa and the Global South.

Dr Landilani Banda (he/him)

Post-doctoral fellow, Centre for Human Rights

Dr Landilani Banda is post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. He holds an LLB from the University of Zambia, an LLM and LLD from the University of Pretoria. Landilani is also a Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) which he completed at the University of Virginia in the United State of America where he was also a visiting lecturer in comparative constitutional and human rights law. He has been a lecturer and researcher at the University of Zambia focusing on human rights law, disability rights law and jurisprudence. In 2015 he set up the legal clinic at the University of Zambia and has over 16 years experience in legal practice in Zambia. In recent years Landilani has focused on research and advocacy in the African human rights system particularly engaging with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. He has published articles and book chapters on sexual and gender minority rights in Africa with a particular focus on decriminalisation of anti-sodomy laws.

Prof Marc Epprecht

Professor and Research Fellow

Marc Epprecht is a professor of Global Development Studies at Queen's University, Canada, and Research Fellow with the History Workshop at Wits. His main interest is in the ways people and states in the region have attempted to manage the harmful impacts of racial capitalism, including upon gender, sexuality, and the environment mostly in southern Africa. Among his publications are Hungochani, Heterosexual Africa? and most recently, Accidental Queer. Marc has also been a Lecturer or Visiting Research Fellow at the U. of Zimbabwe, National University of Lesotho, U. of Basel, and the UKZN.

Dr Mzikazi Mzi Nduna (she/her)

PhD, Divisional Executive, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Dr Mzikazi Nduna is a Divisional Executive at the HSRC and a recognised authority in gender, sexuality, and social development. Her work translates research and lived realities into strategic insights that inform policy, programming, and organisational practice, with a focus on sexuality education, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-responsive systems grounded in public health, social sciences, and human rights. She has published extensively, with 69 peer-reviewed articles, multiple books and reports, over 7,900 citations, and an H-index of 34. Dr Nduna founded the Net 10 SADC research network on sexual and gender identity, lectures for SAJEI and the University of Pretoria, has served on the boards of Gender Dynamix and IRANTI, and is an Honorary Research Fellow at Stellenbosch University. She leads strategic portfolios advancing transformation, leadership, and gender equality.

Prof Nkatha Murungi

Assistant Director, Centre for Human Rights

Prof. Nkatha Murungi is the assistant director of the Centre for Human Rights, and a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Pretoria. She holds a Master of Laws (LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) in human rights from the University of Pretoria, and a Doctorate in Law from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. Prof Murungi is a qualified advocate of the Kenyan Bar, and a lecturer and researcher in human rights with a keen focus on the rights of vulnerable groups such as children, women and persons with disabilities, and sexual and reproductive health rights. She has extensive experience in pan-African human rights programming and advocacy, civil society engagement with the African Union and its mechanisms, as well as human rights research, particularly in Africa. Her research covers a range of human rights issues including child rights, education, sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls in Africa, disability rights, and access to justice.

Prof Osogo Ambani (he/him)

Dean, Kabarak Law School, Associate Professor of Law, Public Law & Governance Scholar, Legal Philosopher

Professor J Osogo Ambani is an esteemed academic, legal scholar, and leader, currently serving as the Dean at Kabarak Law School. As an Associate Professor of Law, their expertise spans public law, governance in Africa, legal philosophy, and decolonisation studies. With a commitment to advancing legal scholarship and institutional leadership, Professor Ambani is dedicated to fostering critical discourse on governance, law, and societal transformation. With a robust background in legal education and advocacy, Professor Ambani engages in thought leadership on constitutionalism, rule of law, and personal development for legal professionals. Their scholarly work critically examines legal history, philosophical underpinnings of law, and the evolution of governance structures in Africa. Beyond academia, Professor Ambani is a passionate advocate for decolonisation in legal studies, seeking to challenge and redefine legal paradigms to better reflect African jurisprudence and governance realities. Through research, mentorship, and public engagement, they contribute to shaping the next generation of legal scholars and policymakers.

Peace Maquba (They/Them/His)

Intersex Rights Officer, Iranti

Lungile Peacworth Maquba better known as Peace. Peace is a dedicated intersex advocate, human rights defender, and entrepreneur from South Africa. As a non-binary, masculine-presenting individual assigned female at birth, Peace has navigated complex challenges and injustices, fuelling their passion for promoting equality and inclusivity. Currently serving as part of the intersex unit at Iranti, a leading African LGBTQI+ advocacy organization, Peace works tirelessly to advance the rights and well-being of intersex individuals and communities. Peace is the founder of Intersexions, an organization dedicated to advancing intersex rights and visibility in Africa. Additionally, they serve as the CEO of Unmadebrand, an innovative apparel company that leverages fashion as a powerful advocacy tool to promote social justice and inclusivity. Their expertise spans advocacy, community engagement, capacity building, and strategic leadership. Through their work, Peace aims to challenge discriminatory systems, promote awareness, and foster inclusive environments that celebrate diversity and individuality.

Pierre Brouard (he/him)

Research associate, Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender (UP); Extraordinary Lecturer, Centre for Human Rights (UP); Executive Member, Sexuality and Gender Division, Psychological Society of SA; Board Member, Professional Association for Transgender Health SA (PATHSA)

Pierre Brouard is a clinical psychologist with a long history of working in HIV, sexualities and gender, 25 years of which was with the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender at the University of Pretoria. His interests and work include sexualities, gender, human rights, stigma, governance, leadership, accountability, transformation, diversity and social justice.

Renata Politi

Legal Advisor, REDRESS

Renata Politi is a Legal Advisor at REDRESS, where she has worked since January 2021. She currently leads REDRESS's work under the United Against Torture Consortium, focusing on torture in the context of protests and against dissidents, as well as advancing justice and accountability for discriminatory torture against LGBTIQ+ persons and supporting efforts to secure and implement reparations for survivors. Prior to joining REDRESS, Renata worked as a criminal lawyer in Brazil and specialised in the implementation of international human rights treaties, including national mechanisms for reporting, follow-up, and compliance. She has also worked with the Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol and the Universal Rights Group in Geneva. Renata holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Bristol, and postgraduate diplomas in Criminal Law from the University of Salamanca and the University of Coimbra, in partnership with the Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences.

Thiruna Naidoo (she/her)

Human Rights Lawyer & Multidisciplinary Artist, OUTRIGHT International

Thiruna Naidoo is a passionate advocate for human rights, with a focus on LGBTIQ+ rights, women's rights, and the rights of refugees and migrants. She strives to promote inclusivity, combat discrimination, and ensure equal rights for all. She actively works towards gender equality and empowerment. Through this, she contributed to the development and finalisation of the UP Trans Protocol. She designed and produced the Model Policy Framework for Trans and Gender Diverse students in Higher Education institutions while working as a consultant. Thiruna's professional experience includes roles as a Litigation Coordinator at the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa; Project Officer for the SOGIESC Unit; and an Associate in Communications and Advocacy at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. In these roles, she conducted research, led advocacy campaigns, and engaged with national bodies and equality courts, and contributed to media advocacy campaigns. Thiruna leverages her academic knowledge and practical experience as she pursues an LLM in multidisciplinary human rights at the University of Pretoria. With her expertise in multidisciplinary human rights and her artistic prowess, Thiruna envisions a future where art and Media becomes a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and social transformation.

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM

Busi Crafford
Dennis Antwi
Landilani Banda
Mansah Amoah
Nathan Milanzi
Nosipho Molefe
Ntandoe Moyo
Tholoana Mosia
Tinyiko Malope



About 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, migrants, indigenous peoples, sexual minorities and other disadvantaged or marginalised persons or groups across the continent.

Advanced Human Rights Courses (AHRC)

For more information about the Advanced Human Rights Course presented by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

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