

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Advanced Human Rights Course
Sexual Minority Rights in Africa

The Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, will host a hybrid 5-day intensive short course on Sexual Minority rights in Africa from 22 – 26 Febuary 2027.

The Advanced Human Rights Course on Sexual Minority Rights in Africa is a short course that introduces participants to basic SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics) concepts and a thematic and geographical exposition of challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ persons in Africa.

This course is designed for people who wish to obtain basic/introductory information, an understanding of the terminology, and a general appreciation of the problems faced by LGBTIQ+ persons in realising basic human rights in many African societies. Participants get to understand ways they can contribute to advancing the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, especially at the national level. Participants typically include academics, police officers and magistrates (whoseeking oftento lackstrengthen basictheir knowledge and are often accused of abusing LGBTIQ+ persons);rights; and NGOs that do not work on sexual minority rights issues or that have only recently begun to do so and need capacity building. They may also include Nationalnational Humanhuman Rightsrights Institutionsinstitutions that can play an important role in countries where national governments are unsympathetic to LGBTIQ+ issues.

The Centre for Human Rights also hosts a capacity building workshop on sexual minorities in Africa, a more technical course designed to train LGBTIQ+ activists on how to engage with the African Union and United Nations human rights bodies - understanding the history, composition and working of these supra-national bodies, as well as how to bring cases/communications before these bodies. The workshop examines case law as well as legal and political strategies used in the past. This helps participants formulate their own strategies and develop networks. The workshop is interactive and includes practical exercises where participants receive training on the processes and procedures of AU and UN human rights bodies. They are also able to share experiences and inspire each other. Participants for the workshop typically include LGBTIQ+ activists and human rights defenders in general who, at least, have some experience of working at the national level. More information on applying for this workshop will be published on the Centre's website in due course.

Visit **www.chr.up.ac.za/ahrc** for more information.

Course length:
5 days

Estimated effort:
7+ hours/day

Price:
Online - 150 USD
In-person - 250 USD

Course type:
Short course

Certificate:
On successful completion

Language:
English

Course dates
22 – 26 Febuary 2027

Apply until
12 February 2027

APPLY ONLINE

Centre for Human Rights UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA | UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA | AHRC Advanced Human Rights Courses | AMSHeR | SOUTHERN AFRICA LITIGATION CENTRE | CSA&G Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender | VUB VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Course content

The programme may contain elements of the following themes:

- Conceptual clarification of the terms 'gay', 'lesbian', 'bisexual', 'transgender' and 'intersex' (the origin of these and other related terms and their influence);
- Bio-medical data on homosexuality, and its interpretation;
- HIV and the emergence of 'men-who-have-sex-with-men' (MSM), MSM and the LGBTIQ+ movement, the risk of HIV infection to lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and intersex persons;
- African tradition/culture and homosexuality (the 'unAfrican' debate, anthropological perspectives on homosexuality in traditional Africa);
- The approach to homosexuality of the major religious traditions (Christianity, Islam);
- Public opinion on sexual minority rights: media, popular culture and literature in Africa and sexual minority rights;
- A typology of human rights violations of sexual minorities in African states (attempts to address them; reasons for violations);
- Criminal law and LGBTIQ+ persons (sodomy laws, and the application of criminal law);
- Sexual minority rights under international law (ICCPR; Toonen case; Yogyakarta Principles; are LGBTIQ+ persons 'minorities' under international law);
- Domestic legal provisions affecting LGBTIQ+ persons in African states (eg criminalisation of same-sex relations);
- Strategies and best practices of litigation to vindicate the rights of sexual minorities (the role of civil society organs, media etc);
- Current case law development in African states;
- EU / Council of Europe and LGBTIQ+ Rights;
- Other international (UN) law and sexual minorities
- Solidarity and perspectives on sexual and gender minority rights beyond Africa
- Strategies for countering the anti-rights movement in Africa

Participants

This advanced human rights course is aimed at members of NGOs, government officials, policymakers, legal academics, activists, researchers and students who are interested in the rights of indigenous peoples on the continent.

Applications are invited from all around the world. The course will, however, have a particular African focus. Candidates from Africa are therefore particularly encouraged to apply. Members of indigenous communities are also encouraged to apply.

Scholarships

Participants wishing to attend are required to write a short motivation for attending the course. A limited number of scholarships are available. These scholarships are awarded on a very competitive basis.

Application procedure

Documents to be submitted:

- Curriculum Vitae (short CV in PDF or Word document, 1–2 pages, maximum 10 MB in file size)
- One Letter of Recommendation (PDF or Word document, maximum of 10 MB in file size)
- Academic Records (students only) (combined in one PDF or Word document, maximum 10 MB in file size).

Important Notice:
A high proficiency in English is required to attend this course. All lectures and materials are in English. Prior to applying for this course, please read through the information on the practical information and the payment details pages.

** Please note that in order to apply for any of the Advanced Human Rights Courses, you are required to use a Google account.*

If you do not hear from us within 5 days after applications have closed, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Payment

Account name: University of Pretoria
Bank: ABSA Bank
Account number: 214 000 0038
Branch code: 632005
Swift code: ABSAZAJJ

As reference please supply the following information: ***(A1H394)*** and ***surname.***

Please email a proof of payment to Mr Dennis Antwi at **Dennis.Antwi@up.ac.za**.

NB: Please do not make payment until you have received confirmation that you have been accepted for the course.

Contact

For more information, please contact:



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