

CONFERENCE: 40 YEARS OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS HONOURING THE MEMORY OF CHRISTOF HEYNS



**Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria in collaboration with the
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights**

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights was adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27 June 1981. Twenty years ago, in March 2001, the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, organised a conference with the title 'The future of the African regional human rights system' to reflect on the achievements of the system and the need for reform to further human rights on the African continent. Papers from the conference were published in the newly launched *African Human Rights Law Journal*. Among these papers were '[The African regional human rights system: In need for reform?](#)' by Professor Christof Heyns, the then director of the Centre for Human Rights. Professor Heyns concluded his article by noting that engaging in debates about reform of the African regional human rights system 'is to exercise a form of ownership, and to say that since the Charter belongs to all of us, it is up to us to continuously ensure its improvement.' Professor Heyns continued his engagement with the African regional human rights system, and with international human rights law more broadly, over the next two decades until his untimely passing in March 2021, aged 62.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Charter, and in honour of Professor Heyns' legacy, the Centre for Human Rights, in collaboration with its partners for the event, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, invites you to an online one-day conference on Friday 2 July 2021.

CONFERENCE

40 YEARS OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER: Honouring the memory of Christof Heyns

Friday 2 July 2021

07:00 GMT / 08:00 WAT / 09:00 SAST / 10:00 EAT

[REGISTER ON ZOOM](#)



Programme

Simultaneous translation (English/French) provided /
Traduction simultanée (anglais/français) assurée

09:00-09:30

OPENING

Solomon Dersso, Chairperson, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
Robert Eno, Registrar, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
Nkatha Murungi, Deputy Director, Centre for Human Rights

09:30-11:00

PANEL 1 (Chair: Humphrey Sipalla)

The "puzzling" African human rights system: Who should do what?

Apollin Koagne Zouapet (presenting in French)

A source of respite from state backlash? Assessing the prospects of the African Commission as an avenue for individuals and NGOs to access the African Court

Japhet Biegon & Andrew Songa

A critical review of the contribution of the African human rights system to the understanding of the right to health

Ebenezer Durojaye

The African Charter just one treaty among many? The pragmatic, complementary development of the material jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

Annika Rudman

11:15-12:45

PANEL 2 (Chair: Magnus Killander)

The right to reparations in the contentious process before the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights: a comparative analysis on account of the new Rules of Court

Kevin Sanchez

Protecting the right to life in the context of the use of force during assemblies:

An analysis of legal and jurisprudential developments in the African human rights system

Beryl Orao

The right to freedom of movement then and now: From the Banjul Charter (1981) to the African Economic Community Treaty (1991) to the AEC Protocol on Free Movement of Persons (2018)

KD Magliveras & GJ Naldi

La Charte africaine, « a living instrument » : l'exemple du droit à la nationalité

Abdou Khadre Diop

14:00-15:30

PANEL 3 (Chair: Ashwanee Budoo)

The impact of Covid-19 on the socio-economic rights of older persons in Africa: The urgency of operationalizing the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons

Philip Ebosetale Oamen & Eghosa O Ekhator

L'Union africaine et la protection du « droit à la santé » en temps de crise sanitaire Covid-19 : dispositifs, stratégies et contraintes d'action

Ousmanou Nwachock A Birema

The evolution of the shadow report as a tool for advancing women's human rights

Osai Ojigbo

Climate change adaptation action and human rights law in Africa: Evolving trajectories, synergies and potential challenges

Michael Addaney

15:30–17:00

PANEL 4 (Chair: Frans Viljoen)

The African human rights system as a "norm leader": Three case studies

Obiora Okafor & Godwin Dzah

Monitoring the implementation of its own decisions: What role for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights?

Rachel Murray & Debra Long

On the public life of the African Court: Through the lenses of the Ogiek case

Lizzy Muthoni

Les réformes de la Cour africaines des droits de l'homme et des peuples : enjeux juridico-institutionnels

Abdoulaye Sylla

17:00–17:30

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Frans Viljoen

Event details

Friday 2 July 2021

07:00 GMT / 08:00 WAT / 09:00 SAST / 10:00 EAT

All participants are required to [register on Zoom](#).

Zoom Webinar ID: 942 7084 8759 (registration required)

The event will be live streamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Simultaneous translation (English/French) provided

Contacts

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