



# INVITATION TO VIRTUAL NEWSLETTER LAUNCH

## **Access to information in Africa**

### *Event details*

Wednesday, 28 May 2025

10:00 - 12:00 SAST

On Zoom

**REGISTER HERE**

The Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, cordially invites you to the official launch of the Access to Information in Africa Newsletter. This special publication features articles presented during **the 2023 seminar** marking the 10th anniversary of the **Model Law on Access to Information in Africa**, complimented by additional contributions from researchers across the continent. Although two years have passed since the anniversary, the Model Law continues to be a significant influence in shaping national access to information frameworks and implementation efforts across the continent. This virtual launch not only marks the public release of the newsletter but also offers an opportunity to reflect on the evolving access to information landscape in Africa, celebrating progress, examining ongoing challenges, and identifying priorities for future action.



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### **The launch event offers a platform to:**

- Reflect on the progress made and challenges in advancing access to information across Africa.
- Assess the legacy of the Model Law and its influence on national frameworks.
- Share insights from oversight institutions tasked with enforcing access to information legislation; and
- Engage with researchers and experts working at the forefront of the access to information discourse.

## **Programme highlights**

### **Keynote address**

*Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo,*

**Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa**

**Topic:** Twenty Years of the Special Rapporteur Mechanism: Reflections on advancing freedom of expression and access to information in Africa

### **Panel discussion**

**Moderator:** *Ivy Gikonyo, Project Officer, Expression, Information and Digital Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria*

**Welcome Remarks:** *Loyld Kuveya, Assistant Director, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria*

- *Hlengiwe Dube, Manager: Expression, Information and Digital Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria*

**Topic:** Overview of the access to information landscape in Africa

- Information Commission Representative (TBA)

**Topic:** Reflections from oversight institutions on ATI implementation

- *Dunia P. Zongwe, Associate Professor, Alliance School of Law, India; and Adjunct Associate Professor, Walter Sisulu University, South Africa*

**Topic:** Testing the Waters of Transparency: The impact of Namibia's Access to Information Act on constitutionalism

- *Yeabsira Teferi, Lecturer of Law, Dilla University*

**Topic:** Ethiopia's Adherence with the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa: A spotlight on the 2021 National Election and lessons for the upcoming 2026 election



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- Wendy Ashikomela Ashilenje, *Advocate of the High Court of Kenya*

**Topic:** Technology and Access to Information: Effect of Search Algorithms on Access to Information

- Reda Benkhadra, *Human rights researcher*

**Topic:** A Decade of Constitutionalised Right to Access Information in Morocco: Reflections on the Progress and Challenges

- Nomyezo Mqhele, *Multi-disciplinary human rights lawyer*

**Topic:** Misinformation and disinformation in the digital age and its impact on the information ecosystem:

## Closing remarks

Loyld Kuveya, *Assistant Director, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria*

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This webinar is open to academics, civil society actors, policymakers, journalists, information commissioners, and the broader public. We invite you to be part of this timely conversation as we examine the milestones achieved, confront the challenges that remain, and chart the future of the access to information landscape across the continent.

We look forward to your participation.

## For more information, please contact:

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