This publication commemorates 20 years of the Master’s programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA), presented by the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. Established in 2000, the HRDA programme aims to develop capacity in the form of experts in the field of human rights and democratisation in order to strengthen national and regional structures that deal with human rights and democracy. It is a regional cooperation initiative involving 13 leading African universities representing all the main geographic sub-regions, languages and legal traditions in Africa.
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PART I INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

This publication commemorates 20 years of the Master’s programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA).

It gives a snapshot of the HRDA programme, its alumni achievements, the Centre for Human Rights where it is based, and the partner universities in collaboration with which it is presented. The reader will find comprehensive information on the donors, to whom the HRDA owes its very existence, and the administrative and academic staff whose competence and expertise have set high standards and given it world wide recognition.

Above all, this publication recognises the work of the alumni for the past 20 years, and whose achievements in the field are contributing to advancing human rights and democracy, primarily in Africa, but also in other parts of the world. They are the manifestation of a momentum to move Africa forward; the vindication of the idea that expertise and a common understanding are important tools in addressing today’s development challenges.

Please note:
Alumni’s past and present professional positions are indicated, as the publication is intended to show both what alumni are doing and what they have done. The claim of making a contribution to advancing human rights in Africa is premised on work done, and so previous positions and experience are also acknowledged.

This publication is a team effort. Despite our best efforts, it is bound to contain inaccuracies and mistakes. As much as we tried to capture all the achievements by every alumni, we had to be selective. No doubt, there are omissions and oversights, for which we apologise.

The bulk of this report was prepared by Norman Taku and David Ikpo and updated by Tomiwa Ilori and Yolanda Booyzen.
ENDORSEMENTS

Navi Pillay
Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
While the sentiment is often expressed that human rights are driven by the Global North, initiatives such as this serve to emphasise the legitimate role of all parts of the world in this common enterprise.

Desmond Tutu
Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town
...you are joining the ranks of this generation in whose hands the realisation of human rights in Africa ultimately rests... Because freedom cannot be enjoyed amidst oppression and because there can be no peace without justice, I hope that you will return to your home country, empowered with knowledge and inspired by the friendships you have made with people from all over Africa... and go on to change our continent with the instrument of human rights.
BACKGROUND TO THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, is an internationally recognised university-based institution combining academic excellence and effective activism to advance human rights, particularly in Africa. It aims to contribute to advancing human rights, through education, research and advocacy.

The Centre was established in the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, in 1986, as part of domestic efforts against the apartheid system of the time. Over the years, the Centre has positioned itself in an unmatched network of practising and academic lawyers, national and international civil servants and human rights practitioners across the entire continent, with a specific focus on human rights law in Africa, and international development law in general.

The Centre presents twelve annual advanced human rights courses, has eight thematic research units, offers five Master’s degree programmes, presents two major moot court competitions and houses one university press.

Today, a wide network of Centre alumni contribute in numerous ways to the advancement and strengthening of human rights and democracy all over the Africa continent, and even further afield.
In 2006, the Centre for Human Rights was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, with particular recognition for the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition and the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa.

In 2012, the Centre for Human Rights was awarded the 2012 African Union Human Rights Prize.

The three Directors of the Centre for Human Rights left to right: Justice Johann van der Westhuizen (1986–1998), Prof Christof Heyns (1999–2007) and Prof Frans Viljoen (2007–).
DIFFICULT BEGINNINGS OF THE CENTRE

Shock, anger over Tuks poster
Does UP’s human rights centre get money from the USA?

Translated article from ‘Die Afrikaner’
(published Wednesday 8 November 1989)

The University of Pretoria’s Centre for Human Rights has become a breeding ground for the ANC and its followers. At a three-day conference hosted by the Centre, a report written by the government’s Commission on Human Rights, including all the legal questions, was discussed in detail with ANC affiliated organisations, Lawyers for Human Rights and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers. The Bill of Rights is actively being propagated by the extremely left Broederbond (sic), and the apparent purpose of the conference was to form a united front to oppose recommendations made by members of government to include group rights in the Bill of Rights.

The Broederbond, through Dr Wimpie De Klerk (the older brother of FW De Klerk), have expressed their opposition against the inclusion of group rights. The Law Commission also believes that ‘group rights’ is an impossible concept, but the ANC does not agree.

At the conference, coordinated by the director of the Centre, Prof Johan van der Westhuizen, emphasis was placed on the power that the black government should have in the ‘new South Africa’ to restrict the activities of organisations they don’t like, as well as what the Americans call ‘affirmative action’. Apparently, a Bill of Rights must have some sort of affirmative action to address ‘inequalities’. Blacks would have to be favoured over Whites, irrespective of the merits of the case, in order to address the inequalities around economic and social positions. This would mean that whites would not only be suppressed for being the minority, but explicitly be discriminated against by the law.

Sources at the conference declared that the discussions held by the centre for human rights consolidated the united front formed by the Law Commission, the Broederbond and the ANC. Many alumni from the University of Pretoria have also expressed outrage in reaction to a poster disseminated by the Centre for Human Rights, to advertise a recent conference. It is a very fancy poster (‘the Yankees has a lot of money’ was mentioned by one commentator) depicting a black woman, with what has been described to be a very arrogant facial expression. Her one breast is exposed, with her foot on a military helmet, symbolising the subjugation of the SA Safety Police force. A scale symbolising justice, money symbolising affirmative action, and a television (symbolising the role of television in the propaganda for human rights) can also be seen in the picture. As a finishing touch, a white wolf can be seen stalking the woman. The black Lady Justice in the picture is also not blindfolded, as traditionally portrayed to symbolise the impartiality of the law. Her eyes are open, ignoring the burdens of impartiality.

People interviewed by Die Afrikaner (The Afrikaner) mentioned that the poster would cause them to reconsider before sending off their children to Tukkies.

In the meantime it has surfaced that the Centre for Human Rights is being accused by senior academics in the fields of constitutional and equality law, of receiving funds from the secret American AID program.
DIFFICULT BEGINNINGS OF THE CENTRE

This program is theoretically aimed at third world countries, but according to the official American budget, it donates up to R 33 million to extreme ‘left’ (liberal) groups and organisations - of which human rights institutions are explicitly mentioned. The Vice-Rector and business management of the University, as well as the director of the Centre were not available for comments.

Allegedly, there is a lot of information about secret conferences held at the American Embassy, involving lawyers from the University of Pretoria, and the Centre for Human Rights in particular.

Any lawyer hoping to attend conferences abroad holds Professor Johan van der Westhuizen’s recommendation letters in high regard. This comes as a result of the UN organised boycott against South Africa, requiring recommendation letters in order to be exempted (from the boycott).

The importance of the anti-white bill of rights to the Broederbond (Brotherhood), is apparent from the orchestrated attacks on Dr Vic D’Assonville (the editor of Die Kerkblad, which is the monthly journal of the reformed church) after he wrote a piece on the human rights ideology in the light of the Bible, criticising the principle of a bill of human rights. The Bill of Rights, without any guarantees of ‘group rights’, is central to the planning of the Broederbond (Brotherhood).

‘Anna Mogale as Justitia’ (1989) by Braam Kruger, commissioned and paid for by Ms Cecile van Riet, founding member of the Centre, here donating it to the Centre 25 years later. The painting was considered controversial at the time, drawing the ire from conservative pockets of white society.
BACKGROUND TO THE HRDA PROGRAMME
BACKGROUND TO THE HRDA PROGRAMME

NATIONS UNIES  
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L’HOMME  
UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Message from Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference against Racism

I wish to extend good wishes to all of the students taking part in the African Masters Programme in Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. I welcome the initiation of this Programme under the auspices of the Association of African Universities and with the support of the Organisation of African Unity. The cooperation with the European Masters in Human Rights Programme is something which I also welcome very much.

Defending human rights requires a detailed knowledge of the norms, standards and legislation. That is an area which is expanding and growing ever more complex. It is vital that students are trained in all aspects of the subject, whether they intend to become specialists in the field or simply to champion the cause of human rights in their communities. I am confident that this new Masters Programme will provide an intensive training for the students involved, both in the initial phase in Pretoria and at Makerere University in Uganda, the University of Ghana and the University of the Western Cape. I urge all the students attending the course to give of your best so as to make this very worthwhile initiative a success.

Mary Robinson  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Established in 2000, the Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA) aims to develop capacity in the form of experts in the field of human rights and democratisation in order to strengthen national and regional structures that deal with human rights and democracy.

It is a regional cooperation initiative involving 13 leading African universities representing all the main geographic sub-regions, languages and legal traditions in Africa.

Candidates are taught by eminent lecturers in the field of human rights and undergo many practical training exercises. It is the only course of its kind in Africa. Graduates become members of the HRDA Alumni Association whose 563 members are currently active in the full spectrum of human rights work: from grassroots, through civil service, to international organisations including the African Union and the United Nations.

The HRDA programme has conferred 563 graduates over 20 years.
HRDA PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Selection criteria

- Excellent academic record
- Strong personal motivation
- Relevant experience
- Potential to impact the state of human rights
- Letters of recommendation
- Demonstrable skills in critical thinking, analysis, language proficiency, reasoning ability
- Variety of nationalities
- 50/50 balance between men and women
- Minority groups, including persons with disabilities, persons from sexual and gender minority groups and members of indigenous populations
- Diverse professional backgrounds, including non-lawyers

Relevance of the programme to Africa

- Addressing emerging issues
- Reversing the academic brain drain
- Filling the skills gap, addressing the absence of locally qualified personnel
- Creating networks and contact among African universities/schools/faculties
- Helping to improve academic infrastructure
- Strengthening capacity at African universities

HRDA 2007 left to right Jérémie Munyabarame (Project Officer), Syldie Bizimana (Burundi), Dejene Janka (Ethiopia), Polycarp Ngufor Forkum (Cameroon), Estelle Nkounkou (Congo Brazzaville), Gladys Wanjeri Mwariri (Kenya) and James Milya (Tanzania)
HRDA PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

First semester in Pretoria

**Taught courses**

- Daily lectures and other weekly academic activities per week
- Expert lecturers from partner universities and around the world
- Multi-disciplinary approach: law, political science, sociology and philosophy
- Academic tutors provide assistance to students and academic staff.

**Module 1:** Methodology of Human Rights Research and Human Rights Education (Including Human Rights Clinics)

**Human Rights Clinics:** students work on a practical question with measurable results

**Module 2:** Democratisation and Globalisation in Africa

**Module 3:** International and Comparative Human Rights

**Module 4:** Human Rights in Africa

**Module 5:** Introduction to the South African Legal System and Bill of Rights

**Module 6:** Human Rights in the field

**Language**

French, English or Portuguese

**Field study visits**

Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Venda, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Rwanda, Somaliland

**Constitutional Court of South Africa**

Students attend a hearing and write a shadow judgment; interact with judges of the Court.

**Debates**

Students work in teams to argue debates every week on controversial human rights questions.

**Dissertation exercise**

Students develop a research proposal through regular meetings with the Academic Coordinator and tutors; then defend their proposals before a panel of academics and experts, and receive guidance.

Field trip to Rwanda (March 2007)
Meeting with the Vice-President of the Human Rights Commission

Field trip to Rwanda (March 2007)
A visit to one of the many mass graves sites around the country

Field trip to Rwanda (March 2007)
A visit to the National Museum of Rwanda
Second semester at partner universities

Students are assigned to one of the other 12 partner universities, but may not return to their sub-region of origin.

Training includes:
• lectures or seminars
• writing a dissertation under the supervision of a local academic
• short attachments (of at least 150 hours) at a human rights institution
• language classes (English, French or Portuguese)

Module 7: Accredited Courses
Various courses. This may be substituted for an internship of 150 hours.

Module 8: Dissertation
Research essay of 20,000 words

The full curriculum is available on the HRDA website at www.chr.up.ac.za/hrda
STATISTICS

Female / male students
- Female: 265
- Male: 298

Doctorates completed
- Total: 55
- Male: 298
- Female: 265

DAAD students
- Total: 255

African Human Rights Moot Court Competition alumni
- Total: 79

Students from 46 countries:
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- France
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Somaliland
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Taiwan
- Uganda
- Western Sahara
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Germany
- Spain
- Switzerland
- USA
563 students over 20 years

2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019

2018 HRDA graduation ceremony
HRDA PROGRAMME THROUGH THE YEARS

HRDA 2001 Visit to Robben Island (South Africa) for the annual dissertation exercise

HRDA 2003 Back row, 3rd from left Prof Magnus Killander, intern Front row, middle Dr Martin Nsibirwa, HRDA Programme Officer

Prof Christof Heyns with Mr Ahmed Kathrada, the second most famous inmate of Robben Island.
Welcoming Prof Johann van der Westhuizen (founding Director) back to the Centre back row, left to right, Prof Frans Viljoen (Director), Norman Taku (Assistant Director), Judge Dikgang Moseweke (Retired Deputy Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court), Judge Johann van der Westhuizen (Retired Constitutional Court Judge), Judge Mbuyisile Madlanga (Constitutional Court), Judge Zak Yacoob (Retired Constitutional Court Judge), Judge Sisi Khampepe (Constitutional Court), Thuto Hlalele, Dr James Fawkes (Former Constitutional Court Clerk) front row, left to right, Prof André Boraine (Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria), Judge Johann Kriegler (Retired Judge of the Constitutional Court), Jared Gekombe (Kenya, 2016) and Judge Bess Nkabinde (Constitutional Court)

HRDA 2002 Graduation. Graduandi from left to right, Dr Lilian Chenwi (Cameroon), Dr Lungowe Matakala (Zambia), Ms Julie Soweto (Kenya), Dr Kealeboga Bojosi (Botswana) and Dr Godfrey Odongo (Kenya)
HRDA PROGRAMME THROUGH THE YEARS

HRDA 2005 Steve Odero Ouma (†) and Benyam Mezmur at the detention facility at the Special Court for Sierra Leone during the Sierra Leone field trip

Alumni in Banjul (2012)
HRDA PROGRAMME THROUGH THE YEARS

HRDA 2000 Visit to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

HRDA 2006 Social event at Prof Frans Viljoen’s residence


HRDA 2003 Field trip to Rwanda
The story of these *Alumni Diaries* starts in the year 2000, as we were all launched into the 21st century. By then, the Centre for Human Rights had over 15 years established itself as a human rights hub, with a South African-focused Master's programme on human rights, and a growing African footprint gained by organising the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition together with law schools across the continent. With the adoption of its Constitutive Act in the same year, the African Union (AU) started to reshape a more human rights-responsive regional governance landscape. The time was ripe for the Centre to introduce a postgraduate academic programme focusing on human rights within Africa, generally, and the AU, specifically.

Together with our founding partners, we designed and implemented the Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA) to nurture and mold a core group of committed change agents eager and able to more firmly anchor the principles of human rights adherence and democratic governance on African soil. So, the Pioneers of 2000 arrived ... I was fortunate to act as the founding academic coordinator of the programme.

Since then, for 20 years, the HRDA has run annually, without interruption. Since then, our network
has now grown into twelve collaborating partners, stretching from the western-most part of the continent (Université Gaston Berger in Senegal) to the far east (University of Mauritius), and from the southern tip (University of the Western Cape) to the Horn of Africa (Addis Ababa University). Wonderful colleagues – programme managers, assistants, teachers, tutors – have come and gone; and some have stayed much longer than expected. They were consistently supported by the full Centre team.

Since the year 2000, a total of 563 candidates from 46 countries (38 of them in Africa) survived the rigours of the programme, and proudly graduated.

If, by its proverbial fruits a tree is appraised, the alumni of 20 years allow us at the Centre, our partners, other collaborators and supporters to withstand the strictest tools of measurement. These Diaries testify not only to the manifold fruits of the alumni’s labours of love, but also to the seeds they have planted to foster further growth in human rights and democratic governance.

HRDA graduates are involved in all the dimensions of human rights practice, mostly on our continent, but also beyond its borders. We are privileged to count among our alumni: chairpersons of the African Union’s two main human rights bodies; Chief Justices; Cabinet Ministers; and many more graduates holding positions of great influence. Gatherings of human rights practitioners and academics in Africa frequently include a number of HRDA alumni who invariably make outstanding contributions. It is a constant highlight for me to get together with alumni on the sidelines of these events, to catch up, and to experience the broadening of networks of contacts across graduating years, and the reaffirmation among them of a solidarity of vision, value and purpose.

This publication speaks to some concrete influence alumni have exerted on the people around them. They have founded NGOs in challenging circumstances; they have stood up for human rights at great cost to themselves; they have spoken up when others remained silent ... The Diaries tabulates and paints a broad picture. While it is important to take stock, it is inevitable that some details will be lost. I know, there is much more to tell ... but let us be reminded that the really important stories are often untold, or lie hidden between the lines.

HRDA graduates, you have done yourselves proud; and you make us proud. But so terribly much remains to be done! May each of you individually continue to find your place, role and voice in this world, and continue to grow into a network that collectively bends the arc of the moral universe towards justice and human rights.

Prof Frans Viljoen
Director, Centre for Human Rights
In the 1990s a couple of us were involved in discussions about how to contribute towards human rights education on our continent. The African Human Rights Moot was starting to pick up, but how does one make sure the continent has the large-scale capacity needed to take on the task of making human rights a reality throughout the continent?

I firmly believe that it does not really count if you do something when you are forced to do so; what matters is what you do because you believe in it. The same goes for human rights on our continent – if it is imposed from the outside, its roots will be shallow; if it is developed by ourselves it will stand the test of time. For human rights to really make a difference where we live, we must thus make sure that our own people are in the driving seat of human rights on the continent. And it will not help if they go overseas, one at time, for advanced education in the field. We need a strong education program based on the continent to achieve this goal, one that can build a critical mass of African human rights lawyers.

But there is also a second condition for success. Attempts to develop capacity often go wrong when there is not a proper system to ensure that those who are given opportunities are the ones who will benefit most from the experience. If you want to make a difference through further education, everything depends on whether you have a proper system to reach and select the right students.

So, in the late 1990s I was flying back home from a visit to France, and on the plane I read a brochure that someone had given me during my visit which I had put in my pocket. It was about the human rights programme in Venice, presented by a number of universities in the region for students from Europe. Everything fell into place. The reading light of the plane remained switched on, as I assembled all the paper I could get on the plane (this was before laptops) to write a project proposal for an African master's programme in human rights. I dropped the proposal off with Carole Viljoen the next morning, on my way from the airport. Crucially, Frans Viljoen threw his weight behind the idea, and established many of the key elements. We sent out rather cheeky funding proposals, asking for large amounts of money. A few months later we were lucky to have the money, and in January of the next year, 2000, the first intake of students arrived.

What had become clear to me on the plane as we were flying over Africa was that there was a massive opportunity here, and that we at the Centre for Human Rights were in the right position to grab it. Nothing like this existed, so there was a gap, and no competition. Frans and I were in any event focused very strongly on the African human rights system. But moreover, we had contact with almost every law faculty on the continent through the African Moot Competition which we had been organising since 1992. This was an ideal vehicle to reach the young people of the continent who were interested in this area. Moreover, the ones
who come to the Moot are often the go-getters, who have already made it through the rounds at home. We could encourage those who do the best at the Moot to apply – and we have also seen them for ourselves in action. So we had the foundations for a good selection process. Gradually the programme, if it was any good, would build a reputation for itself, and those who think they have what it takes would heed the call.

This is what happened. Today, around 800 students from almost every country on the continent who think they stand a chance to be selected one of the around 30 positions, apply each year. This was the starting point for a programme aimed explicitly at being highly selective, which offers human rights education on an advanced level, comparable with anything presented elsewhere in the world; recruit the best lecturers possible; work with a network of partners in Africa; and add practical components such as field study tours.

Getting this to work seemed like a worthy challenge, and a lot of fun. In a way, we merely had to ask ourselves what sort of master’s programme would we have benefited from when we were students – if we allowed ourselves to dream big. The new master’s programme was also a way of ensuring that the University of Pretoria, which had traditionally been a white university, would become more relevant to the needs of Africa.

Looking back now, 20 years later, the programme far exceeds any dreams that I could have had on that plane. One hardly goes to a meeting on human rights in Africa where the majority of those under 45 years of age are not alumni. The alumni are at the forefront of human rights work on all possible levels on the continent. And increasingly I see them also in the United Nations system.

The most important thing about the Master’s, in my view, is that it has been sustained over almost two decades. We know that good things often come and go. Whether they really have an impact depends on whether they can build up and sustain the momentum, which in turn depends on whether there are people who stay with them over the years, nurture them, develop them further, and carry them through when there is a crisis. People like Frans, Norman, Magnus and Carole and many who came in later have done that for the Master’s.

The LLM/ MPhil as an institution has the impact that it has today, I firmly believe, because there is an unbroken string of alumni who share a similar experience, have a similar frame of reference, and in many cases have been taught by the same people. In short, they are not an unrelated number of isolated individuals. Collectively they have a reputation for excellence and each individual who has been on the programme know there are high standards to live up to. The alumni are a community which spans the borders of Africa, they are a force for good. They show us what can be achieved if we make sure the right people get the opportunities.

I need not elaborate on the multiple human rights challenges that Africa and the world are facing. However, looking at the pages of this diary and seeing where our alumni are, gives me a real sense that the human rights project is rooted deeply in the fertile ground of Africa, in people who are well equipped to assume the important responsibly of facing these challenges. And it gives me a sense that for each one of us at some point a light goes on which helps us to make the light go on for other as well.

Prof Christof Heyns
Director, Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, Member of the UN Human Rights Committee 2017 – 2020. Former Director, Centre for Human Rights (1999–2006), UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions (2010 – 2016)
The first image of the HRDA that I have was from a poster at Moi University in Kenya during my undergraduate studies. The poster was a call for applications for the programme. Though it was posted amongst other opportunities for postgraduate studies, it struck a chord with me and I was certain that I wanted to join the programme. The year after, towards the end of my undergraduate studies, I had the opportunity to participate in the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition. This was my first actual interaction with the Centre for Human Rights.

The experience of the Moot Court Competition triggered my interest in human rights as an area of interest. It validated my purpose for law studies and marked the beginnings of a career as a human rights defender. It was also my first interaction with students from outside of my country, and exposed me to different cultures and ways of reasoning. That exposure was a turning point for me, and my entry point into international scholarship and career path.

I joined the HRDA in 2009, and went to the University of the Western Cape (UWC) for the second semester. It was while at UWC that I developed an interest in the rights of children, and proceeded to pursue an LLD in children's rights at the University. In the years since graduating from the LLM, I remained interested in the activities of the Centre, particularly in the advanced short courses offered. Meanwhile, I pursued a career in research, advocacy and teaching on children's rights, while expanding interest and knowledge on the rights of other vulnerable groups, particularly women and persons with disabilities.

I have devoted a significant proportion of my post-graduation professional career to the promotion and protection of human rights generally, but especially the rights of children. I am driven in this regard by the belief that childhood is the most impactful stage of life, and that guaranteeing and investing in the rights and welfare of children has a multiplier effect in their adult lives and society in general. I believe that if every child could attain an optimum childhood as envisaged in the human rights norms and standards, most human rights abuses in adulthood would be abated. Ensuring children's rights is therefore not only an end in itself, but also a pathway to the attainment of other human rights goals and aspirations.

In 2018, I returned to the Centre on a full-time basis as the Assistant Director. In many ways, this was the completion of a full cycle for me, from the student beneficiary of the Centre's generosity and impartation, to stewardship of the Centre's mission and vision. In the past year, I have had a front row seat to witness the energy, fervour, commitment, and camaraderie of everyone who works at the Centre. Being a part of this community is a source of inspiration in itself. As I appreciate the passion and commitment, I acknowledge the incredible contribution of the Centre's staff through the years in making the HRDA what it is.

Over the years of engaging with different cohorts of students at the Centre, I have always been amazed
at the eager potential and raw ambition of the students who join the programme every year. I see a lot of parallels to my own growth from the point at which I joined the program, and the growth that followed in the course of the training and at the beginnings of my human rights career. In the past year, in particular, I have had the opportunity to meet with alumni of the Centre, as well as colleagues from years past, and realise that this is a shared feeling. Witnessing this growth in myself and others from the programme affirms my belief that the HRDA is a cause worth investing in.

There are many things that excite me for the present and future of the HRDA. For instance, the HRDA is a gateway to a vast and dependable network of exemplary human rights defenders from across the continent and beyond. Being able to easily find someone to speak to in almost every African country or human rights institution testifies to how extensive and dependable the network is. But beyond the breadth and dependability of the network, it is the shared values and the vibrant collective identity of the alumni family that distinguishes it from many other alumni networks. The feeling of family and a common identity transcends the years which the respective alumni studied, and is a unique asset shared between the Centre and the network.

The experience of the HRDA is evidently transformative. The programme presents new ideas and challenges patterns of thought that are often the basis for ‘othering’ in every day human rights promotion and protection. Each year brings together a new group with diverse backgrounds, but is able to nurture a basic common value system regarding the value of all human beings. The transformative power of the HRDA draws from both the content, and the shared living experience over the one year period.

The Centre, and the HRDA in particular, is one of the most intellectually stimulating spaces for ideas and progressive conversations on human rights. It is also one of the most impactful networks on the African continent as evident in the mapping and stories highlighted in these diaries. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the HRDA gives me hope for the future of the program. 20 years of success is not only a solid foundation to build on, but also a testament to the enduring need for an institution like the Centre, and a program like the HRDA.

In the end, I can say that what began as a serendipitous introduction to the Centre from a poster at my university has turned out to be a life-defining and fulfilling experience that continues to unfold, and for which I am grateful.

Dr Nkatha Murungi
Assistant Director, Centre for Human Rights

Righting Wrongs: Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa
It is such a great honour for me to be part of the HRDA team when the programme is celebrating its 20th anniversary! As an alumna, I can attest to the fact that the programme does not only add to one’s academic qualifications but is also a life-altering experience. The exchanges that you have in class and beyond contribute to moulding you into someone who now adopts a holistic perspective while dealing with human rights issues.

The HRDA is the flagship programme of the Centre for Human Rights and is soaring high thanks to the impact of our alumni’s work. (I wanted to say it is running at its peak but that would mean it will have a downward slope in the future; given its trajectory, I believe that the programme is still far from reaching its full potential). There are over 600 applications for the 30 places available each year. This number demonstrates the fact that alumni achievements are inspiring others to join the fight against human rights violations, and that citizens across the continent are interested in obtaining formal human rights training to make Africa a better place.

Mother Africa faces several human rights challenges and the HRDA programme aims to empower some of her children to ensure that she transforms into a continent of opportunities. Candidates are equipped with tools in the form of extensive academic human rights training, field study tours, human rights clinics, and internships in human rights institutions to plough the land of human rights abuses to make way for fresh soil which will bear the fruit that is the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms. This is not an easy task but neither is it an impossible one. Even with the support of all her other children, it will take decades, or even centuries, before this goal is achieved but the current progress shows that we are on the right path. 20 years might seem like a long time but I feel that this is only the beginning of righting wrongs in Africa...

Dr Ashwanee Budoo
(Mauritius, 2012)
HRDA Programme Manager (2017– )
Dr Martin Nsibirwa  
(Uganda, 2000)  
HRDA Programme Manager  
(2003–2015)

Jérémie Munyabarame  
HRDA Programme Officer  
(2003–2008)

John Wilson  
HRDA Programme Officer  
(2003–2011)

Eric Lwanga  
HRDA Programme Officer  
(2009–2017)

Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo  
(Ghana, 2011)  
HRDA Deputy Programme Manager  
(2017–)

Harold Meintjes  
Financial Manager

Emily Laubscher  
Assistant Financial Manager

Yolanda Booyzen  
Communications and Advocacy Manager

Centre Staff in 2017
Time flies. I came to South Africa as a skinny youngster for a six-month internship at the Centre for Human Rights 18 years ago. In December 2002 I met the third batch of graduates on the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa. In the following year Bill, Lilian, Thoko and I were the tutors traveling with the students to Robben Island and Rwanda in between other duties. Back home in Sweden I had thought two years in a work place was long enough. That was before I came to the Centre. As I write this I will soon be attending my 18th HRDA graduation and have become part of the Centre furniture. It has been a great 17 years and it always give me great pleasure to hear about the amazing things our alumni do to change Africa for the better. Keep up the good work.

Prof Magnus Killander
(Sweden)
Academic Coordinator
Almost nothing of value is added when all we know about a problem is that it exists. The African continent with its unique history is always in need of those who can do the needful for her prosperity despite the knowledge of her problems. One of such needs is the continuous challenge of human rights violations. In addressing this problem pointedly, several solutions have been proffered. However, what seems to stand out so far in addressing this problem is the need for a quality educational system that is focused solely on righting human rights wrongs in Africa.

The result of this system is the Master’s in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa programme (HRDA) which was established to solve this perennial challenge by mounting guard against violations of human rights and building opportunities to protect and promote these freedoms. This has been done so far, with such impeccable excellence by a cluster of more than 560 alumni of the programme spread across the globe for the past twenty years. The ‘Pretoria Mafia’ as the alumni is fondly called refers to a movement etched in these values who continue to build lasting platforms and bonds that further improve the state of human rights education and protection in Africa. I am privileged to have been able to coordinate the activities of this wonderful group of professionals.

Beyond the twenty years of making history, I look forward to us building an institution of formidable vanguards of human rights protection in Africa.

Amandla!

Tomiwa Ilori (Nigeria, 2018)
Alumni Coordinator (2019–)

Dr Romola Adeola (Nigeria, 2012)
Alumni Coordinator (2013 – 2014)

Dr Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007)
Alumni Coordinator (2012)

Adebayo Okeowo (Nigeria, 2014)
Alumni Coordinator (2015 – 2018)
A FEW LECTURERS

**Mary Robinson**
Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002), and founder and President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative

**Prof Martin Scheinin**
European University Institute, Florence, Italy; former member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee; first United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism

**Prof Serges Kamga**
Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, University of South Africa

**Dr Attila Teplan**
Chief Legal Officer, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe

**Prof Cecile Aptel**
Senior Legal Policy Adviser, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Associate Professor of International Law at Tufts’ Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, USA

**Ms Sheila Keetharuth**
UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea

**Prof Dire Tladi**
Member of the International Law Commission

**Prof Fernand de Varennes**
Dean, Faculté de Droit, Université de Moncton, Canada; United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

**Prof John Dugard**
Extraordinary Professor at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Member, International Commission of Jurists

**Dr David Padilla**
Former Assistant Executive Secretary, Inter-American Human Rights Commission

**Prof Michelo Hansungule**
Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Member, International Commission of Jurists

**Dr Bronwen Manby**
Founder of the Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP), Open Society Foundations; former Deputy Director, Africa Division, Human Rights Watch

**Prof Martin Scheinin**
European University Institute, Florence, Italy; former member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee; first United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism

**Prof John Dugard**
Extraordinary Professor at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Member, International Commission of Jurists
WHERE HDRA LECTURERS HAVE COME FROM

Prof Victor Dankwa
Former Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Prof Sylvia Tamale
Leading African feminist and LGBTI activist, Makerere University, Uganda

Dr George Mukundi (alumnus)
Former Head, African Governance Architecture, African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Prof Jay D Aronson
Founder and Director, Center for Human Rights Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania, USA
IN MEMORIAM

GILL JACOT-GUILLARMOD
Liaison Officer and Senior Programme Manager, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria
May 2001 – January 2010

Gill Jacot-Guillarmod (8 July 1942 – 15 January 2010) was the Senior Programme Manager and Liaison Officer at the Centre for Human Rights. Generations of Master’s students experienced her as the embodiment of the nobility of the human spirit.

Before joining the Centre, Gill worked at the American Embassy for 35 years. During this time, among other things, she was involved with the Fulbright Scholarship programme, which sent the best minds in South Africa abroad to study, contributing indelibly to preparing the leadership for the new, democratic South Africa: in public service, business, academia and the arts among others. As a human being, she was as devoted to the ‘nameless’ and smallest folks in daily life: security guards, domestic workers, every colleague and all their children. When she died, the world cried.

Gill ‘knew everyone who was anyone’ and with unparalleled professional qualification and experience she could have gone anywhere else in the world after she left the embassy, but she chose to join the Centre for Human Rights. She believed in the greatness of the ideas and ideals that underpin our work. She represented the Centre with unassailable confidence, unbridled passion and with tears in her eyes.

The Centre created a staff position to fit this unusual professional and humanitarian: to mentor staff, provide a home for students, advocate with partners and be the face at every Centre public event. Her position was dissolved when she died. Of specific relevance here, she instituted interviews for prospective students of the HRDA programme and oversaw the process with a firm intolerance of the classic scenario in which the candidate feels afraid, intimidated, unworthy. In Pretoria, confident of the academic provision, she ‘wrote the manual’ on student welfare with the oldest hand in the business of settling foreigners in new countries so that they might function at their best and take full advantage of the unique training opportunity they had been selected for.

Hers is a life lived with love and in service to mankind; a life that has endless meaning beyond its passing.

GILL JACOT-GUILLARMOD
CHAIRPERSONS OF THE HRDA COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS

2005 – Prof Nii Ashie
University of Ghana

2006 – Prof Nii Ashie Kotey
University of Ghana

2007 – Prof Sylvia Tamale
Makerere University, Uganda

2009 – Prof Kofi Quashigah
University of Ghana

2010 – Ms Odile Lim Tung
University of Mauritius

2011 – Dra Orquidea Massarongo-Jona
Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique

2012 – Prof Akonumbo Atangcho
Université Catholique d’Afrique Centrale, Cameroon

2013 – Ms Annette Lansink
University of Venda, South Africa

2014 – Dr Papa Sy
Université Gaston Berger, Senegal

2015 – Dr Damalie Naggita-Musoke
Makerere University, Uganda

2016 – Prof Patricia Kameri-Mbote
University of Nairobi, Kenya

2017 – Prof Benyam Mezmur
University of the Western Cape, South Africa

2018 – Prof Kwado Appia Gyei-Atua
University of Ghana

2019 – Prof Christopher Mbazira
Makerere University, Uganda
PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

**ETHIOPIA**
Addis Ababa University (est. 1950)
*African Moot host: 2006*
*HRDA Director:*
Dr Yonas Adinew Birmeta
Dr Gedion Hessebon
*HRDA partner since 2016*

**CAMEROON**
Université Catholique d’Afrique Centrale (est. 1989)
*African Moot host: 2003*
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Jean Didier Boukongou
Prof Anga Pang-Akonumbo
*HRDA partner since 2002*

**BENIN**
Université d’Abomey Calavi (est. 1970)
*African Moot host: 2010*
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Noel Gbaguidi
Ms Gisèle Dantinnon
*HRDA partner since 2012*

**GHANA**
University of Ghana (est. 1948)
*African Moot host: 2000*
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Kofi Quashigah (Dean)
Prof Kwadwo Appia Gyeyi-Atua
*HRDA partner since 2000*

**KENYA**
University of Nairobi (est. 1956)
*African Moot host: 2014*
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Patricia Kameri-Mbote (Dean)
Dr Yvonne Oyiieke
*HRDA partner since 2014*

**MOZAMBIQUE**
Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (est. 1962)
*African Moot host: 1998, 2012*
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Armando Dimande (Dean)
Dra Orquidea Massarongo
*HRDA partner since 2005*

**NIGERIA**
University of Lagos (est. 1962)
*African Moot host: 2009*
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Ayodele Atesenuwa (Dean)
Ms Folasade Ogunkoya
*HRDA partner since 2012*

**SOUTH AFRICA**
University of Venda (est. 1982)
*African Moot host: 2013*
*HRDA Director:*
Ms Annette Lansink (Dean)
Dr Ademola Jegede
*HRDA partner since 2011*

**SOUTH AFRICA**
University of Pretoria (est. 1908)
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Magnus Killander
*HRDA partner since 2000*

**MAURITIUS**
University of Mauritius (est. 1965)
*African Moot host: 2017*
*HRDA Director:*
Prof Geetanee Napal Mr Hambirajen Nasinghen
*HRDA partner since 2008*

**UGANDA**
Makerere University (est. 1922)
*African Moot host: 1997*
*HRDA Director:*
Dr Damalie Naggita-Musoke (Dean)
Dr Ronald Naluwairo
*HRDA partner since 2000*
PARTNER UNIVERSITIES
2017 visit of Dr Thomas Feist, German MP and Member of the Council of Europe, with Ms Philina Wittke, Director of DAAD in South Africa

2005 signing the funding contract with Ambassador Lodewijk Briët, Head of European Union Delegation to South Africa

2014 signing the funding contract with Ambassador Kari M. Bjørnsgaard, Ambassador of Norway to South Africa

2014 DAAD Event
The Global Campus of Human Rights is an EU-funded global network of universities based on cooperation between the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) - the network’s focal point and umbrella organisation - and seven Regional Programmes which are based in Venice for Europe, in Sarajevo/Bologna for South East Europe, in Yerevan for the Caucasus, in Pretoria for Africa, in Bangkok for Asia-Pacific, in Buenos Aires for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Beirut for the Arab world.

This large network, whose overall composition includes 100 prestigious universities, is the largest university network in the world specialised on human rights and democracy issues. Its partners are renowned worldwide for their leading role in education, research and advocacy in human rights and democratisation.
The aim of the Global Campus is to educate a new generation of human rights professionals in a global and integrated global framework, who are able to meet global challenges which are informed by universal values and standards, European human rights policies and regional approaches to human rights, and aimed at strengthening the resilience of democracies and democratic movements on all continents.

The African Programme on Human Rights and Democratisation at the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria – under the leadership of Frans Viljoen and Nkatha Murungi – is an unfailing source of inspiration for all the partner programmes and universities of the Global Campus of Humans Rights. Its award-winning Master's Degree and Moot Courts have educated generations of human rights defenders, high-ranking state and international organisation officials and distinguished experts. Its academic staff – renowned for its scientific production and publications – and its highly professional administrative staff are among the most cherished and valued assets of the Global Campus of Human Rights that very much counts on the African Programme's vision, achievements and leadership.

Dr Veronica Gomez
Chairperson,
Global Campus of Human Rights
Doctorates completed by alumni

**South Africa**

**UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**
- Amir Abdallah (Sudan, 2000)
- Evarist Baimu (Tanzania, 2000)
- Kithure Kindiki (Kenya, 2000)
- Martin Nsibirwa (Uganda, 2000)
- Lirette Louw (South Africa, 2001)
- Lilian Chenwi (Cameroon, 2002)
- Christian Chofor Che (Cameroon, 2003)
- George Mukundi (Kenya, 2003)
- Prudence Acirokoo (Uganda, 2005)
- Chacha Bhoke (Tanzania, 2005)
- Waruguru Kaguongo (Kenya, 2005)
- Mwiza Nkatha (Malawi, 2005)
- Tarisai Mutangi (Zimbabwe, 2005)
- Osogo Ambani (Kenya, 2006)
- Solomon Ebobrah (Nigeria, 2006)
- Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007)
- Akinola Akintayo (Nigeria, 2007)
- Victor Lando (Kenya, 2007)
- Innocent Maja (Zimbabwe, 2007)
- Ololade Shyllon (Nigeria, 2007)
- Japeth Biegon (Kenya, 2008)
- Bonolo Dinokopila (Botswana, 2008)
- Ademola Jegede (Nigeria, 2008)
- Remember Miamingi (South Sudan, 2008)
- Azubike Onuora-Oguno (Nigeria, 2008)
- Adem Abebe (Ethiopia, 2009)
- Victor Ayeni (Nigeria, 2011)
- Thompson Chengeta (Zimbabwe, 2011)
- Emma Lubaale (Uganda, 2011)
- Romola Adeola (Nigeria, 2012)
- Ashwane Budoo (Mauritius, 2012)
- Paul Ogendi (Kenya, 2012)
- Seith Wekesa (Kenya, 2012)
- Nora Ho Tu Nam (Mauritius, 2013)
- Adrian Juko (Uganda, 2013)
- Mariam Kamunyu (Kenya, 2014)

**UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE**
- Danwood Chirwa (Malawi, 2001)
- Godfrey Odongo (Kenya, 2002)
- Christopher Mbazira (Uganda, 2003)
- Yonatan Fessha (Ethiopia, 2004)
- Jamil Mujuzi (Uganda, 2005)
- Benyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia, 2005)
- Rebecca Amollo (Uganda, 2006)
- Angelo Dube (Swaziland, 2007)
- Douglas Singiza (Uganda, 2007)
- Aquinaldo Celo Mandlate (Mozambique, 2008)
- Nkatha Murungi (Kenya, 2009)
- Conrad Bosire (Kenya, 2009)
- Usang Maria Assim (Nigeria, 2009)
- Nicholas Orago (Kenya, 2010)
- Enoch Chilamba (Malawi, 2011)
- Agaba Daphine Kabagambe (Uganda, 2013)

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**
- Benson Olugbuo (Nigeria, 2003)
- Anthony Diala (Nigeria, 2007)

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**
- Boitumelo Mmusinyane (South Africa, 2003)
JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS
Alumni have published in over 80 journals worldwide, including the following:

**African Journals**
- African Disability Rights Yearbook
- African Human Rights Law Journal
- African Journal of Conflict Resolution
- African Yearbook of International Law
- African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law
- Afrika Focus Journal
- Awka Journal of Research in Music and The Arts
- Bahir Dar University Journal of Law
- Cameroon Journal on Democracy and Human Rights
- Centrepoint Journal of Humanities
- China Monitor (African East Asian Affairs)
- East African Journal of Human Rights & Peace
- East African Journal of Peace and Human Rights
- Economic and Social Rights Review in Africa
- Ethiopian Journal of Human Rights
- Ethiopian Journal of Legal Education
- Journal of African Law
- Journal of the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa
- Jimma University Journal of Law
- Law Democracy and Development Journal
- Madonna University Law Journal
- Mekelle University Law Journal
- Mizan Law Review Journal
- Oromia Journal of Law
- South African Journal of Human Rights
- South African Journal of Military Studies
- South African Yearbook of International Law
- Kenya Law Review Journal
- Pretoria Students Law Review
- University of Benin Law Journal
- University of Ilorin Law Journal
- University of Nairobi Law Journal
- Journal of the Jomo Kenyatta University
- Young Africa Research Journal
- Without Prejudice

**Human Rights Monitor**
- International Journal of African Renaissance Studies
- International Journal of Minority and Group Rights
- Journal of the Association of Japanese Literary Studies
- Journal of Contemporary Law
- Journal of International Law
- The Macrotheme Review
- US-China Law Review Journal
- The Journal of World Intellectual Property

**European Journals**
- African Journal of Legal Studies
- Afrika Focus
- European Society Journal
- Human Rights Law Review
- Journal of Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
- International Journal of Public Law and Policy
- International Journal of Private Law
- Journal of Money Laundering Control
- LSE Journal on Global Governance
- Netherlands International Law Review
- Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights
- Nordic Journal of Human Rights
- International Journal of Human Rights
- International Journal of Refugee Law
- International Journal of Transitional Justice
- International Work Group of Indigenous Affairs
- Scientia Militaria, South African Journal of Military Studies
- Statute Law Review
- The Economic and Social Review Journal
- The International Journal of Children’s Rights
- The Journal of Law, Social Justice and Global Development
- The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunal Transformation

**Asia Pacific Journals**
- Asia Pacific Journal of Environmental Law
- Australian Journal of Human Rights
- Chinese Journal of Environmental Law
- Melbourne Journal of International Law

**North American Journals**
- American Journal of International Law
- Columbia Journal of Transnational Law
- Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law Quarterly
- Eyes on the International Criminal Court (ICC) Journal
- Harvard Africa Policy Journal
- Health and Human Rights Journal of the Harvard School of Public Health
- Human Rights Brief

**Others**
- International Journal on Reproductive Health Matters
- International Criminal Law Review
- Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Management
- Journal of International and Comparative Law
- Journal of Justice
- Journal of Law and Ethics
BOOKS

Monographs


Collections edited by alumni


M Addaney (Ghana, 2015) and M G Nyarko (Ghana, 2014) (eds) Ghana @ 60: Governance and Human Rights in Twenty-First Century Africa 2018


Contributors: K Obura (Kenya, 2005), C Bhoke (Tanzania, 2005), GW Mugwanya (FRCP, Uganda, 1996), B Dinokopila (Botswana, 2008), S Ouma (Kenya, 2005), F Tiba (Ethiopia, 2001), K Neldjingaye (Chad, 2007), C Mbazira (Uganda, 2003), C Garuka (Rwanda, 2005), J Ambani (Kenya, 2006), B Olugbuo (Nigeria, 2003), M Nkhata (Malawi, 2005), L Stone (South Africa)
DEANS / HEADS OF SCHOOL

Prof Danwood Chirwa  
(Malawi, 2001)  
Dean,  
Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Dr Fikremarkos Birhanu  
(Ethiopia, 2002)  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Dr Roselyn Karugonjo-Segawa  
(Uganda, 2003)  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Uganda Christian University, Mukono

Dr Mwiza Nkatha  
(Malawi, 2005)  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Chancellor College, University of Malawi

Prof Solomon Ebobrah  
(Nigeria, 2006)  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Niger Delta University, Nigeria

Dr Lungowe Matakala  
(Zambia, 2002)  
Assistant Dean (Postgraduate Studies)  
Faculty of Law, University of Zambia

Benedict Nchalla  
(Tanzania, 2008)  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Tumaini University, Makumira, Tanzania

Dr Innocent Maja  
(Zimbabwe, 2007)  
Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Zimbabwe

The HRDA Master’s is a prestigious qualification that sets one apart. It enabled my entry into a PhD programme at the University of Cambridge; and influenced my career choice of academia. I am the former Dean of Law at the University of Lusaka, currently teaching law at the University of Zambia, where I have held several management positions including Assistant Dean Postgraduate and Research. I have contributed to policy change and law reform in Zambia’s laws on refugees, gender based violence and education through parliamentary submissions, legal drafting and research. I am the founder of Beyond Research, a research consulting firm based in Zambia.

Dr Lungowe Matakala  
(Zambia, 2002)  
Assistant Dean (Postgraduate Studies)  
Faculty of Law, University of Zambia
I am very honoured to have been invited to make a contribution to this special edition of the alumni newsletter.

I left the Gambia with a wealth of knowledge that I will always treasure. It was a fantastic learning experience and I am thankful for the skills acquired and lessons learned. Barely 27 years old at the time, my time with the Faculty of Law made me a more complete and well-rounded person. I learned how to take direction, criticism, and compliments (for the first time). These are three things I feel I can apply in many different situations, both professional and personal.

It was a wonderful opportunity to witness the growth of the Faculty of Law. I am particularly proud of the successes registered by the Faculty in the areas of student enrolment, recruitment of faculty members, acquisition of learning and reading materials, establishment of new special academic programmes such as a Legal Aid Clinic, a Mooting and Legal Advocacy Programme and an internationally recognised curriculum.

As the only law faculty in The Gambia, its solid and continued development is crucial to the future of the legal system of The Gambia. As the Dean, it was a humbling experience to have played a part in its development.

Above all, I am grateful to the Centre for Human Rights, for its generous support and immense financial contributions.

Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo (Ghana, 2011)
Acting Dean, Faculty of Law, University of The Gambia
**LECTURERS**

**Australia**
Deakin University, Melbourne
Firew Tiba (Ethiopia 2001)

University of Canberra
University of Western Australia
Takele Bulto (Ethiopia, 2003)

**Botswana**
University of Botswana
Bonolo Dinokopila (Botswana, 2008)
Obonye Jonas (Botswana, 2010)
Tshepiso Ndzinge-Makhamisa (Botswana, 2015)

Balsago University College
Kago Mokotedi (Botswana, 2015)

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Université Libre de Kinshasa
Jean-Désiré Ingange-Wa-Ingange (Democratic Republic of Congo, 2001) Associate Professor

Université de Lubumbashi
Joseph Yav Katshung (Democratic Republic of Congo, 2004) Professor

**Ethiopia**
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
Fikremarkos Birhanu (Ethiopia, 2002) Associate Professor
Solomon Dersso (Ethiopia, 2003) Adjunct Professor
Mizanie Tadesse (Ethiopia, 2007)
Fasil Gessesse (Ethiopia, 2008)
Anchinesh Mulu (Ethiopia, 2009)
Jibril Ali (Ethiopia, 2009) Assistant Professor

Debre Markos University
Asrar Adem Gebeyehu (Ethiopia, 2017)

Haramaya University
Daba Bacha Muleta (Ethiopia, 2014)

Jimma University
Abiy Areshafi (Ethiopia, 2015)

Finland
Åbo Akademi University
Sisay Alemahu (Ethiopia, 2004) Institute for Human Rights

**The Gambia**
University of The Gambia
Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo (Ghana, 2011)
Nqobani Nyathi (Zimbabwe, 2017)
Samuel Ade Ndasi (Cameroon, 2018)
Basiru Bah (The Gambia, 2018)
Essa Njie (The Gambia, 2018)

**Ghana**
Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
Edmund Foley (Ghana, 2004)

University of Cape Coast
Ernest Ako (Ghana, 2010)

**Kenya**
Africa Nazarene University
Evelyne Asaala (Kenya, 2009)

Catholic University of Eastern Africa
Mariam Kamunyu (Kenya, 2014)
Joshua Ogega (Kenya, 2015)

Kabarak University
Lucyann Warnbui Thuo (Kenya, 2014)
Jared Gekombe (Kenya, 2016)

Moi University
Walker Ochieng (Kenya, 2012)
Duncan Munabi (Kenya, 2013)

Strathmore University
Osogo Ambani (Kenya, 2006)

University of Nairobi, Kenya
Kithure Kindiki (Kenya, 2000)
Attiya Waris (Kenya, 2004)
Ken Obura (Kenya, 2005)
Nicholas Orago (Kenya, 2010)

Riara University
Seith Wekesa (Kenya, 2012)
Victor Lando (Kenya, 2007)

Academics should use their research environment and skills to identify societal problems, propose workable solutions, including based on comparative cross-border experiences, and challenge and work with the powers that be. I am for ‘activist’ academics! The baseline has not changed much, and the need for an academia connected to and working in interaction with policymakers, from the African Union to the lowest administrative units in each country, is as high as ever.

Adem Abebe (Ethiopia, 2009) Assistant Professor (Part-Time) Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
**Lecturers**

**Lesotho**  
*National University of Lesotho*  
Itumeleng Shale (Lesotho, 2008)

**Malawi**  
*University of Malawi*  
Mwiza Nkhata (Malawi, 2005)  
Ngcimezile Mbano (Malawi, 2008)  
Enoch Chilemba (Malawi, 2011)

**Madagascar**  
*Université de Toliara*  
Sanaty Mohamed (Madagascar, 2002)

**Mali**  
*Université de Bamako*  
Lahyerou AG Aly (Mali, 2010)

**Mauritius**  
*University of Mauritius*  
Roopanand Mahadew (Mauritius, 2011)

**Mozambique**  
*Universidade Eduardo Mondlane*  
Armando Cuamba (Mozambique, 2009)  
Farida Mamad (Mozambique, 2009)  
Paulo Jorge Nhancale (Mozambique, 2011)

**Namibia**  
*University of Namibia*  
Kennedy Kariseb (Namibia, 2016)

**Nigeria**  
*Adekunle Ajasin University*  
Victor Ayeni (Nigeria, 2011)  
- Senior Lecturer and Sub-Dean, Faculty of Law

*University of Ilorin*  
Azubike Onuora-Ogunu (Nigeria, 2008)

*University of Benin*  
Lily Oyakirome (Nigeria, 2017)

*University of Lagos, Nigeria*  
Akinola Akintayo (Nigeria, 2007)  
Bamisaye Oyetola (Nigeria, 2014)

**Rwanda**  
*National University of Rwanda*  
Florence Mukamugema (Rwanda, 2000)  
Tom Mulisa (Rwanda, 2009)

**Sudan**  
*Faculty of Law, University of Khartoum*  
Amir Abdallah (Sudan, 2000)  
- Assistant Professor  
Amani Ejami (Sudan, 2003)  
- Part-time lecturer

**South Africa**  
*University of Cape Town*  
Enos Tshivhase (South Africa, 2000)

*University of Fort Hare*  
Manfred Chinamasa (Zimbabwe, 2001)  
Tebello Thabane (Lesotho, 2006)

*University of South Africa*  
Mmatsie Mooki (South Africa, 2002)  
Lee Stone (South Africa, 2002)  
Boitumelo Mmusinyane (South Africa, 2003)  
Angelo Dube (Swaziland, 2007)  
- Associate Professor

*University of Venda*  
Jegede Ademola (Nigeria, 2008)  
Emma Lubaale (Uganda, 2011)

*University of the Western Cape*  
Carmel Jacobs (South Africa, 2004)  
Benyam Mezmur (Ethiopia, 2005)  
Jamil Mujuzi (Uganda, 2005)  
- Associate Professor  
Rebecca Amollo (Uganda, 2006)  
Anthony Diala (Nigeria, 2007)  
Maria Ussang (Nigeria, 2009)

**Walter Sisulu University**  
Oladejo Olowu (Nigeria, 2001)  
- Professor of Law (Public Law & Legal Philosophy)

Why did I choose to make a career for myself in academics? I think overall, I was influenced by my observation that academics gives one the opportunity to contribute to shaping society both directly and indirectly. I saw people I consider to be mentors directly contributing to societal discourse on important issues through their publications and indirectly shaping the thought processes and eventual life views of students who then went on to make their own mark in society. I saw that academics gave one a distinctive voice and allowed one to share one’s values and knowledge with others, thus extending one’s contributions far beyond immediate imagination. So for me, it is the opportunity that academics gives to serve humanity directly and indirectly that was the attraction. I am able to do my bit and I am still able to influence others to do their bit in ways similar to mine.

Prof Solomon Ebobrah (Nigeria, 2006)  
Professor, Dean, Faulty of Law,  
Niger Delta University, Nigeria
My interest in the academic arose just when I was enrolled for the LLM programme at the University of Pretoria. During that programme, I was exposed to such a vast array of legal scholars and scholarship that my intellectual curiosity was awakened. For the first time, I saw in flesh and conversed with professors who had published things I had come across. This, for me, de-mystified academic work, especially publishing.

The academia serves a unique function in society, with which I identify fully. It drives the quest for the truth, knowledge and human development. From the perspective of our discipline, the academic plays a key role in promoting justice, fairness and social cohesion, by educating lawyers and other functionaries involved in the administration of justice and the development and enforcement of the law, and through legal scholarship. The academia also happens to provide the freedom and wherewithal for reflection, creativity and innovation.

I have been most privileged to work with some of the most intellectually gifted colleagues and students from many African countries and beyond during my years in academia, a journey that began at the University of Pretoria.

Danwood Chirwa (Malawi, 2001)
Dean,
Faculty of Law,
University of Cape Town
I chose a career in academia for two reasons. For both intrinsic and extrinsic reasons.

Intrinsically because I like playing with ideas, being challenged by ideas, immersing myself in concepts and coming up with answers to complex issues. In South Africa, of course, the complex issue is how to resolve the elements of colonialism and apartheid. I am in academia to try to find answers to those questions. Especially because in South African academia, the focus has always been on apartheid and not on colonialism and that has led to a non-focus and therefore a missing of the problem.

There is also an unnecessary focus on the constitution, which is said to be transformative. That, of course, is untrue. The constitution is anti-decolonisation. It is very very narrow because it focuses on apartheid. Therefore in my research I try to expand the horizon of the problem and the solution. The problem is colonisation and therefore we need a constitution that is decolonial. Therefore I try to dip into the archive of decolonial thought in South Africa and abroad to understand how to resolve the problem we have in South Africa and in other parts of Africa. In other parts of Africa, the problem is neo-colonial constitutions.

Intrinsically, I like the classroom very much. I enjoy teaching. I enjoy stimulating and being stimulated by students. I enjoy seeing my students after five years, ten years in places of influence and also making a difference in the lives of people in South Africa and other parts of Africa. I am in academia because I like shaping minds and being shaped in the classroom by students.

Tshepo Madlingozi (South Africa, 2002)
Director,
Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS)
University of the Witwatersrand

My love for academia stems from the fact that I find joy in acquiring and producing knowledge. I draw immense pleasure from a conversation in ideas. Sharing intellectual experience with fellow scholars and students, and the contribution that makes to the creation of the next generation of critical thinkers, has continued to reinforce the belief that I have made the correct career choice. And, of course, there is the independence and the time flexibility that academia offers.

Yonatan Fessha (Ethiopia, 2004)
Associate Professor,
Faculty of Law,
University of the Western Cape

The intellectual stimulation and
creativity in the academic environment is appealing. A career in academia, while challenging, offers various opportunities. Teaching, for example, offers an opportunity to not only share one’s ideas with students but to also receive feedback and effect positive change in their lives. In addition, the academic environment offers an opportunity to devote research time to fleshing out issues related to one’s research interests (with much freedom to pursue one’s research interests), coupled with the reward of learning about the impact of one’s research. There is also the potential for exciting collaborations with colleagues, students and stakeholders outside of academia.

**Lilian Chenwi** (Cameroon, 2002)
Professor, Faculty of Law,
University of the Witwatersrand

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### Swaziland

**University of Swaziland**

- Christian Dumsani Dlamini (Swaziland, 2008)
- Simangele Mavundla (Swaziland, 2009)

### Tanzania

**University of Dodoma**

- Chacha Bhoke (Tanzania, 2005)
- Peter Josiah Shughuru (Tanzania, 2012)
- Lucius Batty Njiti (Tanzania, 2014)

**Moshi Co-operative University**

- Alphonce Mbuya (Tanzania, 2014)

**Mzumbe University**

- Benjamin Motika (Tanzania, 2006)
- Isabela Warioba (Tanzania, 2011)

**St Augustine University**

- George Mwaisondola (Tanzania, 2002)

**Tumaini University**

- Benedict Nchalla (Tanzania, 2008)
Uganda

Islamic University in Uganda
James Nkuubi (Uganda, 2009)

Makerere University, Uganda
Patricia Atim (Uganda, 2009)
Associate Professor

Attiya Waris ► (Kenya, 2004)
Professor, School of Law,
University of Nairobi, Kenya

Uganda Christian University
Priscilla Ankut (Nigeria, 2003)
Roselyn Karugonjo-Segawa
(Uganda, 2003)
Dean, Faculty of Law

Henry Mwebe (Uganda, 2004)

United Kingdom

Essex University
Thokozani Kaime (Malawi, 2002)

Zimbabwe

Midlands State University
Thompson Chengeta
(Zimbabwe, 2011)
Esau Mandipa (Zimbabwe, 2011)

Zambia

University of Zambia
Lungowe Matakala (Zambia, 2002)
UNIVERSITY-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

Benyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia, 2005)
Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Democracy and Human Rights,
University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Hadiza Mahaman (Niger, 2008)
Niger Human Rights Centre for Peace and Development
University of Tahoua

Biel Boutros (South Sudan, 2014)
Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University School of Law, New York City, USA

Satang Nabaneh (The Gambia, 2012), Henrietta Ekefre (Nigeria, 2015) and Mariam Kamunya (Kenya, 2014) are or was involved
with the work of the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria
LEGAL PRACTICE

Morne van der Linde (South Africa, 2000)
Aruna Dukhi (South Africa, 2000)
Sisule Musungu (Kenya, 2001)
Managing Partner, Sisule Munyi Kilonzo & Associates Advocates, Nairobi, Kenya
William Olenasha (Tanzania, 2001)
Partner, Law Consult Advocates, Dar es Salaam
Simeneh Assefa (Ethiopia, 2002)
Law Offices of Simeneh Assefa, San Francisco, USA
Kealeboga Bojosi (Botswana, 2002)
Gabriel Shumba (Zimbabwe, 2002)
Johannesburg Bar
Samuel Amposah-Frimpong (Ghana, 2003)
Amani Ejami (Sudan, 2003)
El Karib & Medani Law firm, Sudan
Abiola Idowu-Ojo (Nigeria, 2003)
ACAS-Law, Lagos, Nigeria
Isaac Matlawe (South Africa, 2003)
Nimatalie Othman (The Gambia, 2003)
Epimaque Rubango-Kayihura (Rwanda, 2003)
Partner at R & P Law Firm
Gina Snyman (South Africa, 2003)
Advocate, Johannesburg Society of Advocates, South Africa
Debebe Wendimgeza (Ethiopia, 2003)
Debebe Law Office, Ethiopia
Yonas Gebreselassie (Eritrea, 2004)
Law Office of Erich Keefe, USA
Maushami Chetty (South Africa, 2004)
Tarisai Mutangi (Zimbabwe, 2005)
Donsa-Nkomo and Mutangi Attorneys, Harare, Zimbabwe
Zandile Gabela (South Africa, 2005)
Christian Nsabimana Garuka (Rwanda, 2005)
Thulani Maseko (Swaziland, 2005)
Okyerebe Aampofo-Anti (Ghana, 2005)
Partner, Webber Wenkzel, Johannesburg
Sonkitah Conteh (Sierra Leone, 2006)
Rino Kamidi (DRC, 2007)
Kamidi law firm
Innocent Maja (Zimbabwe, 2007)
Lorato Rammule (South Africa, 2007)
Bowman Gilfillan Attorneys
Rosemary Sengendo (Uganda, 2007)
Sengendo & Co Inc, Windoek, Namibia
David Simonsz (South Africa, 2007)
Armand Tanoh (Côte d’Ivoire, 2007)
Adda Kaore Angula (Namibia, 2008)
Sisa Nambandje & Co Inc, Windoek, Namibia
Victor Jere (Malawi, 2008)
Churchill & Norris Law Consultants, Malawi
Tazorora Musarurwa (Zimbabwe, 2008)
Mambosasa Legal Practitioners, Zimbabwe
Bright Theu (Malawi, 2009)
Rumbidzai Dube (Zimbabwe, 2010)
Emerson Lopes (Mozambique, 2010)
Mandala Mambulasa (Malawi, 2010)
Managing Partner, Mambulusa & Co Advocates, Malawi
Americo Marindze (Mozambique, 2010)
Gilberto Correia Advogados & Consultores, Lda, Maputo, Mozambique
Augustine Marrah (Sierra Leone, 2010)
Senior Partner, KMK Solicitors, Sierra Leone
Benedicta Armah (Ghana, 2012)
Sam Okudzefo & Associates, Ghana
Dennis Armah (Ghana, 2012)
T Forson & Co law firm
Henry Komakech (Uganda, 2012)
Komakech-Kilama & Co Advocates
Thabiso Siza Mavuso (Botswana, 2012)
Motsa-Mavuso Attorneys, Swaziland
Boubacar Borgho Diakite (Senegal, 2015)
Geni & Kebe law firm
Thuto Senwedi (Botswana, 2018)
Senior Associate (Corporate), Bookbinder Business Law, Botswana

I believe in change and have always associated human rights with economic policies. Human rights have always been a difficult area to work in, but today human rights lawyers have the responsibility to influence people-centered decisions by policy makers. We must also be active in the business and human rights environment, once again to ensure that business and company policies place human beings at the heart of their operations. In the end, human beings are the very raison d’être of all we do.

Claudio Fokuco
(Mozambique, 2009)
C Fokuco & J Tesoura Advogados, Lda
Maputo, Mozambique
Children are the messages one generation sends to the next. Ensuring that the rights and welfare of the child are realised is a pivotal responsibility of every generation. Therefore, specialising in children’s rights is undertaking my generational duty to the next generation. African children will have reasons to be hopeful when African governments make the necessary investment in children and when policy documents are fully implemented. This is not the situation yet.

**Remember Miamingi** (South Sudan, 2008)
Pan-African Advocacy and Institutional Relations Manager

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**Save the Children**

- **Rakeb Aberra** (Ethiopia, 2000)
  Regional Advisor for West and Central Africa

- **Frenesh Belay** (Ethiopia, 2005)
  Partnership and Advocacy Officer

- **Eskedar Bekele** (Ethiopia, 2006)
  Post-2015 Consultant

- **Dejene Janka** (Ethiopia, 2007)
  Senior Policy Specialist

- **Juliet Kekimuli** (Uganda, 2015)
  Legal Intern, Child Rights Governance Department

- **Tsion Woldu** (Ethiopia, 2017)

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**OTHER CHILDREN’S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS**

- **Charlotte Oloya** (Uganda, 2011)
  Varkey GEMS Foundation, Uganda

- **Justine Katushabe** (Rwanda, 2002)
  World Vision International, Rwanda

- **Rhoda Igweta** (Kenya, 2008)
  Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Kenya

- **Denyse Amahirwe** (Rwanda, 2014)
  UNICEF Child Protection Specialist (Rwanda)

- **Ophilia Karumuna** (Tanzania, 2010)
  Child Protection in Emergencies Specialist, UNICEF Tanzania

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**CHILDREN’S RIGHTS**

... Save the Children ... *is an organisation that embodies a spirit of compassion, openness and excellence. Its values are an inspiration; its achievements, a source of hope for millions of children.*

HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne
Patron, Save The Children
Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled

Majalihloho Matsoha (Lesotho, 2013) and Masekara Sekoanketla (Lesotho, 2015)

I don't know what it is to see. For me, this has been a normal life.
Zak Yacoob
Retired Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa

2015 Disability Rights Conference
Ending up in the human rights field was a fulfillment of a life long desire to uplift and fight for the most marginalised persons. Having lost both parents at the age of 12, I knew marginalisation and discrimination first-hand as an orphan. A two-month internship at a leading human rights organisation in Uganda made me realise that LGBTI rights were not prioritised by civil society organisations at the time and yet there was a lot of homophobia in the country. I naively thought that the major reason why homophobia persisted was ignorance of the law and human rights. I therefore mobilised my friends and we started HRAFP as a way of bridging this gap, and this is how it all began.

Adrian Jjuuko (Uganda, 2013)
Founder & Executive Director
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, Uganda
My passion to work on LGBT rights came from my year in South Africa and Ethiopia where I relived being in the closet as a gay man at the age of 44. This reminded me of my childhood that I had long forgotten, and the horrible indignity of discrimination and fear. I built The Equality Pledge Network, a coalition of over 250 groups, to force the LGBT movement in the United States to demand full federal SOGI civil rights as a matter of international human rights law. It was a paradigm shift in expectation for our community – to demand our equality as an entitlement – that I would have never envisioned without the incredible experience at the Centre for Human Rights, for which I am eternally grateful.

Todd Fernandez (USA, 2008)
Founder & Campaign Manager
The Equality Pledge Network,
United Sates of America

Guillain Koko (DRC, 2016)
Church World Service

Monica Tabengwa (Botswana, 2017)
Programme Manager, Hivos

Ayodele Sogunro (Nigeria, 2017)
Centre for Human Rights,
University of Pretoria

Richard Lusimbo (Uganda, 2017)
Sexual Minorities, Uganda

Ella Scheepers (South Africa, 2011)
Strategist and Independent Consultant, Sex Work Education and Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT), South Africa

Tabitha Griffith (Kenya, 2012)
Deputy Executive Director, KELIN, Kenya
NGOs – PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)

Eric Bizama (Burundi, 2013)
Legal Officer
Meskerem Techane (Ethiopia, 2011)
Former Deputy Executive Director
Paile Chabane (Lesotho, 2002)
Director of Programmes

Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum
Lloyd Kuveya (Zimbabwe, 2006)
Executive Director

Southern African Litigation Centre
Lara Coetzee (South Africa, 2017)
Maltida Lasseko (Kenya, 2008)
Aquinaldo Mandlate (Mozambique, 2008)
Lloyd Kuveya (Zimbabwe, 2006)
Nyasha Chingore (Zimbabwe, 2005)
Programme Lawyer

Lawyers for Human Rights, Swaziland
Thulani Maseko (Swaziland, 2005)
Executive Director

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
Lizwe Jamela (Zimbabwe, 2013)
Roselyn Hanzi (Zimbabwe, 2006)

Zimbabwe Exiles Forum, South Africa
Gabriel Shumba (Zimbabwe, 2002)

Lesirela Letsebe (South Africa, 2003)
Lawyers for Human Rights, South Africa

Gina Snyman (South Africa, 2003)
In Nigeria, like elsewhere in the world, women face discrimination in most facets of life and there are pervasive, negative stereotypes which must be challenged and broken if women are not to remain second class citizens.

Omowumi Asubiaro (Nigeria, 2004)
Output Lead, Voices for Change Programme (V4C), Nigeria

My interest in women’s rights began as a child, when I joined Voice of the Young, a child-led advocacy group under the Child Protection Alliance (CPA). This interest was further motivated by my experience as a child bride at the age of 14 years and a survivor of FGM. I have committed and dedicated my life to protect women and girls from all forms of violence especially FGM and child marriage. I continue to advocate for more spaces to be opened for women so they can have a platform to discuss issues that affect them. For me, seeing women live a meaningful life is my priority. I will continue to campaign for the advancement of the rights of women and girls, and will break the cycle of harmful traditional practices not only in my family, but in my generation and in my life time.

Musu Bakoto Sawo (The Gambia, 2014)
Deputy Executive Secretary, Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission of The Gambia
Nonhlanhla Mokwena (South Africa, 2015)
Executive Director, People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA), South Africa

Sarai Chisala-Tempelhoff (Malawi, 2005)
Founder & Director, Gender and Justice Unit

Nelly Warega (Kenya, 2018)
Legal Advisor, Women’s Link Worldwide
Our rich natural resources in Africa have long been exploited to the detriment and abuse of our communities and economy with disregard for the sanctity of our inheritance. Even in the struggle discourse of economic development, we need to ensure that the rich biodiversity we have inherited is protected for ourselves and for future generations. Environmental rights are not just about some abstract forest in the Congo Basin with monkeys and apes; they are as real, close and as essential to you as the air you breathe.

Lindlyn Tamufor (Cameroon, 2003)
Programme Director, Greenpeace, South Africa

If you don’t raise your voice, then your environmentalism means nothing.
Wangari Mathai
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Lassana Koné (Côte d’Ivoire, 2009)
Lawyer, Forest Peoples’ Programme, Côte d’Ivoire

Emerson Lopes (Mozambique, 2010)
Lawyer, Anadarko Moçambique Área Lda, Mozambique
Benson Olugbuo (Nigeria, 2003)
Executive Director, CLEEN Foundation, Nigeria

Dieu-Donné Wedi Djamba (DRC, 2010)
Executive Secretary, Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and People's Rights, Tanzania

Llyod Kuveya (Zimbabwe, 2006)
Senior Legal Advisor, International Commission of Jurists, South Africa

Beatrice Odallo (Kenya, 2010)
African Centre for Open Governance, Kenya

Yoseph Mulugeta Badwaza (Ethiopia, 2005)
Senior Programme Officer, Freedom House, USA
The people currently in charge have forgotten the first principle of an open society, namely that we may be wrong and there has to be free discussion. That it’s possible to be opposed to the policies without being unpatriotic.

George Soros
Founder, Open Society Foundations

Godfrey Odongo (Kenya, 2002)
Senior Programme Officer, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, New York, USA

Tem Fuh Mbu (Cameroon, 2010)
Programme Officer: Equality, Justice and Human Rights OSIWA, Dakar, Senegal

Aquinaldo Mandlate (Mozambique, 2008)
OSISA, Johannesburg, South Africa

Sonkita Conteh (Sierra Leone, 2017)
OSIWA, Dakar, Senegal
Without democracy, there cannot be peace.
Nelson Mandela

NGOs – DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

Mercy Njoroge (Kenya, 2009)
Senior Programme Manager for Elections, National Democratic Institute, Kenya

Sheila Karani (Kenya, 2000)
Governance Specialist, USAID, Kenya

Ngaitila Phiri (Zambia, 2001)
USAID, Zambia

Rumbidzai Dube (Zimbabwe, 2010)
National Advisor, Governance and Human Rights, Harare, Zimbabwe

Edward Murimi (Kenya, 2015)
Technical Adviser, Strengthening Good Governance Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

My work in the last few years has steered more towards research work and assistance to legal and constitutional reform efforts in Africa and beyond. The emphasis on research geared towards informing topical constitutional, legal and policy choices forms part of a broader understanding of academia, with its increasing focus on social / community service. Adem Abebe (Ethiopia, 2009)
Editor, ConstitutionNet, International IDEA, The Netherlands, Constitution Building Programme
NGOs – DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Ministers

▲ Nana-Oye Lithur (Ghana, 2001)
Former Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana

▲ Ummy Mwalimu (Tanzania, 2000)
Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Seniors and Children, Tanzania

▲ Marie Saine
(The Gambia, 2005)
Attorney General and Minister of Justice, The Gambia
GOVERNMENT – CIVIL SERVICE

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Doctor Mashabane  
(South Africa, 2001)  
Head of UN Political, Peace and Security Division, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa

Ismail Djibril  
(Djibouti, 2012)  
Secretary General, National Commission for Communication, Djibouti

Lirette Louw  
(South Africa, 2001)  
Legal Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans, South Africa

Mansha Mohee  
(Mauritius, 2017)  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Mauritius

Mbololwa Wamunyima  
(Zambia, 2006)  
Director of Legislative Drafting, Ministry of Justice, Lusaka, Zambia

Aarti Brijlall  
(South Africa, 2001)  
State Law Advisor, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa

Lirette Louw  
(South Africa, 2001)  
Legal Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans, South Africa

Krishna Seegobin  
(Mauritius, 2009)  
Analyst, Ministry of Economic Development, Mauritius

Aarti Brijlall  
(South Africa, 2001)  
State Law Advisor, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa

Diana Salewi  
(Tanzania, 2011)  
Legal Officer, National Land Use Planning, Ministry of Lands, Tanzania

Sabelo Gumedze  
(Swaziland, 2001)  
Head, Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority, South Africa

Herbert Rubasha  
(Rwanda, 2006)  
In charge of country reports, Ministry of Justice, Rwanda

Prisca Ntabaza  
(Democratic Republic of Congo, 2013)  
Great Lakes Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Polo Chabane  
(Lesotho, 2007)  
Chief Legal Officer, Human Rights Unit, Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, Lesotho
STATE ATTORNEYS

Abraham Mwansa (Zambia, 2004)
Solicitor General of the Republic of Zambia

Peace Ofei (Ghana, 2008)

Natasha Banda (Zambia, 2012)

Charles Mmbando (Tanzania, 2008)

Rishi Hardowar (Mauritius, 2009)

Patience Musonda Chomba (Zambia, 2012)

Epimaque Rubango-Kayihura (Rwanda, 2003)

Gina Nyalugwe (Zambia, 2011)

Ticklay Mukosiku (Zambia, 2013)
GOVERNMENT – DIPLOMATIC SERVICE & LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Permanent Missions to the United Nations

Doctor Mashabane (South Africa, 2001)
Deputy Permanent Representative

Allehone Mulugeta (Ethiopia, 2002)
Head, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Bienvenu Houngbedji (Benin, 2002)
Head of Chancery

Embassies

Tilahun Zewudie (Ethiopia, 2016)
Diplomat

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Kithure Kindiki (Kenya, 2000)
Senate Majority Leader, Parliament of Kenya

Marie Sylvie Kawera (Rwanda, 2009)
Government Programmes Researcher, Parliament of Rwanda

Ajibike Adefami (Nigeria, 2010)
Senior Legislative Aide, National Assembly, Abuja, Nigeria

Jeff Zulu (Zambia, 2016) left
Committee Clerk, Parliament of Zambia
“Mr Charm has been called to this high office at a time in Sierra Leone’s history when democracy is taking root and when there are positive signs that the scars of war are beginning to heal in that beautiful country. There remains still much to be done, however, to entrench the democratic gains and ensure that the judiciary remains strong and independent. Mr Charm is well qualified to rise to these challenges, with his trademark courage and conviction, quiet but firm hand, and passion for human rights and human development.”

Message of congratulations from the Centre for Human Rights
January 2016

Abdulai Charm (Sierra Leone, 2000)
Chief Justice of the Republic of Sierra Leone

JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT

Charles Ekow Baiden (Ghana, 2000)

Miatta Samba (Sierra Leone, 2001)

George Buadi (Ghana, 2002)

Lydia Mugambe (Uganda, 2002)

Eva Luswata-Kawuma (Uganda, 2003)

Redson Kapindu (Malawi, 2004)

Monica Mbaru (Kenya, 2005)

Marie Saine (The Gambia, 2005)
GOVERNMENT – JUDICIAL BRANCH

MAGISTRATES

Rosemary Bareebe  
(Uganda, 2008)  
Senior Principal Magistrate, Uganda

Lizwe Jamela  
(Zimbabwe, 2013)  
Senior Magistrate, Bulawayo Magistrate Court

Roseline Nsenge  
(Uganda, 2017)  
Magistrate, Judiciary of Kenya

PROSECUTORS

Rashid Dumbuya  
(Sierra Leone, 2013)

Maurice N’dri  
(Côte d’Ivoire, 2006)

Megan Nieuwoudt  
(South Africa, 2012)

Didier Iradukunda  
(Burundi, 2015)

Khamis Juma Khamis  
(Tanzania, 2015)

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Lizwe Jamela  
(Senior Magistrate, Bulawayo Magistrate Court)

Gloria Kalebe  
(Malawi, 2015)  
Director of Legal & Investigations, Office of the Ombudsman of Malawi
GOVERNMENT – JUDICIAL BRANCH

LAW CLERKS

**Annalena Wuerz** (Germany, 2015)
Higher Regional Court, Frankfurt, Germany

**Akho Ntanjana** (South Africa, 2011)
Law Clerk to Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, Constitutional Court of South Africa

**Linette du Toit** (South Africa, 2013)
Law Clerk to Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseweke, Law Clerk to Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, Supreme Court of Kenya

**Paul Gadenya** (Uganda, 2002)
Senior Technical Advisor, Justice Law and Order Sector, Uganda

**Rachel Njuguna** (Kenya, 2016)
Legal Researcher, Political Parties Dispute Tribunal, Judiciary of Kenya

**Ibrahima Sidibe** (Guinea, 2006)
Head of Section, Research, Constitutional Court of Guinea
Thanks to the experience the contents and methodology of human rights training has been improved and the unit has made its influence at the policy level.

In terms of contents relevant but ignored elements such as socio economic rights, LGBTIQ and domestic violence were integrated into the programme. Human Rights compliance is part of the template for the evaluation of interns.

In methodology, human rights is no longer taught as an isolated course but mainstreamed into other courses. Elements like debates, study visits, practical exercises, human rights relevant dissertations, films and documentary has been included to complement the traditional lectures.

At the policy level, the unit participates in the preparation of statutory Cameroon country reports as well as the evaluation of reports to treaty monitoring bodies.

**Polycarp Ngufor Forkum** (Cameroon, 2007)
Former Commissioner of Police, Head, Human Rights Unit, National Advanced Police School, Yaounde, Cameroon
and Human Rights Officer Field Coordinator:
United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO)
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIs)

The National Commission for Human Rights in Mozambique was established in 2012, the first independent national institution to monitor and defend human rights. Having just completed the HRDA Master’s, I could not ask for a better opportunity to put into practice all the theoretical knowledge I had acquired.

My colleagues and I soon found ourselves dealing with important human rights issues such as the peace dialogue, elections, prisons, early marriage, domestic violence, summary execution. I am proud to say that our institution quickly gained legitimacy and influence with different government institutions, in civil society and with intergovernmental institutions. The National Human Rights Commission has established itself as an important institution for the realisation of human rights in Mozambique.

Farida Mamad (Mozambique, 2009)
Former Commissioner

Jean-Baptiste Baribonekeza
(Burundi, 2006)
Chairperson, Burundi National Human Rights Commission

Djibril Ismail (Djibouti, 2012)
Commissioner, Djibouti Human Rights Commission

Marie Sylvie Kawera
(Rwanda, 2009)
Commissioner

Rashid Dumbuya
(Sierra Leone, 2013)
Commissioner

Lindiwe Khumalo (Swaziland, 2010)
Chief Executive Officer
SEMI- OR QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Victor Lando (Kenya, 2007)
Senior Legal Counsel

Nkeiruka Aduba (Nigeria, 2011)
Senior Legal Officer

Charlene Lubaale (Uganda, 2011)
Legal Officer

Valentim Nhampossa (Mozambique, 2009)
Legal Officer

Doris Sonsiama (Sierra Leone, 2010)
Director of Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services

Christine Umubyeyi (Rwanda, 2011)
Director of Legislation, Human Rights Monitoring and Protection Unit

Hope Ndhlovu (Zambia, 2000)
Chief of Research, Advocacy and Planning

Martin Nsibirwa (Uganda, 2000)
Acting Head: Commissioners Programme; Senior Manager, Executive Support (South Africa)

Chisomo Grace Kaufulu (Malawi, 2012)
Regional Human Rights Coordinator

Cyphas Williams (Sierra Leone, 2010)
Regional Officer, Western Regional Office

Desset Teferi (Ethiopia, 2010)
Researcher

Fahamu Mtulya (Tanzania, 2001)
Assistant Commissioner

Nicola Whittaker (South Africa, 2010)
Senior Legal Officer

Esete Berile Faris (Ethiopia, 2012)
Human Rights Monitoring Expert

Imo Eno Ekpo (Nigeria, 2016)
Nigeria Human Rights Commission

Betty Nangoli (Uganda, 2016)
Ugandan Human Rights Commission

Isaac Matlawe (South Africa, 2003)
Senior Investigator, Office of the Public Protector, South Africa
In April 2015, the President of the Republic of Namibia appointed me Chairperson of the Law Reform and Development Commission for a period of 5 years and at the level of a High Court Judge. The mandate of the Commission is anchored on human rights and the attainment of social justice. The HRDA consolidated my knowledge in the field of human rights. My approach to law reform and development is based on my understanding of human rights and the impact of the envisaged law on the lives of people. I have access to the Centre and a network of human rights scholars, mostly graduates of the programme, and this enhances the work of the LRDC. My contribution to human rights work was recognized in 2012 with the Human Rights Excellence Award from the Law Society of Namibia.

Yvonne Dausab (Namibia, 2001)
Chairperson, Namibia Law Reform Commission

Edward Okello (Kenya, 2006)
Director and Special Adviser to the Chair, Kenya Commission on Administrative Justice

James Matshekga (South Africa, 2000)
Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration

Majalihloho Matsoha (Lesotho, 2013)
National AIDS Commission

Mandala Mambulasa (Malawi, 2010)
Commissioner, Malawi Law Reform Commission

Ruusa Ntinda (Namibia, 2013)
Chief Legal Officer, Namibia Law Reform Commission

Priscilla Ankut (Nigeria, 2003)
Executive Vice Chair/Chief Executive Officer
Kaduna State Peace Building Commission
Government House
Kaduna
AFRICAN UNION

African Union Commission

Lindiwe Khumalo (Swaziland, 2010)
Adviser to the Chairperson

Darsheenee Sigh Raumnauth
(Mauritius, 2014)
Rule of Law Analyst

Jacqueline Hakim
(South Sudan, 2017)
Intern

Valerie Lyaka Kutima
(Kenya, 2015)
Researcher

Bright Sefah
(Ghana, 2016)
Governance Analyst

Allehone Mulugeta
(Ethiopia, 2002)
Senior Legal Advisor,
Department of Political Affairs,
African Union (seconded to the
AU by the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights)
The most profound and lasting game changer to my professional career was my experience at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria – LLM (2003) and LLD (2008). Besides its academic rigour, it was a chance to engage, learn, interact and build lasting relationships with undoubtedly the continent’s leading human rights experts. While there are countless lifelong lessons that I gained from the Programme – the following three have had the most significant impact on my career to date: (1) Pan African approach to problem solving; (2) a focus and emphasis on the why we do what we do – rather than what we do; and that (3) form is equally as important as substance – who would ever forget Prof. Frans’ marks penalties for missing a full stop or a comma in a sentence.

George Mukundi (Kenya, 2003)
Head of African Governance Architecture Secretariat

My passion for human rights justice is driven by my main motto: ‘in the discourse on Africa’s development, justice is not an issue; it is the issue’. Of course, I mean development as freedom from both want – socio-economic – and fear – democratic. On a continent plagued with inequalities, devoting one’s professional life to human rights justice provides you with the satisfaction that governments are made to act, by the rule of law, in a way that changes peoples’ lives. As an African youth and elite, I believe there is nothing more exciting and historically justified than contributing to the maintenance of human rights justice whichever way it is achieved.

Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007)
Principal Legal Officer

Edward Murimi
(Kenya, 2015)
African Governance Architecture Secretariat

Grace Wakio
(Kenya, 2006)
Head of Legal Division

Rotondwo Mashige
(South Africa, 2017)
Intern
African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

Senior legal officers

Takele Bulto (Ethiopia, 2003)
Abiola Idowu-Ojo (nee Ayinla) (Nigeria, 2003)
Marie Saine (The Gambia, 2005)
Irene Mbengue Eleke (Cameroon, 2006)

Legal officers

Estelle Nkounkou (Congo, 2007)
Bruno Menzan (Côte d’Ivoire 2010)
Albab Tesfaye (Ethiopia, 2012)
Martha Guraro (Ethiopia, 2010)
Paul Ogendi (Kenya, 2012)
Interns
Nega Girmachew (Ethiopia, 2000)
Abiola Ayinla (Nigeria, 2003)
George Mukundi (Kenya, 2003)
Francis Ngarhodjim (Chad, 2005)
Irene Mbengue Eleke (Cameroon, 2006)
Ololade Shyllon (Nigeria, 2007)
Samuel Tilahun Tessema (Ethiopia, 2008)
Lassana Koné (Côte d’Ivoire, 2009)
Tem Fuh Mbu (Cameroon, 2010)
Dieu-Donné Wedi Djamba (DRC, 2010)
Charles Nguena (Cameroon, 2011)
Paul Ogendi (Kenya, 2012)
Albab Tesfaye (Ethiopia, 2012)
Eric Bizimana (Burundi, 2013)
Solomon Bakare (Nigeria, 2014)
Hlengiwe Dube (Zimbabwe, 2015)
Elsabé Boshoff (South Africa, 2016)
Stephen Baubeng-Baidoo (Ghana, 2017)

I have been ‘the Pretoria intern’ at the African Commission since February 2017, and it has been an exceptional experience. While based in Banjul, The Gambia, I had the opportunity to travel to attend Sessions of the Commission. So I braved the 40+ degree summer in Niger and got to visit Gorée Island and the Renaissance monument in Dakar, Senegal. I got the opportunity to work with two special mechanisms – the Working Group on Extractive Industries and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa, which not only deepened my knowledge in these areas, but also allowed me to work closely with two Commissioners. The Secretariat is always exceedingly busy, but with the majority of legal officers being alumni of the Centre, there is always someone available and willing to assist with advice and support. I cannot think of a better way to practically apply the theory learnt in the HRDA Master’s than by spending time at the Commission, and I am incredibly privileged to have had this opportunity.

Elsabé Boshoff
(South Africa, 2016)
To start with, I would like to testify that the program of HRDA is life changing program. The HRDA program is full of experience. Before joining the program, my knowledge on the rights of children as well as African Committee of Experts on the Right and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) was insignificant. The program highly boosted my knowledge on children’s right and the work of the Committee. This in turn has positively contributed to my work I’m working with the ACERWC. The program also highly improved my research, analysis and writing skill. This enabled me to carry out my work at the Committee effectively. In general, my HRDA experience has immensely contributed to my role at the ACERWC.

Merga Yadesa Dibaba (Ethiopia, 2015)
Consultant
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS – UN

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Patrick Eba (Côte d’Ivoire, 2004)
Senior Human Rights and Law Adviser

Mianko Ramaroson (Madagascar, 2003)
Community Support Adviser

Christelle Diwouta (Cameroon, 2004)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)

Donnah Kamashazi (Rwanda, 2003)
Deputy Regional Programme Director (Kigali)

Jane Serwanga (Kenya, 2013)
Gender Specialist

Desset Terefi (Ethiopia, 2010)
Program Officer, Ethiopia Country Office

Tikikel Alemu (Ethiopia, 2007)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Anganile Mwenifumbo (Malawi, 2006)
Human Rights Officer (Geneva)

Jean Fokwa (Cameroon, 2004)
Human Rights Officer (Pretoria)

Augustin Kounkine Some (Burkina Faso, 2004)
Chief of the Human Rights Section (Abidjan)

Anwar Hamid Gubara (Sudan, 2013)
Human Rights Officer, Bernit, Lebanon

Boris-Ephrem Tchoumavi (Côte’Ivoire, 2005)
Human Rights Officer (Geneva); Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Central Africa

Sena Noukpo (Benin, 2000)
Political Affairs Officer

Isatou Harris (The Gambia, 2004)
Regional Adviser on Gender

Teddy Namatovu (Uganda, 2016)
Junior Professional Officer (Associate expert), (New York)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS – UN

United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Kameldy Neldjingaye (Chad, 2007)
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS – UN

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)

Evarist Baimu (Tanzania, 2000)
Senior Counsel (Jakarta)

Kobina Daniel (Ghana, 2001)
Programme Manager (Johannesburg)

Robert Mugisha (Rwanda, 2001)
Human Rights and Social Protection Specialist (Washington DC)

United Nations–African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)

Yvonne Masarakufa (Zimbabwe, 2002)
Human Rights Officer (Nairobi)

Francis Ngarhodjim (Chad, 2005)
Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Africa

Sehen Hirpo (Ethiopia, 2006)
Electoral/ Political Affairs Office
United Nations Department for Political Affairs, Electoral Assistance Division, New York

Other United Nations Agencies

United Nations International Maritime Organisation (UNIMO)

Inonge Kwenda (Zambia, 2006)
Legal Officer and Depositary Officer (London)

Rachel Irura (Kenya, 2002)
UN Mission in Liberia

Revai Makanje (Zimbabwe, 2003)
UN Deputy Country Representative
Zimbabwe
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS – UN

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Kenechukwu Esom (Nigeria, 2006)
Policy Specialist, Law and Human Rights (New York, USA)

Janet Chambo (Tanzania, 2005)
Senior Regional Resettlement Officer, UNHCR, Nairobi

Jean-Baptiste Baribonekeza (Burundi, 2006)
Policy Analyst (Dakar)

Joao Fernandes (Mozambique, 2005)
Assistant Protection Officer (Mozambique)

Mwajuma Msangi (Tanzania, 2009)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Tafadzwa Mapfumo (Zimbabwe, 2005)
Justice and Human Rights Specialist (Harare, Zimbabwe)

Gloria Nyaki (Tanzania, 2002)
Protection Officer (Dar es Salaam)

Hibo Mohamoud (Somaliland, 2015)
Assistant Protection Officer (Mogadishu, Somalia)

James Monibah (Liberia, 2016)
(Liberia)
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS – UN & AU
CONFLICT AND PEACE-KEEPING

Tahani El Mobasher (Sudan, 2000)
United Nations Mission in Sudan

Ehsan Abdelgadir (Sudan, 2001)
United Nations Mission in Libya

Leda Limann (Ghana, 2003)
United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Augustin Some (Burkina Faso, 2004)
United Nations Mission in Côte d’Ivoire

Estelle Nkounkou
(Congo, 2007)
United Nations Mission in Mali

Boris-Ephrem Tchoumavi
(Côte d’Ivoire, 2005)
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Mali

Ulrike Mbuton
(Cameroon, 2017)
Human Rights Officer, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

Kameldy Neldjingaye (Chad, 2007)
United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (Italy)

Godfrey Musila (Kenya, 2004)
Member, United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

Nono Dihemo (South Africa, 2000)
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Lucius Batty Njiti (Tanzania, 2014)
African Union Liaison Office to Burundi and the Great Lakes Region

Charles Nguena (Cameroon, 2011)
United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic
INTEGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS – EU

Priscilla Ankut (Nigeria, 2003)
Programme Officer, Good Governance and Institutional Reform, Delegation of the European Union, Abuja, Nigeria
You cannot have peace and security without justice. ... you must have rule of law, you must have accountability. This is an atmosphere in which development can take place.

Fatou Bensouda
Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Prudence Acirokop
(Uganda, 2005)
Professional Investigator

Amani Ejami (Sudan, 2003)
Associate Appeals Counsel

Ibrahim Yillah (Sierra Leone, 2001)
Principal Defender

Jennifer Beckley
(Sierra Leone, 2006)
Legal Officer, Appeals Chamber

I work as a Legal Officer for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. This is the first tribunal to prosecute terrorism whose primary mandate is to hold trials for persons accused of carrying out the assassination of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri. I previously worked as a Court Officer for the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the trial of Charles Taylor. The HRDA programme inspired me to work the fields of human rights and international justice. It equipped me with the knowledge and the drive to succeed in this field. It turned a dream into a reality.

Rachel Irura (Kenya, 2002)
Legal Officer

You cannot have peace and security without justice. ... you must have rule of law, you must have accountability. This is an atmosphere in which development can take place.

Fatou Bensouda
Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Prudence Acirokop
(Uganda, 2005)
Professional Investigator

Amani Ejami (Sudan, 2003)
Associate Appeals Counsel

Ibrahim Yillah (Sierra Leone, 2001)
Principal Defender

Jennifer Beckley
(Sierra Leone, 2006)
Legal Officer, Appeals Chamber

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Rachel Irura (Kenya, 2002)
Legal Officer
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS – OTHER

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Sarah Swart  
(South Africa, 2008)  
Officer (Pretoria)

Charles Nguena  
(Cameroon, 2011)  
(Mali)

Precious Eriamioate  
(Nigeria, 2013)  
Delegate

Rahel Seife Hassan  
(Ethiopia, 2013)  
Senior Diplomatic Assistant  
(Addis Ababa)

British Council

Global Migration Group (GMG)

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Priscilla Ankut  
(Nigeria, 2003)  
Manager, Access to Justice for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption in Nigeria Programme

Nyaradzo Chari  
(Zimbabwe, 2004)  
International Partnerships Division (Geneva)

Frank Kayitare  
(Rwanda, 2004)  
Programme Officer, Political Parties

Adem Abebe  
(Ethiopia, 2008)
PART III SPECIAL MENTIONS
MASTER’S DEGREE WITH DISTINCTION

- Thokozani Kaime (Malawi, 2002)
- Waruguru Kaguongo (Kenya, 2003)
- Redson Edward Kapindu (Malawi, 2004)
- Solomon Frank Sacco (Zimbabwe, 2004)
- Salima Namusobya (Uganda, 2004)
- Liliana Trillo Diaz (Spain, 2005)
- Mwiza Jo Nkhata (Malawi, 2005)
- Tarisai Mutangi (Zimbabwe, 2005)
- Ken Otieno Obura (Kenya, 2005)
- Beyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia, 2005)
- Solomon Ebobrah (Nigeria, 2006)
- Tsbello Thabane (Lesotho, 2006)
- Edward Odhiambo Okello (Kenya, 2006)
- Grace Maindi Wakio (Kenya, 2006)
- John Ambani Osogo (Kenya, 2006)
- David Charles Simonsz (South Africa, 2007)
- Sarah Jean Swart (South Africa, 2008)
- Wilhelmina Wicomb (South Africa, 2008)
- Bonolo Dinokopila (Botswana, 2008)
- Nicholas Orago (Kenya, 2010)
- Ivy Nyarango (Kenya, 2011)
- Thompson Chengeza (Zimbabwe, 2011)
- Doris Sonsiama (Sierra Leone, 2011)
- Sylvie Namwase (Uganda, 2011)
- Josua Loots (South Africa, 2012)
- Romola Adeola (Nigeria, 2012)
- Dennis Armah (Ghana, 2012)
- Nora Ho tu Nam (Mauritius, 2013)
- Lucyann Wambui Thuo (Kenya, 2014)
- Sally Hurt (South Africa, 2014)
- Michael Gyan Nyarko (Ghana, 2014)
- Darsheenee Sigh Raumnauth (Mauritius, 2014)
- Nastasia Thebaud-Bouillon-Njenga (France, 2015)
- Khuraisha Patel (South Africa, 2015)
- Chairman Okoloise (Nigeria, 2015)
- Edward Kahuthia Murimi (Kenya, 2015)
- Mwabi Mphombo Kaluba (Malawi, 2015)
- Elsabe Boshoff (South Africa, 2016)
- Anietie Ewang (Nigeria, 2016)
- Kennedy Kariseb (Namibia, 2016)
- Owiso Owiso (Kenya, 2016)
- Adiam Tsighe (Ethiopia, 2016)
- Stephen Buabeng-Baidoo (Ghana, 2017)
- Kansiime Estella Kabachwezi (Uganda, 2017)
- Muuo Josephat Kilonzo (Kenya, 2017)
- Kahbila Ulrike Mbuton (Cameroon, 2017)
- Henry Paul Gichana (Kenya, 2017)
- Lily Iruebafa Oyakhirome (Nigeria, 2017)
- Olorunfunmi Ayodele Sogunro (Nigeria, 2017)
- Trésor Muhindo Makunya (Democratic Republic of Congo, 2017)
- Nimrod Muhumuza (Uganda, 2018)
- Samuel Ade Ndasi (Cameroon, 2018)
- Tutlam Chaan (Ethiopia, 2018)
- Marystella Simiyu (Kenya, 2018)
- Nelly Akinyi Warega (Kenya, 2018)
- Oluwatomiwa Ilori (Nigeria, 2018)
- Joseph Geng Akech (South Sudan, 2018)
- Susan Chenai Mutambasere (Zimbabwe, 2018)
The past three years, as DAAD Scholars, have been some of the most transformative years of our academic and social lives. The opportunity to be educated up to Master’s and Doctoral levels at Africa’s finest and most reputable human rights institution – the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria – is a tall dream for so many Africans, and that has only been made possible by the DAAD Scholarships. Our DAAD Scholarships have afforded us the life-changing experience of engaging in complex human rights research problems in Africa, in the spirit of interculturality, and of contributing to the process of developing home-grown solutions to African problems in a very profound way. As DAAD Scholarship recipients, we are also members of the DAAD Alumni network, which is a vast network of scholars, academics and professionals across and beyond Africa from a wide array of disciplines.

Adebayo Okeowo (Nigeria, 2014)

Working title of thesis:
Advancing accountability for human rights violations through citizen media

Chairman Okoloise (Nigeria, 2015)

Working title of thesis:
Diminishing corporate human rights violations in the extractive industries in Africa through African Union standards

Henrietta Ekefre (Nigeria, 2015)

Working title of thesis:
The implementation of African human rights decisions and recommendations by domestic state actors
DUTCH LGBTI SCHOLARS

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria generously funds the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Unit at the Centre for Human Rights. Part of this support includes Master’s and Doctorate degree scholarships to students from sexual minorities, who work in the area of LGBTI rights.

**Dumiso Gatsha (Botswana, 2016)**
Success Capital Organisation: A youth-oriented non-governmental organisation which among other things caters for the inclusion of the LGBTI community in Botswana.

**HRDA is an eye opener in understanding the dynamics around the rights of LGBTI persons. It provides you with sufficient understanding of what the African human rights architecture offers in the protections of LGBTI. The African Commission Resolution 275 on the protection against violence and other human rights violations against LGBTI serves as impetus a continental understanding for the need to establish a binding legal instrument that will protect the LGBTI. As an advocate, this will serve as a niche in my advocacy for the fight for LGBTI persons as I am adequately equipped to articulate the norms that this Resolution and other treaties provide. At the global level my understanding of LGBTI rights has been enhanced by the case of Toonen v. Australia. The fact that many countries like Uganda are party to the ICCPR, this landmark case serves as a baseline for advocacy for the protection of the rights of LGBTI in Uganda and the rest of Africa. Essentially, by understanding of the human rights system, both global and regional has been enhanced by the HRDA program there by putting me in a position to adequately make claims for the rights of LGBTI persons.**

**Richard Lusimbo (Uganda, 2017)**
Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG)

**Tapiwa Mamhare (Zimbabwe, 2016)**
African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSheR)

**Monica Tabengwa (Botswana, 2017)**
Programme Manager, Hivos
HRDA students graduate in a special ceremony put on by the University of Pretoria, to coincide with International Human Rights Day on 10 December every year. On that occasion, the following prizes are awarded.

**Nelson Mandela Prize**, for the student who obtained the best overall average percentage in the course

2000: Mr Evarist Baimu (Tanzania)
- Mr Morne van der Linde (South Africa)
2001: Mr Danwood Chirwa (Malawi)
2002: Mr Thokozani Kaine (Malawi)
2003: Ms Abiola Rasidat Ayinla (Nigeria)
- Ms Waruguru Kaguongo (Kenya)
- Mr George Mukundi Wachira (Kenya)
2004: Mr Godfrey Musila (Kenya)
2005: Ms Liliana Trillo Díaz (Spain)
2006: Mr Anganile Mwenifumbo (Malawi)
2007: Mr David Charles Simonsz (South Africa)
2008: Ms Sarah Jean Swart (South Africa)
- Ms Wilhelmina Wicomb (South Africa)
2009: Mr Adem Kassie Abebe (Ethiopia)
- Ms Lucyline Nkatha Murungi (Kenya)
2010: Ms Melhik Abebe Bekele (Ethiopia)
- Mr Nicholas Wasonga Ora (Kenya)
2011: Ms Ivy Irene Nyarang’o (Kenya)
2012: Mr Josua Loots (South Africa)
2013: Ms Precious Erimiatoe (Nigeria)
- Mr Adrian Jjuuko (Uganda)
2014: Ms Lucyann Wambui Thuo (Kenya)
2015: Ms Nastasia Thebaud-Bouillon-Njenga (France)
2016: Ms Anie Ewang (Nigeria)
2017: Mr Josephat Kilonzo (Kenya)
2018: Mr Nimrod Muhumuza (Uganda)
**PRIZE WINNERS**

**Kéba M’Baye Prize**, for the student who obtained the highest percentage in the dissertation
Kéba Mbaye (1924–2007) Senegalese lawyer and judge, author of the initial draft of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights

2000: Mr Idi Tuzinde Gaparayi (Rwanda) 
2001: Mr Frederick Musungu (Kenya) 
2002: Mr Godfrey Odongo (Kenya) 
2003: Mr George Mukundi Wachira (Kenya) 
2004: Mr Godfrey Musila (Kenya) 
2005: Ms Onyinye Iruoma Obiokoye (Nigeria) 
2006: Mr Ambani Osogo (Kenya) 
2007: Ms Virginia Njeri Kamau (Kenya) 
2008: Mr Bonolo Ramadi Dinokpila (Botswana) 
Mr Ademola Oluborode Jegede (Nigeria) 
Ms Sarah Jean Swart (South Africa) 
2009: Ms Uchechukwu Victoria Okwor (Nigeria) 
2010: Ms Melody Ngwatu Ginamia (Uganda) 
2011: Ms Emma Charlene Lubaale (Uganda) 
2012: Ms Romola Adeola (Nigeria) 
2013: Ms Daphine Agaba (Uganda) 
2014: Ms Wambui Mariam Kamunyu (Kenya) 
2015: Ms Grace Mukukulwamutiyo (Zambia) 
2016: Mr Tapiwa Mamhare (Zimbabwe) 
2017: Ms Tsiion Woldu (Ethiopia) 
2018: Mr Nimrod Muhumuza (Uganda)

**Ubuntu Prize**, for the student on the course who best embodied the values and spirit of ubuntu during the course. **Ubuntu**, or compassion, means ‘to suffer with’ and involves identifying with our neighbours and recognising our common humanity.

2001: Mr Ahmed Sidali (Western Sahara) 
2002: Mr Paul Gadenya (Uganda) 
2003: Mr Benson Chinedu Olugbua (Nigeria) 
Ms Leda Hasila Limann (Ghana) 
2004: Ms Foliusho de Grata Shado (Nigeria) 
2005: Mr João Miguel Fernandes (Mozambique) 
2006: Mr Ibrahim Sidibe (Guinea Conakry) 
2007: Ms Estelle Ines Nkounkou-Ngongo (Congo) 
2008: Mr Todd Fernandez (USA) 
2009: Ms Patricia Atim (Uganda) 
2010: Ms Nicola Whittaker (South Africa) 
2011: Ms Adiam Tsighe (Ethiopia) 
2012: Mr Samuel Abraha (Eritrea) 
2013: Ms Linette Du Toit (South Africa) 
2014: Ms Muso Bakoto Sawo (The Gambia) 
2015: Ms Anna-Lena Würz (Germany) 
2016: Mr James Monibah (Liberia) 
2017: Mr Richard Lusimbo (Uganda) 
2018: Mr Basiru Bah (The Gambia)

**Victor Dankwa Prize**, for the student who obtained the best mark in the module Human Rights in Africa (Module 4) **Victor Dankwa**, Ghanaian lawyer, academic and former Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

2007: Ms Virginia Njeri Kamau (Kenya) 
2008: Mr Japhet Kiplangat Biegon (Kenya) 
Ms Wilhelmina Wicomb (South Africa) 
2009: Mr Adem Kassie Abebe (Ethiopia) 
2010: Mr Emerson Casimiro Uassuzo Lopes (Mozambique) 
Ms Nicola Whittaker (South Africa) 
2011: Ms Sylvie Namwase (Uganda) 
2012: Ms Romola Adeola (Nigeria) 
Ms Satang Nbaneh (The Gambia) 
2013: Mr Adrian Jjuuko (Uganda) 
2014: Ms Lucyann Wambui Thuo (Kenya) 
2015: Ms Khuraisha Patel (South Africa) 
2016: Ms Adiam Tsighe (Ethiopia) 
2017: Mr Stephen Buabeng-Baidoo (Ghana) 
2018: Mr Nimrod Muhumuza (Uganda) 
Ms Marystella Simiyu (Kenya)
Vera Chirwa is a Malawian lawyer and human and civil rights activist. She fought for multiparty democratic rule in Malawi and was charged with treason, tried and sentenced to death by the authoritarian regime of Hastings Kamuzu Banda. She spent 12 years on death row with her husband Orton Chirwa, a lawyer and once Malawian Minister of Justice and Attorney General. The Chirwas’ execution date was set for 9 June 1983, but international pressure saved their lives. While in detention, they were tortured, often kept in leg irons, received inadequate food and were denied proper medical attention which led to the death of Vera Chirwa’s husband Orton. Vera Chirwa was eventually released in 1993 and a new constitution was adopted, which allowed for multiparty democracy. Vera Chirwa established herself as a leading voice for human rights in Malawi and started an NGO, the Malawi Centre for Advice, Research and Education on Rights (CARER). She became a member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in 1999 and served as the Commission’s Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention in Africa. She retired from the Commission in 2005 but remains a human rights champion in her home country, across the continent and the globe.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Vera Chirwa Prize recognises the outstanding professional achievements of a graduate of the Master’s programme who has undertaken one or more particularly noteworthy initiatives for the protection or the promotion of human rights, and/or the strengthening of democracy in Africa or in the diaspora. They must have distinguished themselves through innovation and initiative, courage and sacrifice. The Prize was instituted in 2006, on the occasion of the Centre for Human Rights being awarded the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, and is awarded at the annual graduation ceremony of the Master’s programme.
VERA CHIRWA PRIZE

2006: Melron Nicol-Wilson (Sierra Leone, 1998)
For engineering a pathway to justice for the indigent, broken and dehumanised people of Sierra Leone through the establishment and distinguished record of the Lawyers’ Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA), the first legal aid clinic set up in the aftermath of the Sierra Leone civil war and in the face of overwhelming opposition from the establishment

2007: Nana Oye Lithur (Ghana, 2001)
Distinguished advocate and tireless campaigner; in recognition of her courageous and consistent efforts to advance the human rights of women and subsequently by merit, competence and experience for her cabinet appointment as Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in Ghana

2008: Julius Osega (Uganda, 2000)
For his dedicated service to human rights within the Uganda Police Service and in other conflict zones (posthumously presented to his widow Rhona Osega)
2009: Gabriel Shumba (Zimbabwe, 2002)
*For his devotion to the cause of improving the lives of people in Africa and especially in Zimbabwe, through his work with the Zimbabwe Exiles Forum and his personal sacrifice*

Gabriel Shumba was arrested, hooded, taken to a secret underground location and beaten by 15 Central Intelligence Organisation interrogators for criticising the political system in Zimbabwe. During interrogation, he was electrocuted intermittently for eight hours; lost consciousness, revived and electrocuted again; had a chemical substance applied to his body; was photographed naked; forced to drink his vomit; and forced to sign a confession for planning to overthrow the government. International pressure led to his release, and he fled Zimbabwe. He filed a complaint against Zimbabwe with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, which found the Zimbabwe Government responsible for torture and ill-treatment.

2010: Yoseph Mulugeta Badwaza (Ethiopia, 2002)
*For his devotion to the cause of improving the lives of people in Africa and especially in Ethiopia, through his work with the Ethiopian Human Rights Council and his personal sacrifice*

2011: Thulani Maseko (Swaziland, 2005)
*For his devotion to the cause of improving the lives of people in Africa and especially in Swaziland, through his fearless pro-democracy activism and his personal sacrifice*

Thulani was arrested and charged with contempt of court for criticising the Chief Justice. Denied access to legal representation, he was convicted for contempt of court and sentenced to two years’ imprisonment, contrary to the maximum 30-day sentence allowed for under Swazi law. In prison, he was held in solitary confinement for weeks for writing a letter to friends from prison. International pressure led to his release in June 2015. The High Court admitted that great injustice had been done to him by his trial, conviction and imprisonment. King Mswati suspended and eventually relieved the Chief Justice of his duties due to serious misconduct.
2015: Salima Namusobya (Uganda, 2004)
In recognition of her professional contributions to the advancement of human rights in Africa, especially in relation to the development of economic and social rights; and for her vision and industry in establishing the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER), Uganda

2015: Christopher Mbazira (Uganda, 2003)
In recognition of his professional contributions to the advancement of human rights in Africa, especially in relation to the development of economic and social rights through academic research, publication and teaching

2012: Monica Mbaru (Kenya, 2005)
In recognition of her singular contribution to the protection of sexual minorities in Africa, through her work with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; her commitment to the rights of people living with disabilities all over the continent; and all her other work in the areas of access to justice, the rule of law, health, governance, elections and prisons

2012: Lilian Chenwi (Cameroon, 2002)
In recognition of an excellent academic career and her selfless service to improving the lives of people in Africa; through passionate activism and targeted litigation

2013: Augustine Somé (Burkina Faso, 2004)
For his outstanding contribution to the protection of human rights in Africa through his work with the United Nations and through the Centre for Information and Documentation Citizens (CIDOC) he established in Burkina Faso

2014: Leda Limann (Ghana, 2003)
In recognition of her contribution in fostering peace and unity in Darfur and South Sudan; and to the edification and social up-liftment of people through Christian ministry, personal leadership and financial support
2016: Patrick Eba (Côte d'Ivoire, 2004)
In recognition of many years of consistent, dedicated and laboured efforts towards the realisation of the human right to health, especially for persons living with HIV/AIDS; and for his spirited efforts at law reform and policy development geared to the equal treatment of sexual and gender minorities and persons living with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

2016: Adrian Jjuuko (Uganda, 2013)
In recognition of his courageous work to advance the human rights of sexual and gender minorities in Uganda, through legal challenges and law reform; and, despite threats to his safety, for his vision and industry in establishing the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, a respected catalyst in the struggle against institutionalised discrimination, repression and violence against LGBTI persons in Uganda and Africa.

2017: Musu Bakoto Sawo (The Gambia, 2014)
In recognition of her fearless advocacy for the rights of women and girls in the Gambia, and for being a leading African voice in the fight against harmful practices, especially female genital mutilation. In absentia, accepted on her behalf by Adebayo Okeowo (Nigeria, 2014).

2017: Melanie Smuts (South Africa, 2012)
In recognition of her courageous and outstanding efforts in promoting the right to education through the establishment of Streetlight Schools which has, by virtue of its groundbreaking work, fostered access to quality education for some of the most underserved communities in South Africa.

2018: Joojo Cobbinah (Ghana, 2013)
In recognition of his contribution towards the advancement of the socio-economic rights of the most vulnerable in Africa, especially in Ghana, through his courageous and impactful journalism. His activism has resulted in changes to government’s environmental policies, and through his dedicated work, children have regained their access to quality education, hospitals have benefitted from critical healthcare equipment, the rights of persons with disability have been defended, and lives have been saved.
AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION

After 27 years' existence, the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition is the most important vehicle for human rights education in Africa, the largest annual gathering of students and lecturers of law in Africa, and one of the premier events on the African human rights calendar. The Competition prepares new generations of lawyers to argue cases of alleged human rights violations before the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The programme is organised each year by the Centre for Human Rights, in collaboration with a faculty of law in a host country on the continent.

There is an important link between the Master’s programme and the Moot Competition: the latter brings together the top students from across the continent each year, constituting a good pool of potential Master’s students.

Moot alumni who were admitted to the Master’s programme are indicated with the letter M in the Table of alumni at the end of this publication.

2010 African Human Rights Moot Court Competition final in Cotonou, Benin.
AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION

2011 African Human Rights Moot Court Competition final results

2013 African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, Cape Town, South Africa
AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION

2016 African Human Rights Moot Competition final in the Constitutional Court, South Africa

2011 African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, Pretoria, South Africa

2009 African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, Lagos, Nigeria
I feel very blessed to have been a part of the Centre for Human Rights. The intensity of the academic programme was overwhelming. The racial tensions in South Africa were palpable. And the nightmare of being back in the closet as a gay man was traumatic. Yet I learned and grew in unimaginable ways. My classmates became family. My sense of national pride shifted forever. And my purpose in life was revealed.

Todd Fernandez (USA, 2008)

... little did I know that it would change my life much more profoundly. I cherished the richness of the programme on so many levels, as well as the diversity of the students and lecturers. I was inspired and humbled by my lecturers and colleagues, and I was able to appreciate the issues through a Pan-African lens.

Ismene Nicole Zarifis (USA, 2009)

I had the chance to spend my second semester at Makerere University, Kampala in Uganda. I had never been to East African before. Everyone I met was friendly, kind and welcoming. Many of the lectures were interesting and different from what I was used to but in several aspects mind-opening for me. It is a priceless experience to get to know and learn about so many different aspects all at once: new languages, cultures, customs, food, climate, ways of transport and so much more.

Annalena Würz (Germany, 2015)

Africa is a continent full of hope, potential, great minds and innovation. I chose to take part in the Master’s because I believe in and advocate for Africa as a continent where human rights are prioritised, people-centered development is emphasised and African ideas and innovations are taken into account in the global arena. If you believe in Africa and human rights; are not afraid of having your views challenged; and you are up to the huge task ahead, the HRDA Master’s is a unique way to start!

Nastasia Thebaud-Bouillon-Njenga (France, 2015)
NON-AFRICAN ALUMNI

The most valuable experience from the HRDA programme, for me, was to learn the African philosophy of Ubuntu. It inspired me to find out how to apply and extend African values in my country, to fight for human rights. Even though Africa and Asia are far apart, everyone is connected to each other.

Miao-Ying Cheng Biau-Im Tin (Taiwan, 2016)

I had been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in South Korea for 10 years when my husband (a co-worker) was dispatched to the Korean Embassy in South Africa. I saw this as an opportunity to study Africa and African issues. It was a very intense year for me. I confided in my colleagues. They were supportive and helpful. The HRDA was a success. Now I am back in Korea and have a beautiful baby girl. I often miss my African friends and professors. The HRDA programme was one of my greatest achievements in life. I now feel confident to say that no challenge is too tough for me.

Kyoung-hwa Lee (Korea, 2016)

I left a comfortable but routine French life to prefer this African journey. I feel honoured to have been selected and welcomed to this intense programme, and so grateful to be on a professional adventure in Benin, full of positive outputs. The HRDA has shown me the human rights realities on the ground, and taught me to avoid denouncing violations which I have only read about from a comfortable desk. It has taught me open-mindedness, humility and integrity. I really hope the journey will continue!

Clotilde Pauvert (La Réunion, 2017)
In 2013 admission to the Master's programme was opened to non-law graduates, who receive the degree MPhil (Master of Philosophy) Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa. They follow the same curriculum as law graduates, who receive the degree LLM (Master of Laws) Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa.

MPhil students come from a variety of backgrounds and have distinguished themselves on the programme, despite its significant legal content. MPhil alumni are indicated with the letter (P) behind their surnames in the table of alumni at the end of this book.

Although surrounded by lawyers on the HRDA programme, I soon felt comfortable and learned to walk fast. In working and living together, I made good friends who urged me on. Today I work for the prestigious RADDHO. We fight for an end to forced child begging in Senegal through advocacy with national institutions and Members of Parliament; as well as through engagement with the African Commission, the African Children's Committee and ECOWAS. This alliance works to bring the governement of Senegal to comply with its commitments on the eradication of forced child begging.

**Aminata Ly** (Senegal, 2015)
Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO)
Dakar, Senegal
Undergraduate degree in Language and Literature

Other MPhil alumni working in non-legal settings:

**Solomon Cobbinah** (Ghana, 2013)
GhOne Television
MARRIAGES

Evelyn Asaala (Kenya, 2009) and Ambani Osogo (Kenya, 2006)
Wedding date: 19 December 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

Uchechukwu Okwor (Nigeria, 2009) and Hilary Ogbonna (Nigeria, 2008)
Wedding date: 28 November 2009, Abuja, Nigeria

Barbara Kitui (Uganda, 2012) and Solomon Cobbinah (Ghana, 2013)
Wedding date: 29 & 31 January 2015, Kampala, Uganda

Adiam Woldeyohannes (Eritrea, 2001) and Martin Nsibirwa (Uganda, 2000)
Wedding date: 28 August 2004, Asmara, Eritrea
Helen Kanzira (Uganda, 2000)
Senior legal officer, Ministry of Finance, Kampala, Uganda

Helen died in October 2007 during child birth, highlighting the high levels of maternal mortality in Africa and in other parts of the developing world. In her honour, the Centre for Human Rights has instituted an annual lecture on the reproductive health rights of women.

Julius Osega (Uganda, 2001)
Head of Human Rights Complaints Desk, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Legal Department, Uganda Police Force

Police Superintendent, posthumously promoted to Senior Superintendent. Julius was killed on 8 July 2008 while on patrol duty in Darfur, with the UN peacekeeping force. In recognition of his efforts and sacrifice, Julius was posthumously awarded the Vera Chirwa Award in 2009 by the Centre for Human Rights. In his honour, the Centre for Human Rights instituted an annual lecture on human rights and good governance in Africa.

Steve Odero Ouma (Kenya, 2005)
Lecturer, Africa Nazarene University, Kenya

Senior lecturer, School of Law, University in Nairobi, Kenya. Steve died on 23 February 2012 of gastrointestinal cancer. He was honoured through a publication of the Centre for Human Rights in his memory: Constitutionalism and Democratic Governance in Africa: Contemporary Perspectives from Sub-Saharan Africa (M Kiwinda and T Ojienda) which addresses issues of constitutionalism in Africa.

Stephen Kafumba (Malawi, 2000)

Graduating in 2000, as one of the Pioneers, Steve’s last position was with the Airports Development Ltd, Malawi.
MEMBERSHIP OF AU / UN ELECTIVE BODIES

Benyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia, 2005)
Chairperson, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child


The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is made up of 11 experts mandated with the monitoring of the fulfillment of child rights in Africa and ensuring that States comply with their obligations under the African Children’s Charter.

Chairperson, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
Term: May 2015 – May 2017, Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Term 1: March 2013 – February 2017, Term 2; March 2017 – February 2020

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is made up of 18 independent experts from all over the world, recognised for their competence in the field of Children’s Rights.

Prof Mezmur is extensively published and has carried out trainings on children’s rights for governments and worked with organisations such as African Child Policy Forum (ACPF). He is currently an Associate Professor at the Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights in the Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape and a visiting lecturer on the Master’s programme of the Centre for Human Rights.
MEMBERSHIP OF AU / UN ELECTIVE BODIES

**Solomon Dersso** (Ethiopia, 2003)
Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Term: November 2015 - November 2021

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights is a quasi-judicial body which works to promote and protect human rights in Africa, interpret the African Charter and consider individual complaints of violations of the Charter.

Dr Dersso is an expert in constitutional design and institutional and policy mechanisms for the accommodation of ethno-cultural diversity in Africa. He has served as the Legal Adviser to the African Union High Implementation (Mbeki) Panel (AUHIP) Team of Experts on the Boundary dispute between Sudan and South Sudan. He was the Head of the Peace and Security Council Report at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In 2019, Dr Dersso was appointed as Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

**Meskerem Geset Techane** (Ethiopia, 2011)
Chairperson, UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls

The UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, in law and practice is a Special Procedure of the UN Human Rights Council. Members are distinguished independent human rights experts appointed by the Human Rights Council.

Meskerem is a human rights lawyer with extensive national and international experience. She formerly held prominent positions as a High Court Judge and as Deputy Executive Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA). She has also served in expert groups of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and has closely worked with the AU, UN agencies and international and national human rights organisations. Meskerem & Associates is her private legal practice in Ethiopia and she co-founded Lawyers for Human Rights (Ethiopia) in 2018 and is currently its Chair. She was a fellow at the Human Rights Center, University of Padova. She is also a visiting researcher and lecturer at different universities in Africa, Europe, and North America.

**Sabelo Gumedze** (Swaziland, 2002)
Chairperson, Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Elected June 2014

The five-member Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent is a Special Mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council.

Dr Gumedze is the Head and Senior Researcher of the Research and Development Unit of the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) of South Africa. He has over 10 years of experience in research with a background in legal scholarship and practice, policy development, international human rights law, human security, analysis, training, teaching, supervising, project management and implementation.
Melanie Smuts (South Africa, 2012)
Founder, Streetlight Schools, Johannesburg, South Africa

Streetlight Schools launches high-quality primary schools in some of the most underprivileged communities in inner-city Johannesburg. They demonstrate how transformative and cost-effective education and schooling is possible for all learners, especially from low-income backgrounds.

By completely re-imagining standards, environments and approaches to learning, Streetlight Schools is creating globally competitive schools in some of the most underserved communities in South Africa at a scalable cost. With innovations in academic approach, facility and professional development, Streetlight Schools is demonstrating that it is possible to positively impact South African educational system.

Streetlight Schools has succeeded in taking some of most neglected learners and enabled them to learn at a level not only equivalent to some of the best schools in South Africa, but in fact to be competitive with some of the most developed countries in the world.

www.streetlightschools.org

Salima Namusobya (Uganda, 2004)
Founder, Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)

ISER seeks to address the gaps that exist in respecting, protecting and fulfilling economic and social rights (ESRs) in Uganda and to improve government accountability for this category of rights.

The organisation’s work is based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination in access to social and economic services. ISER has significantly promoted ESR advocacy in Uganda and sustained national debate around this category of rights. The organisation has played a key role in enhancing the capacity of the judiciary and legislature in adjudicating and legislating ESRs respectively, and catalysed citizen engagement in demanding accountability for social service delivery. ISER’s strategic litigation and budget advocacy work has also positively impacted resource allocation to the health and education sectors in Uganda. ISER is now recognised domestically, regionally and internationally as a key actor in socio-economic rights advocacy.

www.iser-uganda.org
Adrian Jjuuko (Uganda, 2013)
Founder, Human Rights Awareness and Protection Forum (HRAPF)

HRAPF is a human rights advocacy organisation and legal aid service provider with particular focus on the most marginalised groups in Uganda. HRAPF established the first specialised legal aid clinic for LGBTI persons and sex workers in Uganda and coordinated the successful legal challenge against Uganda’s Anti Homosexuality Act 2014 before Uganda’s Constitutional Court. It also filed the first case challenging a law targeting LGBTI persons in a regional court in Africa.

HRAPF has trained LGBTI persons, sex workers, women living with HIV/AIDS and local council leaders as community paralegals and uses them to bring justice closer to communities. HRAPF continues to carry out ground-breaking research, advocacy and litigation around the rights of sexual minorities and other marginalised groups.

www.hrapf.org

Satang Nabaneh (The Gambia, 2012)
Co-founder, Think Young Women (TYW)

TYW works for the rights, welfare and development of girls and women in The Gambia, leading a youth movement to inspire a new generation of young women leaders through capacity building, mentorship, leadership skills development, advocacy and community service. TYW organised the first National Youth Forum on Female Genital Mutilation in The Gambia, ushering in a youth-led movement to end the practice in one generation. The organisation has also provided training for advocates and youth leaders to boost efforts to protect the rights of girls and women.

www.thinkyoungwomen.org
Maushami Chetty (South Africa, 2004)
Co-founder, Aarya Legal

Aarya Legal is a legal and B-B BEE consultancy that caters specifically to the needs of entrepreneurs. Aarya Legal provides quality corporate legal services to entrepreneurs’s by offering affordable structured legal packages as well as bespoke services that are in line with the entrepreneurial spirit of constant innovation and quality. They are basically out to change the way legal services are provided, perceived and the way law is practiced.

What is striking is not just the fact that Maushami is trying to make law more accessible, understandable and affordable, but that she is going about it in the most non-traditional way. While at it, she hopes to reduce the unemployment rate in South Africa and also help her clients mainstream human rights into their businesses.

www.aaryalegal.com

Dumiso Gatsha (Botswana, 2016)
Founder, Success Capital Organisation, Botswana


www.successcapitalngo.com
NGO FOUNDERS / CONSULTANTS

Ahmed Mohamed Sidali
(Western Sahara, 2001)
Legal consultant to the Saharawi Government;
PhD candidate, University of Algiers

Sarai Chisala-Tempelhoff (Malawi, 2005)
Founder & Director, Gender and Justice Unit

Nadeche Andrianasolo (Madagascar, 2013)
Founder; Mianakavy Organisation, for the Rights of the Child in Madagascar
COUNTRY PROFILE: SIERRA LEONE

Independence from the UK: 27 April 1961
Republic declared: 19 April 1971
Population: 7,075,641 (2015 census)
Area: 71,740 km² (27,700 sq mi)
Capital and largest city: Freetown
HRDA Alumni had an impact in all the 46 countries to which they returned, but we highlight the alumni from Sierra Leone and Rwanda.

**COUNTRY PROFILE: SIERRA LEONE**

- **Abdulai Charm**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2000)  
  Chief Justice of the Republic of Sierra Leone

- **Miatta Samba**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2001)  
  Justice of the High Court of Sierra Leone

- **Sonkita Conteh**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2006)  
  Legal Practitioner, Director of Namati Law Firm

- **Jennifer Beckley**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2006)  
  Head Legal & Company Secretary, Standard Chattered Bank Sierra Leone Limited

- **Doris Sonsiama**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2011)  
  Director of Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone

- **Rashid Dumbuya**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2013)  
  Oversight Commissioner for the Directorate of Monitoring and Research, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone

- **Jennifer Beckley**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2006)  
  Head Legal & Company Secretary, Standard Chattered Bank Sierra Leone Limited

- **Mohammed Kamara**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2008)  
  Chief Superintendent of Police, Human Rights Section, Sierra Leone Police Service, Freetown, Sierra Leone

- **Joel Tejan Deen-Tarawally**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2014)  
  Criminal defense lawyer, Sierra Leone Legal Aid Board

- **Augustine Marrah**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2010)  
  Senior Partner, KMK Solicitors, Sierra Leone

- **Lansana Dumbuya**  
  (Sierra Leone, 2003)  
  Member of the Council of Legal Education
COUNTRY PROFILE: RWANDA

Independence from Belgium: 1 July 1962

Population: 11 262 564 (2015 census)

Area: 26 338 km² (10 169 sq mi)

Capital and largest city: Kigali

2019 Alumni in Rwanda with Dr Nkatha Murungi and Prof Frans Viljoen during the block week of the another programme of the Centre, the Master’s degree in Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRRA), which was held in Kigali, Rwanda.
HRDA Alumni had an impact in all the 46 countries to which they returned, but we highlight the alumni from Sierra Leone and Rwanda.

**Idi Gaparayi**  
(Rwanda, 2000)  
Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Kigali

**Robert Mugisha**  
(Rwanda, 2001)  
Human Rights and Social Protection Specialist (Washington DC)

**Donnah Kamashazi**  
(Rwanda, 2003)  
Deputy Regional Programme Director (Kigali)

**Epimacque Rubango-Kayihura**  
(Rwanda, 2003)  
Partner at R & P Law Firm

**Florence Mukamugema**  
(Rwanda, 2000)  
National University of Rwanda

**Herbert Rubasha**  
(Rwanda, 2006)  
In charge of country reports, Ministry of Justice, Rwanda

**Marie Sylvie Kawera**  
(Rwanda, 2009)  
Commissioner

**Christine Umubyeyi**  
(Rwanda, 2011)  
Director of Legislation, Human Rights Monitoring and Protection Unit

**Justine Katushabe**  
(Rwanda, 2002)  
Child Protection Specialist, World Vision International

**Christian Nsabimana Garuka**  
(Rwanda, 2005)  
Legal Practitioner

**Jean Chrysostome Rubagumya**  
(Rwanda, 2011)  
Rcn Justice & Démocratie, Burundi

**Denyse Amahirwe**  
(Rwanda, 2014)  
UNICEF Child Protection Specialist

**Frank Kayitare**  
(Rwanda, 2004)  
Programme Officer, Political Parties, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), Stockholm, Sweden

**Jean Chrysostome Rubagumya**  
(Rwanda, 2011)  
Rcn Justice & Démocratie, Burundi

**Jean Chrysostome Rubagumya**  
(Rwanda, 2011)  
Rcn Justice & Démocratie, Burundi

**Richard Ntakirutimana**  
(Rwanda, 2017)  
African Initiative For Mankind Progress Organisation

**Angela Padua**  
(Rwanda, 2008)  
United Nations

**Thierry Kevin Gatete**  
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**Tom Mulisa**  
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PART IV ALUMNI
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Amani</td>
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## LLM (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) Class of 2004

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### LLM (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) Class of 2005

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LLM (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) Class of 2008

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### LLM/MPhil (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa) Class of 2015

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(P) – MPhil alumni are indicated with the letter (P) behind their surnames