



**THE YEAR OF  
REFUGEES,  
RETURNEES AND  
INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED  
PERSONS:**  
Towards Durable  
Solutions to Forced  
Displacement in  
Africa.

Civil society forum on  
**Year of Refugees, Returnees and IDPs:  
Towards Durable Solutions to  
Forced Displacement in Africa**

*PAP Precincts, Midrand, South Africa*

**Saturday, 12 October 2019**

**Time: 09:00 - 13:30**



## Background/Context

The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of 55 member states that make up the countries of the African continent. It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963 - 1999).

H.E President Paul Kagame stated that this year the African Union wants to emphasize the importance of speaking with a unified voice on issues that affect the continent. The shared responsibility is to promote unity and cooperation among the people of Africa as laid down in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. He urged that in fact the spirit of solidarity should bind Africans together. The launching of the Pan-African passport, of which he has been a proponent, aims at easing the free movement of people, spurring economic growth, promoting intra-African trade and eventually creating a continent with seamless borders.

Throughout its history, Africa has experienced migratory movements, both voluntary and forced, which have contributed to its contemporary demographic landscape. In many parts of the continent, communities bound together by languages, history and tradition, are spread across two or three nation-States, and movement is often not limited by political boundaries. Migration in Africa is due to a multiplicity of factors that include the need for improved socio-economic conditions through employment, environmental factors, as well as fleeing from political instability, conflict and civil strife. Africa is also witnessing changing patterns of migration reflected in the feminisation of migration, the increase in the number of youths on the move, and an upsurge in irregular migratory flows, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Through all of this, economic integration remains a key pathway to development and demands labour mobility and other forms of economic engagement that necessitate the movement of persons. The AU holds the position that in a coherent manner and if the key factors causing migration on the continent are addressed, nations and regions can reap the benefits of linkages between migrants and development as the continent strives towards the ideals of Agenda 2063.

The ideals of Agenda 2063 are as follows:

- Be a United Africa
- Have world class, integrative infrastructure that criss-crosses the continent
- Have dynamic and mutually beneficial links with its Diaspora; and
- Be a continent of seamless borders, and management of cross-border resources through dialogue

The 2019 theme speaks to forced displacement, which is a major issue confronting the African continent. More than a third of the world's forcibly displaced people are in Africa, including 6.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers and 14.5 million internally displaced people. The theme



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'Year of Refugees, Returnees and IDPs: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa' comes at the perfect time to urge leaders and civil society to act fast in protecting displaced persons. With the wave of xenophobic violence and other intolerances in many parts of the continent, the need to protect displaced populations has increasingly become important.

Within this framework, we should increasingly focus on the vulnerable categories of individuals such children and African migrants. In a press statement on 3 September 2019, AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat condemned, in the strongest term, incidents of violence against fellow Africans in South Africa, including incidences of looting and the destruction of property. The AU Commission called for immediate steps to be taken to protect the lives of people and their property, ensure that all perpetrators are brought to account for their acts, and that justice be done to those who suffered economic and other losses. The Chairperson also praised South African security forces for arresting suspected attackers. He further stated that the AU Commission's continued commitment to support the South African government in addressing the root causes of these despicable acts, in order to promote peace and security within the framework of the AU's long-standing principle of continental solidarity.

## Objectives

This Forum seeks to discuss ways through which civil society may develop:

- ❖ Avenues for countering xenophobic violence in different regions of Africa;
- ❖ Enhance protection for refugees in various parts of the continent;
- ❖ Mobilize effectively in protecting displaced populations



<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<b>08:30 – 09:00</b>	<b>Arrival and registration</b> <b>CHR/PAP</b>
<b>09:00 – 09:30</b>	<b>Welcome speeches:</b> <b>Facilitator</b> <b>Ms Corlet Letlojane</b> <i>Human Rights Institute of South Africa</i> <i>Executive Director, CSO Forum SC</i>  <b>Speakers:</b> <b>Pan African Parliament Clerk</b>  <b>Professor Magnus Killander</b> <i>Centre for Human Rights</i> <i>University of Pretoria</i>
<b>09:30 – 09:45</b>	<b>Keynote Speech:</b> The AU has declared 2019 the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons. As they exemplify thoughtful leadership what role does the PAP have in advancing political will, accountability and responsibility <b>Ms Sharon Ekambaram</b> <i>Lawyers for human rights</i>
<b>09:45 – 10:45</b>	<b>Panel discussion on African Free Trade Agreement and issues of migration and labour mobility</b> <b>Facilitator</b> <b>Ms Ruvimbo Samanga</b> <i>Junior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria</i>  <b>Speakers</b> <b>Dr Simon Ngalomba</b> <i>Lecturer at University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</i>  <b>Dr Ken Obura</b> <i>Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi</i>



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**10:45 – 11:15**

**Photo session and health break**

**11:15 – 12:15**

**Panel discussion on Xenophobia**

**Facilitator**

**Mr Kimani Ndung'u**

*Attorney, LLB (UNISA); LLM (UCT)*

**Speakers**

**Xenophobia and economic**

**Dr. Cristiano d'Orsi**

*University of Johannesburg*

**The criminalization of migrants: how South Africa's broken asylum system exacerbates xenophobia**

**Sally Gander, Head of advocacy**

*Scalabrini Centre of Capetown*

**The progressive realization towards legislative framework addressing incidents of xenophobia**

**Mr Thifulutheli Sinthumule**

*Executive Director, Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa*

**12:15 – 13:15**

**Panel discussion on statelessness in Africa**

**Facilitator**

**Dr Robert Nanima**

*University of the Western Cape*

**Speakers**

**African Union's approach to the protection of stateless persons**

**Dr Romola Adeola**

*Centre for Human Rights*

**Perspectives on children and statelessness**

**Dr Maria Assim**

*University of the Western Cape*

**13:15 – 13:30**

**Concluding remarks**

**Mr John Makamure**

*CHR/CSO Forum*

**Mr Clement Mavungu**

*PAP*



## About the **Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Project**

The Centre for Human Rights has established a partnership with the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) through a memorandum of understanding signed on October 2017. The PAP is an organ of the African Union (AU) established to ensure that Africa takes full ownership and participation in the development and sustainable transformation of the continent. The partnership aims to strengthen the capacity of the PAP in the area of development, human rights and democratisation of Africa.

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## About the **Centre for Human Rights**

Recognised internationally for excellence in human rights law in Africa, the Centre for Human Rights is uniquely positioned as both an academic department and a non-governmental organisation. A leader in human rights education in Africa, the Centre works towards a greater awareness of human rights, the wide dissemination of publications on human rights in Africa, and the improvement of the rights of women, people living with HIV, indigenous peoples, sexual minorities and other disadvantaged or marginalised persons or groups across the continent.

