

*A project of the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice,
Law Faculty, Stellenbosch University*



Expert Roundtable on
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
in Institutions of Higher Learning

25 August 2022



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

Programme Pack

Theme: Gender-Based Violence in Institutions of Higher Learning

Date: 25 August 2022, 09:00 CAT

Venue: Hybrid event at STIAS, Stellenbosch

Zoom Link for virtual participants: <https://bit.ly/3SRv6tu>

I. Purpose

The broad objective of the programme is to understand the nature and intersectional dynamics of gender-based violence (GBV) through a social justice lens anchored in human rights. The secondary objective is to explore the historic and current consequences of discourse on GBV in institutions of higher learning while evaluating the social and developmental impacts of GBV on victims, communities, society, and families.

II. Objectives

With this expert roundtable, the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice aims to:

1. Inform about the forms of GBV, international human rights obligations, constitutional social justice implications of increased GBV in educational institutions, and the functionality of available reporting platforms in these institutions.
2. Transform the status quo on GBV by embracing our shared humanity within a constitutional dispensation supported by public accountability.
3. Inspire an appreciation of the social justice dynamics of GBV in South Africa and worldwide.

The expert roundtable is focused on four (4) dimensions:

1. Meaning, forms, causes, and influencing factors of GBV in institutions of higher learning.
2. Critically analysing the legal, human rights, social, psychological, developmental, and economic consequences of GBV in institutions of higher learning for communities and broader society.
3. Exploring the historic, current, and future GBV prevention and support policies in South Africa as well as the implications and effectiveness thereof in achieving a socially just purpose.
4. Identifying the design of recovery facilities and counselling programmes, with a specific focus on rehabilitation and accountability.

III. Outcome

The outcome of the expert roundtable will be to suggest an integrated framework that institutions of higher learning could adopt to respond progressively to GBV.

IV. Background

This expert roundtable is an initiative of the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice and is executed as part of the Law Trust Chair's mission to promote social justice scholarship, consciousness, and collaboration to accelerate social justice reform in academia and society. This event forms part of a suite of activities and projects, under the Law Trust Chair, aimed at mobilising the national and global community around the Musa-Plan for social justice (the M-Plan), which is a Marshal Plan-like integrated programme of action for accelerated social justice advancement to end poverty and break the back of structural inequality by 2030 in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Development Plan (NDP) objectives.

A project of the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Law Faculty, Stellenbosch University

V. Contextualisation

GBV in institutions of higher learning is a persistent concern that is brought under the umbrella of GBV as it relates to broader society, failing to recognise its distinct nature. As a point of departure, first, it is noteworthy that GBV is a global problem and is not unique to either South Africa or Southern Africa; second, GBV in institutions of higher learning is not a recent issue.

In 2019, several incidents of GBV in institutions of higher learning in South Africa made national headline news, despite a transformative constitution and legislation that protect human rights and prohibits human rights abuses.

In addition, South Africa has ratified and adopted regional and international conventions and protocols focused on the eradication of GBV, such as the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) (1995); the UN Resolution 1325 on Women; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development; and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments (UN, 1993).

Because of a poor understanding of how GBV manifests itself in institutions of higher learning, the intersectional identities of victims and offenders, its prevalence patterns, root causes, and the conditions that encourage it, there is a need in South Africa and globally to better contextualise GBV in institutions of higher learning.

This will encourage these institutions to design and adopt policies that are preventative rather than reactive in nature and ensure adequate input by various stakeholders, including staff, students, representative bodies, researchers, and the wider academic community.

VI. Issues to be explored

The expert roundtable seeks to:

1. Identify the unique manifestations, forms, causes, and influencing factors of GBV in institutions of higher learning.
2. Assess response techniques to GBV incidences in institutions of higher learning and its effectiveness, considering its impact on victims.
3. Explore the shortfalls of current reporting structures and policies in institutions of higher learning, while identifying reasons for the under-reporting of GBV in institutions of higher learning and its prevalence.
4. Identify new methods to prevent the prevalence of GBV in institutions of higher learning.
5. Encourage representative and inclusive social justice anchored research on the forms of GBV at these institutions.

VII. Stakeholders

Every person interested in a social justice and human rights-resonant approach to addressing and curtailing GBV in institutions of higher learning and using design thinking to influence, reform, expedite, and ensure safe and secured processes, counselling, and disciplinary committees.

Programme

Programme Director: Karyn Maughan (News24 Legal Journalist, Documentary Producer and Bestselling Author)

09:00 – 09:30 OPENING SESSION

09:00 – 09:05 **National Anthem and Preamble** (5 mins)

09:05 – 09:15 **Housekeeping** (10 mins): **Programme Director**

09:15 – 09:30 **Opening Remarks** (15 mins): **Dr Kelebogile Choice Makhetha** (Senior Director, Student Affairs, Stellenbosch University)

09:30 – 10:00 **Keynote Address** (30 mins): **Dr Nthabiseng Moleko** (Deputy Chairperson, Commission for Gender Equality (CGE))

10:00 – 10:10 **Key Concluding Observations** (10 mins): **Prof Nicola Smit** (Dean of Law, Stellenbosch University)

10:10 – 10:30 **Tea and Coffee Break and Photo Session** (20 mins)

10:30 – 12:00 **Plenary Panel I: *Exploring the concept and nature of gender-based violence, causes, and influencing factors in institutions of higher learning*** (1h 30 mins)

Moderator: Karyn Maughan

Panellists: (10 mins each)

1. Prof Anthony Collins (Lecturer La Trobe University, Social Enquiry, Melbourne, Australia)

2. Bronwyn Pithey (Advocate, Women's Legal Centre)

3. Dr Lisa Vetten (Research/project consultant at Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg; and research associate of Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, Wits)

4. Prof Deevia Bhana (Professor and DSI/NRF South African Research Chair: Gender and Childhood Sexuality, School of Education, University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Discussion (50 mins)

12:00 – 13:30 **Plenary Panel II: *Critically analyse the legal, social, psychological, developmental, economic, and human rights impact of gender-based violence in institutions of higher learning.*** (1h30mins)

Moderator: Karyn Maughan

13:30 – 14:30

Panellists: (10 mins each)

1. Dr Sheena Swemmer (Head of Gender Justice, Centre for Applied Legal Studies, UJ)

2. Jenna Bayer (Counselling Psychologist, Keynote speaker, Mediator)

3. Franceska Fondse (CEO Angelus Brand, National Champion for Women, A Sisulu, Woman of Fortitude, Founder Women Integral Impact Network, Founder Angelus Africa Sustainable Impact)

Discussion (50 mins)

14:30 – 17:00

Lunch Break (60 mins)

AFTERNOON SESSION

14:30 – 15:30

Plenary Panel III: *Explore the design and shortfalls of current reporting structures and policies in institutions of higher learning while critically analysing motivations for under-reporting of gender-based violence in institutions of higher learning.* (1h)

Moderator: Joy Watson (Feminist Researcher and Writer)

Panellists: (10 mins each)

1. Melissa Lucas (Higher Education Research and Student Development, Gender Researcher)

2. Fanelesibonge Ndebele (Shared Humanity Module and Shared Humanity Learning Coach Module Coordinator)

3. Dr Jill Ryan (Coordinator: Gender Non-violence, Equality Unit, Learning and Teaching, Stellenbosch University)

4. Simamkele Dlakavu (Gender Studies Lecturer, University of Pretoria)

Discussion (20 mins)

15:30 – 16:55

Plenary Panel IV: *Explore the design of recovery facilities and counselling programmes in institutions of higher learning, with a specific focus on rehabilitation and accountability.* (1h 25 mins)

Moderator: Tshilidzi Rambuwani (Research Assistant, Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University)

Panellists: (10 mins each)

1. Prof Thuli Madonsela (Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University and M-Plan Convenor)

2. Sarah-Emma Sydenham (Research Assistant and LLM candidate, Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch University)

3. Lebogang Motau (Founder and CEO of Free World Initiative)

4. Dr Anastacia Tomson (Medical Doctor, Author, Activist)

Discussion (45 mins)

16:55 – 17:00

Vote of Thanks: Prof Thuli Madonsela (Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University and M-Plan Convenor) (5 mins)