



The African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC), a research and training arm of the African Ombudsman and Mediators' Association (AOMA) in collaboration with the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI)

Cordially invite you to a Webinar.

Celebrating Women's Month Ensuring Gender Equity: The Role of the Ombudsman

TUESDAY | 27 AUGUST | 2024

This event aims to spotlight the critical importance of gender equity and the pivotal role Ombudsman offices play in addressing gender bias and discrimination within organizations. Join us for a platform of discussion, learning, and sharing best practices to advance gender equity.

The objective of the webinar is to foster a deeper understanding of gender equity within organizational contexts and to highlight the pivotal role that Ombudsman offices play in addressing complaints related to gender bias and discrimination. This event aims to provide a platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing, focusing on promoting gender equity and empowering Ombudsman institutions to effectively handle gender-related issues, thereby contributing to the creation of more equitable and inclusive environments.

Webinar Goal: The goals of the Webinar are to explore and discuss the importance of gender equity in organizations, to equip Ombudsman offices with the knowledge and tools needed to address complaints of gender bias and discrimination, and to share best practices and successful strategies from various Ombudsman offices. By doing so, the Webinar aims to enhance the capacity of Ombudsman institutions, foster international cooperation, and ultimately support the promotion of good governance, human rights, and the rule of law in the context of gender equity.

Date

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Time

10h00 – 11h30 SA (GMT+2)

Speakers & Facilitator

Speaker 1 – Dr Janine Hicks - Senior Lecturer at the School of Law & Chairperson of UKZN's Gender-based Violence Committee, will discuss “ **Understanding Gender Equity in Organizations.**”

Speaker 2 – Hon. Nashieli Ramirez Hernandez - Human Rights Commissioner of Mexico City (CDHCM) and President of the IOI, will discuss “ **The Role of Ombudsman Offices in Addressing Gender Bias.**”

Speaker 3 – Ms. Lwandisa Zaula - Outreach coordinator at the Office of Public Protector, South Africa, will discuss “ **Case Studies and Best Practices from Ombudsman Offices.**”

Facilitator – Hon. Caroline Sokoni - Secretary General of Aoma, IOI Treasurer & Public Protector Zambia

[Click HERE to RSVP](#)

Due to time constraints, please note that there will be no live questions and answers. Participants may, however, submit relevant questions to Franky Lwelela (Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za) or Marion Adonis (adonism@ukzn.ac.za) by 10:00 on Monday, August 26, 2024, or use the Q & A function during the Webinar. Time has been allocated to respond to questions raised before and during the session. If there is insufficient time to respond to all, the questions and answers will be available on the AOMA/AORC website www.aoma.ukzn.ac.za.

INQUIRIES ONLY:

Franky Lwelela
Email: Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za

Marion Adonis
Email: adonism@ukzn.ac.za



Dr Janine Hicks

is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Law where she serves as convenor for the Navi Pillay Research Interest Group, and Chairperson of UKZN's Gender-based Violence Committee.

Hicks holds a PhD and an LL B from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and a Master of Arts (MA) in Development Studies from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Her research interests are in transformative constitutionalism, access to justice and equality jurisprudence.

Before joining the School of Law in 2017, Hicks worked from the early 1990s in the non-governmental organisation human rights sector, thereafter serving two terms as Commissioner with the Commission for Gender Equality, one of South Africa's constitutional institutions supporting democracy.



Hon. Nashieli Ramirez Hernandez

is a seasoned human rights advocate with over 40 years of experience in Mexico. She currently serves as the President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) since May 2024 and has been the President of the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City since 2017, re-elected for a second term until 2025. She holds advanced qualifications in educational research, teaching practice, and planning, as well as specialized training in local government, security, justice, and child labor policies.

Her leadership in the Ombudsperson System includes roles such as Third Vice-President of the Global Alliance of Local Ombudspersons (AGOL), Coordinator of the Network on Children and Adolescents of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO), and former President of the Mexican Federation of Public Human Rights Bodies (FMOPDH). In the international arena, she has been involved with the Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) and founded key organizations like Ririki Intervención Social, S.C., and the Alliance for the Rights of Children and Adolescents. Her academic contributions include over 50 research projects and publications on social issues, including works on human rights, migration, and intergenerational democracy.



Ms. Lwandisa Zaula.

is a dedicated professional with a dynamic academic background, holding a Bachelor of Law (LL.B), a Bachelor of Social Science and an Honors degree in Anthropology from the University of Fort Hare. With a passion for justice and social equity, she has combined the principles of legal studies and social science to address complex societal issues effectively. In her role as a Portfolio Coordinator at DMC Ms Zaula showcased exceptional project management and organizational skills. She oversaw various clients' portfolios, coordinating team efforts to ensure that projects were delivered on time and met clients' expectations.

As an outreach coordinator at the Public Protector Ms Zaula harness her interpersonal skills to foster relationships between the Public Protector South Africa and the community. She organized numerous educational workshops, public awareness campaigns aimed at increasing access to the services offered by the office of the Public Protector. With a passion for advocacy and dedication to professional excellence, Ms Zaula continues to seek to blend her legal expertise and commitment to community outreach. She believes in the power of collaboration to drive positive change and is excited to leverage her skills in future endeavors.



Hon. Caroline Chuma Zulu Sokoni,

the current Public Protector of Zambia and the Secretary General of AOMA, has served in the office of the Country's National Ombudsman for fifteen (15) years. She began her professional career in 1989 as a State Advocate under the then Ministry of Legal Affairs (now known as Ministry of Justice). She has a Masters of Law in Criminology from Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London in the United Kingdom and served under the Ministry of Justice for fifteen years.

She was appointed as Acting Director of Public Prosecutions for the Republic of Zambia in February 2004 and was also appointed as the Task Team leader for the Legal component of the Water Resources Management Project, a policy formulation body tasked to spearhead the reform of the Water Resources Management process in Zambia. She presided over the Town and Country Planning Tribunal as the Vice Chairperson between 2003 and 2005. In November 2004, she was appointed as the Investigator General for Zambia's National Ombudsman Office. At the time of her appointment the Office was known as the Commission for Investigations.