



Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa

(I H R D A)

“LITIGATING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE CASES BEFORE THE AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM”

STRATEGIC LITIGATION & CASE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

KAMPALA, UGANDA FROM 19 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2018

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) is now accepting applications to participate in a strategic litigation and case identification workshop. The workshop is expected to hold in Kampala, Uganda from 19 – 21 September 2018. The training and case identification workshop is designed to build the capacity of legal practitioners and members of African civil society organizations from countries that have undergone transitional justice processes or are undergoing a process of transition from conflict to post-conflict peace or otherwise has witnessed serious and massive violations. Specific target countries for this workshop are: ***Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda.***

Background to the activity

Over the past two decades, the human rights context in Africa has increasingly been dominated by serious violations perpetrated during armed conflicts or repressive regimes. Such contexts tend to be characterized by widespread impunity, leaving victims with no effective remedy. Complex violations coupled with weak judicial institutions and limited legal expertise to litigate these cases are just some factors affecting the victims’ access to justice. Where national institutions are non-responsive, such cases can be litigated at the regional level and can promise to deliver much needed justice and redress. To date, the number of transitional justice cases handled by the African human rights mechanisms remains minimal yet there is considerable potential of a decision/judgment at the regional level to redress the victims, bring perpetrators to justice and propel legal and institutional reforms to prevent future violations. To achieve this, national capacity must be built and strategic litigation should be pursued as one avenue to seek justice and accountability for these violations.

Description of the activity

This is a training and case identification workshop that will be comprised of different interactive sessions covering the following topics: (1) transitional justice principles and practice; (2) the African human rights system, its mechanisms and procedures; (3) strategic litigation strategies and skills and strategies for litigating transitional justice cases.¹ These sessions will be followed by a final plenary discussion on case identification by the members, where potentially ripe cases for litigation at the regional level will be identified and later pursued. Following the training, IHRDA will work closely with partners *in situ* to prepare the cases for submission at an appropriate mechanism. IHRDA will facilitate the sessions with select guest facilitators with proven expertise on relevant topics.

Expected results: The participants will have built their knowledge and capacity around:

- understanding transitional justice concepts, principles and practice, including the identification of cases that arise in TJ contexts;
- understanding the African human rights system, including the ACHPR and its procedures as well as the other sister mechanisms ACtHPR, ACERWC and ECOWAS Court of Justice;
- improved understanding and application of strategic litigation strategies and skills, especially with respect to litigating transitional justice cases.

Very specifically, the members will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to litigate transitional justice related matters in their countries and file these cases at the regional level. Finally, at least 2 cases will be identified through the case identification exercise and will be pursued jointly with IHRDA partners in-county.

Participant profile:

- A legal practitioner who has previously litigated, or is currently litigating human rights cases at the national or regional levels; or
- A member of a human rights organization (with a legal background) whose organization is involved in human rights documentation, advocacy or litigation of cases;
- A legal practitioner/member of a human rights organization already working on transitional justice issues or cases, and/or with a keen interest to pursue litigation in this field;
- Must be from any of the following: ***Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda.***

¹ "Transitional justice" cases means human rights violations perpetrated during a situation of conflict or repressive regime for which there has been no accountability and no redress to the victim(s). Examples of such violations are: arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killing, torture, cruel, unusual and degrading treatment or punishment, sexual violence, forced disappearance, forced displacement or massive and serious violations against a group or community.

Application details:

Please complete the enclosed form and send along with a motivation letter and a C.V. to pchabane@ihrda.org with copy to fjangana@ihrda.org by **30 April 2018**. In subject line, please indicate: "Application for IHRDA Training-KAMPALA".

If selected, IHRDA will cover the round-trip airfare to Kampala, per diem and accommodation for the duration of the workshop.

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Expression of Interest Form

- 1. First Name: Surname:**
- 2. Title:..... Gender:..... Nationality:**
- 3. Name of Organization Affiliation:**
- 4. Position within organization/firm:**
- 5. Describe the mission of the organization and its activities:**
- 6. Describe what you do in the organization (or) what type of cases you litigate:**
- 7. Have you litigated human rights cases, if so, please give details on the cases & outcomes:**
- 8. Do you have any cases you are working on or know of that should be brought to the regional level? Please explain.**
- 9. Why are you interested in participating in this training? What do you expect to do with the skills?**