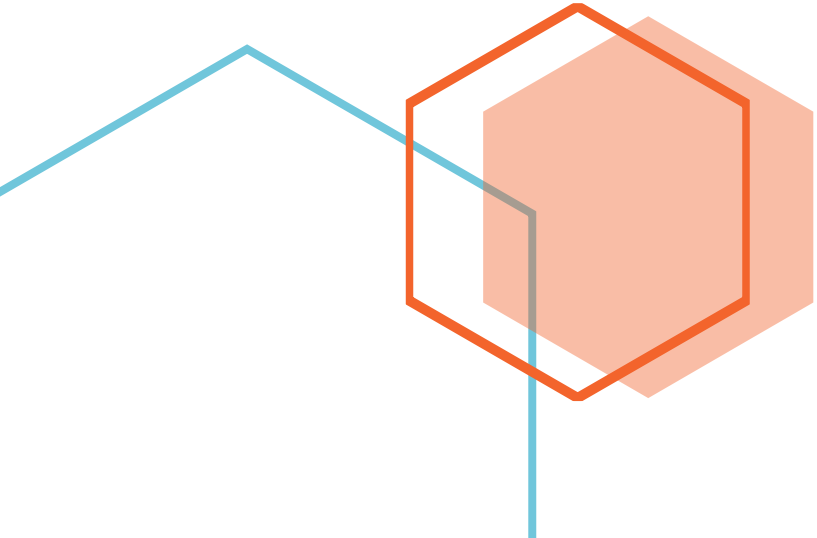




HURISA ACTIVITY REPORT



JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022



HURISA ACTIVITY REPORT



“A year marked by resilience and strides making realisation of human rights, peace and security”.

Capacity building programmes reached Women Human Rights Defenders & other stake holders working in risks environments resourced with mechanisms promoting protection of their functioning for building safe communities, accountable state institutions functioning independently without fear , favour, and prejudice . The year of progress investigation of the State Capture, resistance of the State Capture Report, persecution of the judiciary , political war, violence, infiltrated CSOs, weakened law enforcement, looting and breaking state economic and social infrastructure . Neglected maintenance, road repairs, public buildings, blackouts, water, sewage maintenance backlogs. A strong citizenry , sober minded, instilled with ubuntu values entrenched in international and regional principles can offer solutions to address complex local and national challenges. Networking, collaboration , research studies and advocacy interventions are effective tools emulated throughout our initiatives. We would not have done well without our community action teams, provincial focal points, partners and generous support from our donors.





Heading 1

Year 2022 was a breather year from the hard hitting COVID 19 pandemic two years ago. However, it several setbacks impacted negatively on the political, social and economic recovery trajectory. The July 2021 insurgence also attributed as a precedence setter for attacks of rights practice, accountability, and the rule of law. Parliament of the Republic of South Africa built more than 60 years was burn down to ashes. University of the Western Cape Library was also flamed to ashes by homeless persons. These violent attacks, imply treason, have compromised security of the country.

Heading 2

Efforts overcoming economic downgrading and social services overwhelmed by the pandemic decelerated. High unemployment affects over 50% of youth. The gap between the poor and the rich has widened further with poor communities characterised by deplorable living conditions. Criminal syndicates have found fertile land in South Africa ranging from drugs, abductions, teenage pregnancy, GBV-F which President Ramaphosa declared as a second pandemic. Car hijacking and extra judicial killings are some of the crimes that gripped South Africa and dubbed the country unsafe in the world for women and girls.

Heading 3

It was also a year gripped by xenophobic escalations that Operation Dudula an anti-migrant group promoted violence and hatred across the country. Raiding's were conducted to expel undocumented migrants from workplaces, including informal trading places, and forced their removal in communities they resided. Hate speech and insults by some government officials encouraged Operation Dudula hatred stance to migrants as well as blames them for the crime and lack of delivery of basic services to needy South Africans. In addition, announcement of Minister of Home Affairs to permanently terminate expired Zimbabwe Special Permits on 31 December 2022 attributed to the anti-migrants' sentiment in South Africa. Although extension was given to June 2023, brutal murders, destruction of migrant's personal properties, attacks, arbitrary arrests and deportations has been weaponised to harass, intimidate and on of migrants from the country.

Key Human rights trends and status –

GBV & Femicide — between April 2020 and September 2022, 988 women were killed in domestic violence in South Africa.

Teenage pregnancy — pregnancies among girls aged between 10-19 rose from 129 951 in 2017-18 to an estimated 160 186 in 2021-22. Adjusting for population growth, the pregnancy rate per 1000 adolescent girls rose from 26.8 to 30.5 over this period.

Children's rights — more than 13 million children were affected by nationwide school closures (both full and partial) which lasted most of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 500 000 learners reportedly dropped out of school permanently during the pandemic according to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Poverty — according to Macrotrends, South Africa poverty rate 1993-2023 is 56.90%.

Unemployment — South Africa's official unemployment rate fell to 32.9% in the third quarter of 2022 from 33.9% in the second quarter, the statistics agency said on 29 November 2022.

Death toll — the estimated number of deaths in South Africa reached 663,075.²

Corruption — Corruption Index in South Africa averaged 46.32 Points from 1996 until 2021.



The context

This period of reporting was also featured by the State Capture Report presented President Ramaphosa by the Chairperson of Commission of Inquiry into the State Capture, Justice Raymond Zondo . The report was presented in 5 sets. Few arrests have been initiated and prosecutions by the National Prosecution Authority NPA including the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development commenced extradition process of the Gupta Brothers from the United Arab Emirates for alleged corruption that crippled SAA, ESKOM, Transnet and other State Own Enterprise's SOEs. All these positive developments are convincing to overcome corruption in the country. Even though high-ranking officials in government, including prominent figures in the leading party as well as SOEs have been exposed. But the State Capture Report provides some confidence in fighting corruption. Unfortunately, this cannot be fully celebrated by all because of an unexpected controversy that unfolded relating to theft of million dollars at President Ramaphosa Game Farm. This matter attracted wide media coverage because the theft unreported to police and the dollar funds were stolen from his furniture. This raised suspicion of corruption and money laundering which some politicians fought for his questioning. A panel made up of former Chief Justice Ngcobo, Justice Masipa and Advocate Mahlape Sello were appointed by parliament to preside over the Phala Phala debacle. The findings of the panel have been taken for review due to the poor legal findings that were largely based on hearsay evidence. The country political landscape had taken a sharp corner that nearly caused President Ramaphosa resign from his position as State and party President. These events unfolded a few days before the 55th elective conference of the leading party which some thought will oust Ramaphosa.

Peace, safe communities, accountable state, and stability has become a fallacy for most in South Africa. Malicious prosecutions continue unabated. We are also inescapable to natural and manmade disasters. So has despair, pandemonium come. Blackouts, and looming grey listing of the country means the worse is yet to come. But hope is what most in the country hold to, and where HURISA resilience, together with community action teams, provincial focal points and other likeminded partners, coalitions and networks continue to build a culture of human rights, peace and democracy.

HURISA successfully implemented far reaching activities promoting peace, democracy, and human rights protection. Capacity Building Workshops , Advocacy and research interventions holding the government accountable to implement national, international, and regional human rights treatise binding South Africa were populated.



Human Rights Programme

HURISA hosted innovative programme covering contemporary human rights issues that reached over 2, 000, 000 audience across the country and beyond. These were reached through coordinated meetings conducted in person and hybrid formats. Our online platforms (twitter, facebook, website and WhatsApp) contributed immensely in reaching various stakeholders, particularly the grass roots, international & regional partners, national institutions, government officials and development community partners. Capacity building workshops were conducted for Women Human Rights Defender's working in risks environments, human rights documentation monitoring and advocacy initiatives, community dialogues , provincial training workshops in five provinces including training programme organised for the parliamentarians in Cape town.

The report provides summaries of human rights activities conducted from January to December 2022.

Capacity Building Workshops

Capacity Building Training Workshops participants

Capacity Building Women Human Rights Defender's equipped over 100, 000 WHRDs with skills to apply physical protection and digital security Tools. The project was conducted in March for WHRDs drawn from Eastern Cape, Gauteng and KZN provinces. Advancing Rights Initiative in Southern Africa (ARISA) funded the project. CIVICUS sponsored a subsequent training of WHRDs conducted in August which reached WHRD from Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, and Gauteng provinces. WHRDs were empowered with national, regional and international human rights mechanisms that inspired them to advocate for enabling environments for defending human rights. The training strengthened their skills to prepare security protection policies for their organisations, documentation of human rights violations, reporting violations to international, regional, and national human rights bodies and increased their networking, monitoring capacities and advocacy interventions for holding human rights violators at local communities accountable. WHRDs groups reached consisted of diverse Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) operating as Community Based Organisations (CBOs), environmental activists, land rights, mining, GBV activists, peace, security, minority rights defending indigenous rights as well as LGBTQA+, PWD, PWA, migrants , faith based and traditional communities.

Human rights documentation monitoring and advocacy

Provincial Focal Points were provided the opportunity to implement skills gained at the training workshop upon return to their communities. HURISA designed a Human Rights Documentation & Information Handling & Monitoring Tool specifically for the benefit of local WHRDs. Research findings with rich evidence-based data collected through this tool from Eastern Cape, KZN, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Northwest, Northern Cape &, Limpopo provinces highlight the stigma and other structural challenges facing WHRDs promoting human rights in communities



Despite the constitutional guarantees for everyone, the vulnerable and marginalised groups are still far from accessing. Hence, the structural violation of their rights persists in these provinces.

1. Persons with Albinism living in rural areas are denied access to quality health services, they are not supported to access facial cream to reduce skin cancer. They also face stigmatisation and taboos perpetrated by typical traditional and cultural practicing communities.
2. LGBTIQ+ face stigmatisation and violence because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. This is prevalent in villages because of the deep rooted harmful cultural practices.
3. Migrants are not integrated in community activities. In big cities, they are exposed to violence and blamed for the high crime rates because of their foreign nationality. They are also victims of ongoing xenophobic attacks against migrants and refugees.
4. Women are often denied access to land, while the widows are harassed and intimidated because of their inheritance from their late husband. They also face domestic violence, sexual harassment in the workplace, unequal pay and excluded from economic and political opportunities.
5. Girls are subjected to incestuous crimes, rape, unintended pregnancies, lack of sanitary health products, equal educational opportunities, access to sexual reproductive health education, including family planning. They face child labour, particularly on farms, sexual exploitation, and intimate murders.
6. Basic and disability grants are not renewed by SASSA especially in Mpumalanga province.
7. Women, particularly living in rural areas face discrimination in accessing job opportunities, places of learning and skills development.

Publication

A simplified booklet containing national, regional and international human rights mechanisms was designed as resource pack for use of WHRDs to advocate and report violations preventing them conduct their functions in communities to national, regional and international human rights bodies.

Online monitoring impact tool was designed to assist HURISA gauge, improve and enhance its communication machinery for broad public reach through social media, like Facebook, tweeter, website, WhatsApp.



Networking and advocacy at national level

As part of the advocacy campaign, HURISA created online advocacy groups with over 60 WHRDs drawn from Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Northwest, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal provinces. This online platform serves as exchange and popularisation of available mechanisms protecting WHRDs and documenting human rights affecting women and girls working in local communities.

WHRDs sent advocacy letters to the Department of Justice, National Prosecution Authority, Minister of the South African Police Service regarding no bail to be granted to the perpetrators of the 6-year-old girl raped by four men and the 8-year-old girl raped by a 26-year-old man. This was to ensure enforcement of the GBV legislation prohibiting release of the GBV suspects on bail.

Engagement at the Regional Human Rights Body



HURISA issued appeal statements on the situation of xenophobia in South Africa to African Commission on Human and People's Rights attention. The organisation also presented statement on the situation of human rights in the SADC region during the 71st , 72nd, 73rd Session of ACHPR. The Commission took note of the statement presented during the 71st Session of the ACHPR and promised to be in touch with HURISA for further discussion and collaboration.

The organisation also invited as an expert to the ACHPR Special Mandate holder workshop for drafting Rules of the alert and reporting mechanism on the situations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Commission adopted this mechanism which was launched in December 2022.

HURISA ACTIVITY REPORT



HURISA as a Steering Committee of the NGO Forum for participation in ACHPR Session contribute in the NGO Forum planning, programme, facilitation and presentation of statement of the human rights situation in the SADC region. HURISA also presented a statement on the Addis Ababa Roadmap which the two human rights systems, Commission Special Mandate Holders and UN Special Mandate Holders cooperate. The statement reiterated the significance of this cooperation and recommended way forward for the next decades as the purpose of the event was to review the impact of the past 10 years of inception.

HURISA activities as a Support Group Member of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on Freedom of Association & Assemblies.

Support Group Members Meeting was coordinated before the 73rd Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. The meeting was facilitated by ICNL in support of the ACHPR chairperson. The meeting reviewed the mandate of the support group which expired end of the year and a plan of action was developed with a resolution which ACHPR adopted during the 73rd Session. The resolution expanded mandate of the support group for the next 2 years promoting FoAA Guidelines implementation in the continent.

HURISA collaboration with International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL) Centre by equipping Kenya civil society representatives and Kenya Law Society Representatives with African Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assemblies. The guidelines seek to assist African Union Members States legislature craft laws with human rights approaches, particularly to ensure functioning of non-profit organisations operate in enabling environments and thrive in work they do. The opportunity was provided for participants scrutinize current legislation to observe impediments to enjoyment of freedom of association and assembly. Recommendations were made in a form of advocacy to promote the objectives of the guidelines which discourage enactment of arbitrary laws shrinking democratic spaces leading to reprisals, extra judicial killings, forced disappearances abductions and deregistration of non-profit associations. The guidelines have been translated in French, Portuguese, Arabic languages. Kiswahili translation has been considered to complete all AU Official languages.



HURISA also collaborates with ICNL and Centre for Human Rights for training of CSOs on FoAA in the CHR Matters Training Programme. Over 100 participants have been reached, from across the continent involved in community work as well as human rights, women, LGBTQA, Disability, albinism, national institutions, international organisations. The training also brought together international and regional human rights experts working in litigation, academia, international and regional institutions.

Mediation Capacity Building and dialogue workshop for WHRDs and Women Peace Builders

Interactive intervention with the Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, Honourable Commissioner Remy Ngoy Lumbu, at the end of the two-day capacity-building mediation workshop. This was aimed at enhancing the understanding of WHRDs, peacebuilders, activists on the African system of human rights to ensure promotion and protection of human rights in Africa as enunciated in Article 45 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Cooperation of the African Commission with African institutions and CSOs in promotion and protecting of human rights in Africa was emphasised



4th South Africa Universal Periodic Review

HURISA & CSVR established a CSO UPR Coalition for preparations of CSO UPR Reports. Partners co-hosted consultation with CSOs UPR Coalition for purpose of drafting the CSO UPR report which was due for submission on 31 March 2022. CSO representatives attended from the grass roots across the country working on key thematic areas such as women & children's rights, LGBTQI, Refugees, Socioeconomic issues, Environments Natural Resources, and key sectors such as interfaith based groups, trade unions, academia, and journalists. Over 90 participants were reached and provided data bundles for all online meetings conducted, including briefings and review meeting on the draft UPR Report.

The CSO UPR Report was validated by over 60 CSO representatives that also endorsed the report which highlight seven (7) thematic issues of concern and recommendations to South Africa to take specific measures to improve the situation of WHRDs, migrants, vulnerable groups (elderly, PWD, PWA), torture, sterilisation, GBV-F and children living in rural areas, protection of associations and assemblies, consideration of a model law to enable HRDs and WHRDs perform their duties in local communities without fear of reprisals, extrajudicial killings, abductions, intimidation and harassment.

HURISA ACTIVITY REPORT



UPR-Info

UPR Info an international organisation based in Geneva , Switzerland. approached HURISA for collaboration in engaging key Diplomatic communities in South Africa to advocate for their support recommendations on the pertinent human rights issues highlighted in the SA CSO UPR Report. This was a successful activity that brought together diverse representatives from the grassroots.

Each representative from the Embassies received a copy of advocacy statements and key recommendations advocated for adoption on South Africa 4th UPR. The outcome of SA 4th UPR Report will be deliberated at the next Human Rights Council Session in June 2023.



UPR Info collaboration with HURISA on the 41st UPR Pre-Session on 21 September 2022 and the National Consultation with the Diplomats on 22 September 2022 respectively



E-hub

UPR-info is collaborating with HURISA for training of WHRDs on e-hub. The aim is to test the first module, which is an [introduction to the UPR mechanism](#). The module is the 4th of online work, a certificate will be given after completion after successful completion of the modules,

Monitoring and Advocacy for protection of human rights



The opportunity was used to popularise International Human Rights Defenders Day observed annually on 29 November to honour WHRDs. International WRD emphasise documentation of human rights violations and the state to support WHRDs with resources. It also encourages enactment of model laws to protect WHRDs, to enable safe environments, collaborations with national human rights institutions. Capacity building training workshop was conducted for WHRDs and HRDs to increase advocacy for enactment of a model law, monitoring, documentation and reporting human rights violations to law enforcement through information dissemination, including advocacy campaigns against reprisals, repeal of repressive laws. It also provided the opportunity to draw lessons from regional and international experts from ISHR as an enhancement process for participants begin engaging in strategies for developing a model law and the indicative guidelines tool contribute to ACHPR monitoring and evaluation mechanism for WHRDs operation in South Africa and beyond.



Women Peace and Security

HURISA, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Lady of Peace Community Foundation, South Africa Women in Dialogue and Foundation for Human Rights, Access Chapter 2 have come together as a CSO coalition to assist the government of South Africa to implement South Africa National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security which is aimed to achieve milestones on five years from 2020-2025. HURISA received R190 000 to conduct the Public Event & 4 Provincial capacity building training (GP, MP, NW, Limpopo).

The partners rolled out several activities across the country popularising the SA NAP WPS, public dialogues in communities, awareness raising for protection of migrants' rights, sexual orientation and gender identity persons, provincial training workshops in nine provinces of South Africa.

Public dialogue on the NAP on WPS



This public event was hosted in hybrid format on 11 April 2022 at the Constitution Hill, Braamfontein, Johannesburg. The objective of the public dialogue was to promote a culture of peace in communities, particularly in vulnerable communities where women, girls, LGBTQI, persons with albinism, persons with disabilities, migrants, the aged live in fear of violence and victimisation. Their participation in this public event was of paramount importance as they were first to be educated about the SA NAP WPS. They learnt how to use the SA NAP WPS as a tool to build peace in local communities. However, the lack of funding and inadequate gender responsive budgeting is a real obstacle to the successful implementation of the WPS Agenda.

The CSO Coalition on NAP WPS was also represented, including South Africa Women in Dialogue, Access Chapter 2, Foundation for Human Rights, Institute of Justice and Reconciliation, Lady of Peace Community Foundation, Human Rights Institute of South Africa. Representation of partners from Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Charlotte Shope Women Mediation, ACCORD and UN Women also attended¹.

¹ Participants list is attached as Annexure A



Dynamic speakers were identified based on the WPS skills, expertise and included Mr Tim Reilly Deputy Head of Mission & Gender Equality and WPS Agenda Lead , who represented HE Ms Fionnuala Gilson, Ireland Ambassador to South Africa . Prof Cheryl Hendricks, Executive Director of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, the CSO leader on SA National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, Ms Madumezulu Girlie Silinda - Interim Acting Executive Director SAWID, Freddy Mabitsela - Celeste Diale, LOPECO, Litlhare Rabele FHR, Steve Letsike Access Chapter 2, Tryphina Nhlapo Melokuhle Foundation, Brian Muziringa Migration Disabled Rights, Cathy Kodiemoka HURISA. Portia Serote from Access Chapter 2 representing Steve Letsike: Speaking LGBTIQ+, Caron Kgomo from DIRCO (Gertrude Shope Women's Mediators Network) represented Ms Charlotte Lobe, South Africa Focal Person on Women Peace, and Security: Spoke on South African NAP context, Molline Marume from UN-Women – Speaking on the Role of Government and Civil Society in Implementing the NAP, Lieketseng Mohlakoana – Motopi – from Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) presenting on Monitoring and Evaluating the Implementation of the NAP, Pravina Makan-Lakha, from ACCORD provided the Closing Remarks.

- Over 60 participants attended and 13 joined virtually
- CSOs, women human rights defenders, women peace builders, youth, LGBTIQ+, persons with disabilities, persons with albinism, the aged, were informed about the NAP WPS,
- Over 60 NAP WPS copies were distributed to participants
- Increased collaboration and networking among CSOs in their diversity and women peace builders
- Increased collaboration with key government departments, DIRCO, Chapter 9 Institutions (CGE, SAHRC), UN Woman & Irish Embassy
- Networking on WPS was established

Provincial Training Workshops on NAP WPS

HURISA conducted 5 Provincial trainings workshops in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northwest, Limpopo, and jointly with IJR in Western Cape province. CSOs & Parliamentarian were reached over two days with project funding provided by the Irish Embassy and Netherland Embassy.

The purpose of the training workshop was to popularise the SA WPS, South Africa adopted in 2019. The NAP WPS is a 5-year plan (2020-2025) anchored on the 4 pillars of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, namely, Participation, Protection, Prevention and Relief and Recovery. The SA NAP WPS is a comprehensive guiding framework for implementation of the WPS agenda in South Africa. It seeks to create “a safer peaceful South Africa, Africa and the world for women, girls, and gender non-conforming persons.



Gauteng Province Training Workshop



- 41 participants were reached.
- WHRDs, CBOs, CSOs, LGBTIQ+, persons with albinism, disability forum, provincial aids forum, faith-based structures, peace structures, youth attended to know about the NAP on WPS
- 41 simplified booklets were distributed, 1 Sesotho, 14 English and 26 Zulu languages
- Increased collaboration and networking among diversity of CSOs and women peace builders
- Strengthened young women's participation in peace and security agenda.
- Strengthened capacity and oversight on Women, Peace and Security to local women with limited access to information.
- Increased collaboration with key government department, DIRCO, Chapter 9 Institutions (CGE, SAHRC), UN Woman & Embassy of Ireland
- Networking on WPS established

Mpumalanga Provincial Training Workshop



HURISA ACTIVITY REPORT



- 27 participants were reached drawn from far remote disadvantaged rural communities in the province
- SA NAP WPS document was popularised in Mpumalanga Province, for range of representatives from local rural communities.
- WPBs, WHRDs, CBOs, CSOs, LGBTIQA, persons with albinism, disability forum, provincial aids forum, faith-based structures, peace structures, youth attended to know about the SA NAP on WPS.
- Awareness raised and concrete measures discussed to address the violent expressions of homophobia; persons with albinism, GBV, xenophobia, migrants and resource mobilization.
- Deepened understanding for the full and meaningful participation, prevention and protection of women in conflict including involvement in peace and security processes, structures and institutions at all levels.
- 27 simplified booklets were distributed, 7 English language copies and 20 Zulu language copies.
- Increased collaboration and networking among diversity of CSOs, CBOs, WPBs, WHRDs.
- Increased collaboration with key government departments, DIRCO, Chapter 9 Institutions (CGE, SAHRC), UN Woman & Embassy of Ireland.
- Networking on WPS established in the province promoting WPS agenda at provincial and local levels.

Northwest Provincial Training Workshop



- 36 participants were reached.
- WHRDs, CBOs, CSOs, LGBTIQA, persons with albinism, disability forum, provincial aids forum, faith-based structures, peace structures, University-NWU IKS Unit (Youth), Community Property Association, climate change refugees attended to know about the NAP on WPS
- 36 simplified booklets were distributed to participants



Limpopo Provincial Training Workshop



- 47 participants were reached
- WHRDs, CBOs, CSOs, LGBTIQA, persons with albinism, faith-based structures, Youth attended to know about the NAP on WPS.
- Over 47 simplified booklets were distributed to participants in Sesotho and Xhosa.
- Increased collaboration and networking among diversity of CSOs and women peace builders, women human rights defenders and youth.

Western Cape Provincial Training Workshop





WPS Challenges in Western Cape Province

- Over 40 participants attended including CGE representative
- Teenage pregnancy is still a contagious issue accepted in the community and in schools.
- There are other trends that are coming in the fare, including COVID 19 pandemic, food & nutrition, community depended on social grants (Muilenburg)
- Abuse of persons with albinism, elderly, property fraud, housing backlog, overpopulation, backyard challenges, illegal squatters, normalised situations as people have nowhere to go, and use substance abuse as a relief
- Lack of financial management in homes, poor service delivery, lack of sanitation, ill-health, disease & destruction
- Gang violence in Muilenburg, the government relocated people in Observatory, however safety and security measures are not in place, gang violence and bullying is rampant
- Schools should be respected place for live training between boy and girl children
- CGE comment on Schools — Engagement with Department of Education have ensued regarding school curriculum. Parents should play roles in the education of their children, monitor their movements in order to root out bullying in communities and prevention in schools.
- Drugs proliferation continue to surge in communities posing criminality among youth. A 16-year-old boy from Kriefontein had allegedly murdered an elderly man. While a 13-year-old boy was reported murdered in the community. Schools have become drug infested areas. 5-6-year-old children get exposed to drugs; they have disbursing experiences as alcoholics and drunkards.

Training workshop for parliamentarians in the Western Cape Province

The training was facilitated by HURISA, IJR, SAWID and LOPECO subsequent to the CSO provincial training in Cape Town, Western Cape province. Over 20 parliamentarians representing diverse political parties attended.

As MPs play oversight roles it was their first time to learn about the SA NAP WPS. They raised concerns at the lack of dissemination and publicity about the NAP. They recommended CSOs continue engaging all parties on the SA NAP WPS and assist the government to implement the NAP on WPS in communities. They emphasised the importance of community participation in implementation, through workshops, capacity building and translation of the SA NAP WPS for in-depth understanding by communities. They also emphasised success of the mammoth task rely on budget allocations. The Presidential Summit on GBV was used as an example that CSOs continue blaming government for the exclusion.

MPs suggested CSOs names to be involved or work with to disseminate the information. The EFF recommended that All Portfolio Committee Chairpersons in municipalities, including municipalities should be informed about the SA NAP WPS. The IEC is also important Chapter 9 Institution that should receive this education since they have women peacekeepers that continue to be abused.



Awareness raising for protection of non-conforming persons and Knowledge Product

The awareness raising event captured evidence-based data highlighting the human rights violation facing gender non-conforming persons and provided guaranteed protections in regional and international instruments for safeguarding their rights.



The event was graced by Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice & Constitutional Development Mr John Jeffery who empowered participants about the legal frameworks and policies protecting gender non-conforming persons.



Liezelle Khumalo from the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation commended African women for campaigning against gender inequalities since 1962, before the founding of



the Organisation of African Unity. The Pan-African Women's Organization focused on integration of women's concerns into Africa's liberation struggle. She welcomed the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action launched 38 ago for bringing together women from all walks of life to discuss gender integration in the UN peace and security agenda.

Nolwazi Tusini from Iranti Org, Mawethu Nkosana from CIVICUS, Khosi Buthelezi from Thato One Big Family and Thabiso Mogapi, Action for Social Justice International were panelists. They provided rich discussion, innovative ideas and human rights violations individuals are subjected to only because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. These include;

- Brutal killings, including mob attacks, corrective rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.
- Stigmatisation of consensual same sex between adults and the lack of investigation of human rights violations against LGBTIQA persons and prosecution of the alleged perpetrators.
- High levels of impunity paralyses SOGI persons access justice and effective remedies for harm sustained from atrocities.
- Prevalent of other discriminatory laws used to harass, including arbitrary arrests, reprimand people on ground of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- Violation of individuals privacy, arbitrary and discriminatory restrictions on freedoms of assembly, association of LGBTIQA persons.
- Access to health, education, employment, housing, and shelter impeded.
- Media, public servants and other stakeholders fuel incitement of hatred and violence against LGBTIQA persons.
- Dissemination of negative stereotypes, and degrading language to instill hatred to persons because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.
- High HIV incidence prevalence among the LGBTIQA is exacerbated, among others, by structural factors, such as stigma, discrimination, violence, and other human rights violations facing them.
- These human rights violations to contribute to the vulnerable HIV gender-conforming persons particularly transgender people, gay men and other men who have sex with men, while at the same time hindering their access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment services.

These trends contrast the international and regional human rights standards South Africa acceded. This gap between human rights standards and their effective application to LGBTIQA persons was of concern to all participants, and further reiterated need for more dialogues of this kind in communities, particularly the marginalised in townships, rural areas, and informal settlements.

Victim Centered and Gender Sensitive Approach to Justice in the SADC region Africa Legal Aid (AFLA)

AFLA approached HURISA through Webber Wentzel to partner in hosting a victim centered approach conference in Africa. HURISA will assume roles of national and SADC Regional Focal point for hosting of the conference which will run over two days. HURISA is also expected to provide technical support in respect of identification of GBV Stakeholders for the conference, including the speakers. HURISA also links AFLA with development communities, diplomatic



communities and donors arranging meetings ,concept drafting and budget negotiation. HURISA also provided CSO reports on CEDAW, UPR, and Concluding Observation delivered by the UN Human Rights Committee . Webber Wentzel considered supporting HURISA for the focal point role in coordination of this conference.

AFLA also dedicated a special edition of its peer reviewed journal, the AFLA Quarterly to the theme: A Victim Centred and Gender-Sensitive Approach to Justice in Southern Africa.

An article that seeks to address the needs and challenges that women in Southern Africa face has been drafted. The article highlights a three-country synopsis on GBV-F: South Africa, Zambia and Swaziland with a focus on:

- Regional, and international mechanisms binding selected countries to protect women from GBV-F
- Review the findings on GBV-F in selected countries
- National frameworks and policies protecting women and vulnerable groups
- The survivor centred and gender-sensitive approaches to Justice

Young Women Peace Awards 2022 Gala Night

The state of peacebuilding and social cohesion in south Africa was discussed to the young women peacebuilding finalists ahead of the Young Women Peacebuilders Awards 2022 Gala Night hosted by HURISA partner LOPECO.

Message of support was expressed during the Young Women Peacebuilders Awards 2022 Gala Night, where six young women were recognised for playing vital roles in building a culture of peace in their communities.





Conclusion

Climate change, xenophobia, GBV-F, corruption with impunity, and inequality have made us vulnerable in 2022. To combat these threats affecting South Africa and safeguard human rights for all, HURISA wishes to expand its partnership, which is the cornerstone of how we work and our reach to uphold constitutional democracy in South Africa. This is by promoting, protecting, and monitoring the attainment of human rights in South Africa without fear, favor, or prejudice. More work needs to be done in reaching women and vulnerable groups who are voiceless so that no one is left behind and they can claim their rights. Furthermore, there are numerous opportunities to advance human rights, but we have limited resources. More funding opportunities will allow us to deliver high-quality work while also ensuring that our staff are well capacitated, has the necessary tools to perform, directly supporting human rights defenders, educating people about their rights, and amplifying the voices of those who would otherwise never be heard.