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UCT interview opportunity: Regional Seminar on Preventing and Eradicating Torture in Africa – experts will discuss the work of the Article 5 Initiative and the way forward in combating torture in Africa

| Date | Event/Topic | Highlights/Speakers | Contact |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| <p>1 - 3 Sep</p> | <p>Regional Seminar on Preventing and Eradicating Torture in Africa</p> <p>Times:</p> <p>1 Sep: 08h30 – 17h00</p> <p>2 & 3 Sep: 09h00 – 16h00</p> <p>Venue: Radisson Blu Gautrain Hotel, Johannesburg</p> | <p>Associate Professor Lillian Artz, Director of the Gender, Health & Justice Research Unit (GHJRU) at the University of Cape Town, will open the Regional Seminar on Preventing and Eradicating Torture in Africa. Her current project work includes research on female offenders in prisons and psychiatric settings, domestic homicide, the epidemiology of child sexual abuse, political ex-prisoners as well as the medico-legal management of domestic violence and sexual offences.</p> <p>The seminar is hosted by the Article 5 Initiative (A5I), of which the GHJRU, situated in UCT's faculty of health sciences, is one of the collaborators.</p> <p>The A5I supports African institutions to improve domestic compliance with international law obligations, norms and procedures under the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (AChHPR). It focuses on six post-conflict African countries, namely Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda.</p> <p>During this seminar, the A5I partners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on opportunities for innovative implementation of UNCAT, AChHPR, Robben Island Guidelines, the role of the African Commission | <p>For interviews with Associate Professor Artz contact:</p> <p>Kemantha Govender Tel: 021 650 5672 Cell: 084 737 6522 Email: kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za</p> |

on Human and People's Rights and the Committee for Prevention of Torture in Africa;

- Explore practices and opportunities for developing national protective mechanisms that meet domestic needs;
- Discuss possibilities for advocacy around adopting UNCAT-compliant torture legislation; and
- Explore the right to redress in the African human rights landscape.

For more information on the ASI, visit <http://a5i.org/>.

In South Africa the Prevention and Combating of Torture of Persons Act, passed in 2013, aims to:

- Give effect to South Africa's obligations in terms of the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- Recognise the offence of torture of persons; and
- Prevent and combat the torture of persons within or across the borders of South Africa.

About Associate Professor Lillian Artz

Prior to establishing the Gender Health & Justice Research Unit in 2004, Associate Professor Artz spent 10 years as a chief researcher and lecturer at the Centre for Criminology (Faculty of Law, UCT). She has published extensively on domestic violence, sexual offences, sex work, feminist theory and women's rights to freedom and security in Africa. She has worked on criminal justice and healthcare reform in Southern and East Africa over the past 17 years. This includes partnering with local and regional NGOs to improve research, monitoring and advocacy strategies to effect policy change, legal reform and access to justice.

Her current project work includes research on female offenders in prisons and psychiatric settings, domestic homicide, the epidemiology of child sexual abuse, political ex-prisoners as well as the medico-legal management of domestic violence and sexual offences.

Current regional projects include the prevention of torture and ill treatment in South Africa, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Mozambique and Uganda as well as work on pre-trial detention in Zambia, Mozambique and Kenya. She is also working on the development of medico-legal services and police responses to victims of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence in South Sudan.

Associate Professor Artz is the Vice-President of the Criminological and Victimological Society of Southern Africa and has worked as a technical consultant to a wide range of parliamentary structures, law commissions, criminal justice institutions and international donors in Southern and East Africa.

About the GHJRU

The Gender, Health & Justice Research Unit (GHJRU) at UCT is an interdisciplinary research unit that unites scholars, NGOs and practitioners in pursuit of the elimination of violence against women and children in Southern

Africa (and beyond). The unit develops and implements innovative, interdisciplinary research and social interventions to address violence against women and children in a variety of social, political and institutional settings. It has a proven history of empirical, evaluation and monitoring projects, many of which are well cited in literature and are foundational studies in the areas of domestic violence, sexual offences, and sexual and reproductive rights. The unit uses its empirical research to develop well-informed, evidence-based advocacy positions to support legal and policy reform in South Africa and similarly situated countries. Their research is almost exclusively conducted in interdisciplinary teams, including NGOs and government departments. The unit also has a well-established history of providing technical assistance to a wide range of implementing partners.

About the A5I

Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 5 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (the African Charter) guarantee the right of all people to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The Article 5 Initiative (A5I) draws its name from these two articles, and is a collaboration of four organisations working for the prevention and eradication of torture in Africa through research and the development of practice-aimed resources.

The A5I is a partnership between UCT's GHJRU, the University of the Western Cape (Community Law Centre), the University of Bristol (Human Rights Implementation Centre) and the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum. The A5I is supported by the European Union through the European Instrument for the Development of Human Rights.

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