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Contents

03 EDITORIAL

04 FEATURE 1

Taking a Gender-Nuanced Approach to the Access-to-Justice Needs of Women in Zambia's Prisons

11 FEATURE 2

The Role of the SAHRC in Facilitating Access to Justice through Litigation

16 POEM

Who Guards the Guardians?

20 EVENT

Inception meeting on Research on Community Paralegals in Africa in Kigali, Rwanda, 21–22 February 2020

22 UPDATE

African Commission on Human and People's Rights' Resolution on States' Obligation to Regulate Private Actors

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of ESR Review in 2020. It is the second in a series of five special issues focusing on access to justice.

Our first feature article, by Chipo Mushota Nkhata, examines the institutional barriers that incarcerated women face in accessing justice, and argues for a gender-nuanced approach to legislation. The author contrasts this with traditional approaches to legislation and how they impact on access to justice for women.

The second feature article, by Mohamed Shafie Ameermia and Peacemore Mhodi, evaluates the role of the South African Human Rights Commission in facilitating access to justice through litigation. Access to justice is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone in the protection and enforcement of other human rights. The authors define access to justice, delve into its broader conceptualisation, and consider the challenges that arise, after which they address the role the Commission plays.

In our poetry section, Stanley Malematja reflects on institutions that are mandated to ensure that access to justice is not stifled. Using a blend of styles and themes, the poem engages with various characteristics of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

This edition includes sections on events and updates. In the events section, Paula Knipe reports on an inception meeting, held in Kigali, Rwanda, 21–22 February 2020, in regard to research on community paralegals in Africa. The update section offers insights on the resolution passed on 14 May 2019 by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on non-state actors and the realisation of the rights to education and health.

We thank the anonymous peer reviewers and all our guest contributors, and trust that readers will find this issue stimulating and useful in the advancement of socio-economic rights.

Robert Doya Nanima
Guest Editor