

Welcome to



LAWYERING

FOR CHANGE

2022

An international conference organised by

Avocats Sans Frontières

Welcome to Lawyering for Change 2022 !

We are delighted to welcome you for these two days of exchange, debate and experience sharing. Lawyering for Change 2022 is a rare opportunity to bring together such a remarkable line-up of actors committed to supporting access to justice, strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights throughout the world.

In the face of growing threats to civic space, individual freedoms and human rights, the cross-cutting objective of the Lawyering for Change 2022 conference is to gather those who are mobilising to fight injustices in our societies and promote human rights. The event is about shedding light on their struggles, sharing victories and lessons learned and building up together new ways of thinking and acting, creating new networks and encouraging collaboration.

The development of collaborative expertise through network dynamics is at the heart of ASF's identity today. This is why we wanted to make Lawyering for Change 2022 an opportunity for everyone to learn more on a selection of topics through the sharing of perspectives from a great diversity of actors with different backgrounds and whose actions are

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implemented in different local contexts (see programme hereinafter). The event will also be a moment of exchange, meeting and creation of collaborative links. Different occasions will be dedicated to more informal exchanges, especially the cocktail that will take place on Wednesday October 12, at 6pm at the Grand Hospice, to which all the participants are invited (see practical information hereinafter).

Following the conference, you will be able to join the Justice ExPEERience network, and find all the documentation, continue the discussions and deepen the collaborations (see registration form in annex).

We wish you an enriching conference full of beautiful exchanges!

Thank you all for your presence and a particular thanks to our speakers.

The whole team of Avocats Sans Frontières



General information

The **conference** takes place on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October at the **International Auditorium** (Roi Albert II 5, 1210 Bruxelles) from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm.

The mornings are dedicated to the **plenary sessions**, which will be held in the main room of the Auditorium. They will be entirely translated simultaneously into French, English and Dutch, filmed and broadcast live on Zoom.

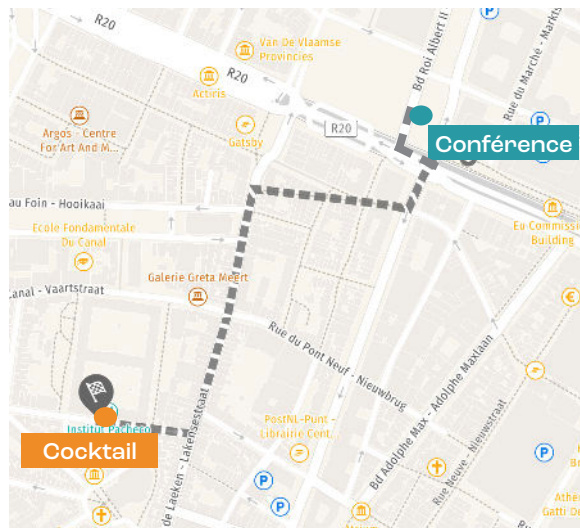
The afternoons are dedicated to **workshops** in smaller groups, that will be held in 3 different rooms:

- Workshops in large groups will take place in the main room of the auditorium, with a simultaneous translation and live broadcasting.
- Workshops in smaller groups will be held in rooms C and D, with prior registration. They will not be translated or broadcast.

The **cocktail** will take place on Wednesday 12 October, from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Grand Hospice bar (rue du Grand Hospice 7, 1000 Brussels).

Here is the itinerary:

Snacks & first drink offered on site.



Anti harassment and discrimination policy

Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) is committed to providing a safe environment for all people participating in ASF's conference, free from discrimination on any ground and from harassment, including sexual harassment. ASF will operate a zero tolerance policy toward any form of harassment during ASF events, treat all incidents seriously and promptly investigate all allegations of harassment and take the necessary action. All complaints will be treated with respect and confidentiality. No one will be victimised for making such a complaint.

If you are feeling harassed or witness discrimination or harassment, you are invited to contact the ASF Integrity focal person Emilie Pollie (epollie@asf.be), and/or any ASF staff member present at the conference. ASF staff can be identified by their ASF badges, T-shirts, or pins and are trained to respond appropriately.

Our networks

Join the **Justice ExPEERience** network (<https://www.justiceexperience.org>) to find all the documentation related to the conference, to continue the thematic discussions and to create collaborative networks between actors mobilised in favour of access to justice and humans rights throughout the world.

To join, please fill in the attached form and put it into the box provided at the reception desk of the Auditorium.

Share your comments and photos on Twitter

#L4C2022 @ASF_NGO

Justice ExPEERience Network

Justice ExPEERience is an online secure international and collaborative platform. It was developed in open source by the French company Algoo to meet ASF's objectives in terms of developing expertise, boosting networks, creating communities of practice and collaborative work.

Justice ExPEERience is at the same time:

- **A social network:** each one has his/her own customisable page profile, so that he/she can identify the members of the network and their skills. Users can publish on different feeds, associated most of the time with a project, a theme or/and a context. A global feed includes all the information shared on the network when the user is not connected.
- **An international & multilingual platform:** in order to break down the barriers between communities and create multidisciplinary and international networks, the platform is accessible in several languages including English, French and Arabic. An instantaneous translation tool also allows publications to be translated into many languages.
- **An independent and secure platform:** developed in open source and independently of large multinational digital companies, it is hosted in a sovereign manner on a server in France. Justice ExPEERience guarantees strong independence and increased data protection.
- **A collaborative tool:** the platform is structured in shared spaces where information can be shared, content stored and several people can work on documents online. These spaces are structured in 3 levels of confidentiality: open to all members of the network; closed, accessible on request; secret and entirely confidential.

ASF has created the Justice ExPEERience network to stimulate collaboration and establish communities of practice. The ambition is to link human rights actors from different contexts around the world, while guaranteeing the respect of high standards in terms of ethics and data security.

Following the conference, different spaces will be created and enriched according to the themes and topics that will have been addressed, so as to be able to continue the discussions, the exchanges of experience and the sharing of information.

Many of the sessions, particularly the workshops, have been designed to be highly collaborative in order to encourage the exchange and sharing of expertise and experience. It would be unfortunate if these exchanges came to an end once the conference is over. This is why we also suggest that you join the Justice ExPEERience network, in order to be part of the groups dedicated to the different topics that will be discussed, to enable everyone to find the list of speakers and useful documentation, and to pursue the exchanges in the weeks and months to come.



Join Justice ExPEERience's network !

<https://www.justiceexperience.org>

To register, you only need to fill in the registration form in annex and slip it into the box provided at the reception desk.

If you think about it later, once the conference is over, you can always register by emailing : info@justiceexperience.org

Conference Overview

Lawyering for Change 2022 is the second edition of this international conference organised by Avocats Sans Frontières. It aims to bring together a wide range of actors active in the promotion of access to justice and defence of human rights – researchers, jurists, lawyers, activists and actors of civil society, funders, international organisations, etc. – to address the major contemporary issues related to these questions.

The Lawyering for Change 2022 conference will debate these issues and will aim to bring out legal levers of change. All the sessions will be organised around three main axes:

- **Empowering for Change**, for an in-depth analysis of legal empowerment approaches and their role in supporting populations - particularly those in situations of vulnerability - in the face of violations of their rights and making them actors of social change;
- **Lawyering for Change**, which aims to question the role that lawyers and legal professionals can play in promoting social change and creating new ways of defending individuals' rights, notably by building coalitions with judicial and extra-judicial actors;
- **Advocating for Change**, to reposition the major role that advocacy plays, both in the legal and political spheres, for an effective change of society.

Through these three pillars, this is the role of law, systems and justice actors that is challenged. The central issue is to allow the sharing of experience and knowledge in order to create and strengthen multilateral collaborative links between all actors committed to more equitable societies, which uphold human rights.

The fourth axis will focus on the impact of the digital world in the fight for human rights. Digital and new technologies play an increasingly prominent role in our societies, and the fields of justice and development are no exception. It is thus necessary to take stock of the situation and to better identify the opportunities, but also the challenges and threats that digital and new technologies represent today in the defence of human rights and access to justice.

Workshop sessions in smaller groups will examine these different issues from specific thematic angles in order to generate concrete dynamics of reflection and action. These sessions will address violence against women, migrants' rights, natural resource governance, post-colonial injustices, prison deadlock, shrinking civic space, legal clinics and transitional justice coalitions.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Wednesday Octobre 12

9am CONFERENCE OPENING

FR / EN / NL

Auditorium

- **Peter Callens**, President of Orde van Vlaamse Balies (OVB)
- **Pierre Sculier**, President of Avocats.be
- **Patrick Henry**, President of ASF

9:30am EMPOWERING FOR CHANGE - plenary

FR / EN / NL

Auditorium

How to use legal empowerment as a driver for public engagement?

Moderation: Chantal Van Cutsem - Executive Director, ASF (Belgium)

- **Sana Ben Achour** - Professor of public law, president of NGO Beity (Tunisia)
- **Julien Moriceau** - Researcher and consultant, INANGA (Mauritius)
- **Irene Anying** - Country Director in Uganda, ASF (Uganda)
- **Katia Melis** - Lawyer and co-founder of Casa Legal ASBL (Belgium)

In the fight against injustice in our societies today, it is essential to put people back at the heart of the process of achieving their rights. Numerous initiatives, known as legal empowerment, aim to strengthen the power to act of individuals and communities. Are these legal empowerment actions sufficiently participatory to contribute to a real empowerment of the beneficiaries?

The plenary session «Empowering for Change» will provide an opportunity to analyse the impact and limitations of legal empowerment initiatives and to understand how they can contribute to the social, political and economic empowerment of marginalised citizens and communities.

11am COFFEE BREAK (snacks & drinks)

11:30am LAWYERING FOR CHANGE - plenary

FR / EN / NL

Auditorium

The lawyer as an actor of change

Moderation: **Jennifer Troncoso**, Country Director in DRC, ASF (DRC)

- **Nicolas Ferran** - Strategic Litigation Manager, OIP (France)
- **Wahid Ferchichi** - Professor of public law, president of ADLI (Tunisia)
- **François Godbout** - Programme Officer, PALU (Tanzania)
- **Sandra Cossart** - Executive director, Sherpa (France)

Lawyer (noun): «In law, the lawyer is a jurist whose traditional responsibilities are to advise, represent, assist and defend his clients, in court, by pleading for their rights».

With such a definition, activism in favor of social change does not seem to be part of the prerogatives of a lawyer. However, the law can be a powerful instrument towards change. What role can lawyers - defined here as anyone who works with the law - play in raising awareness, bringing judicial decisions to life, converting them into effective change in the society, and accompanying the transformation of citizens into more equal and fairer societies?

In the plenary session «Lawyering for Change», four legal practitioners will bring their insights on this issue and share concrete experiences of lawyers' involvement in social struggles, of legal mobilizations that have had effects in the social and political world, and of collaborations between judicial and extra-judicial actors that have reinforced the social impact of judicial decisions.

1pm LUNCH BREAK (sandwiches et drinks)

2pm WORKSHOPS SESSION (3 choices)

1 How can judiciary and non-judiciary tools be used to fight violence against women more effectively? FR / EN / NL

Auditorium

Moderation : Insaf Bouhafs - Programme officer, ASF (Tunisia)

- **Sharon Lucima** - Monitoring & evaluation manager, ASF (Uganda)
- **Gonzague Dupas** - Legal Advisor, ASF Canada (France)
- **Gaëtane De Crayencour** - Lawyer and member of Fem&Law (Belgium)

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, while acknowledging that the structural nature of violence against women is based on gender, prohibits, in its article 48, the use of mediation and conciliation as an alternative conflict resolution mechanism. However, the so-called «formal» justice system can reproduce, through its organization and application, the same structural and patriarchal patterns that we seek to prevent by preferring it over «informal» justice.

In societies where male domination is based on tradition, capitalism, culture and religion, which pathways to justice are available? What obstacles do women victims of violence have to face when seeking justice, in the North and the South? What formal and informal justice mechanisms can be used to concretely address the multifaceted reality of this violence?

2 How to tackle colonial and post-colonial injustices

French
Room C

Moderation : Valérie Arnould - Legal & policy advisor Transitional Justice, ASF

- **Sihem Ben Sedrine** - Journalist, Human rights defender and president of the Truth and Dignity Commission (Tunisia)
- **Georgine Dibua Mbombo** - Founder of Bakushinta (Belgium)

For decades, justice, reparations and recognition of the injustices inflicted by colonialism, as well as contemporary structural injustices linked to this colonial legacy, have been at the heart of the demands of victim populations from colonised countries or their diaspora. However, former colonial countries are only beginning to address these issues (in the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, or Australia).

This workshop will focus on sharing experiences of mobilisations for justice for the colonial past and its contemporary structural injustices. The objective will also be to reflect on the cooperation and coalitions to be built between various actors (lawyers, academics, activists, civil society...), based in both the North and the South.

3

Defending migrants' rights in the Mediterranean by strengthening North-South collaborations

French
Room D

Moderation : Zeineb Mrouki - Programme coordinator, ASF (Tunisia)

- **Giorgia Linardi** - Advocacy officer and legal advisor, Seawatch (Italia)
- **Diletta Agresta** - Project coordinator, ASGI (Italia)
- **Sara Prestianni** - Researcher and migration programme officer, Euromed Rights (Belgium)
- **Sami Adouani** - Member of the governing board of FTDES (Tunisia)

The Mediterranean sea has become the centre of migratory tensions and the symbol of the violation of the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. These violations occur in both transit and destination countries and are largely the result of subcontracting mechanisms put in place by European countries that delegate migration management to transit countries. The latter do not have offer an adequate reception system and tend to adopt security and criminalisation policies.

Faced with these transnational dynamics of systemic violation of migrants' rights, this workshop aims to capitalise on the experiences of mobilisation of actors on the ground to contribute to strengthening the links between civil societies and associations from the North and South of the Mediterranean, in order to better prevent violations and strengthen access to migrants' rights.

3:20pm COFFEE BREAK (snacks & drinks)

3:40pm WORKSHOPS SESSION (2 choices)

1

Coalitions as a catalyst for change for transitional justice

FR / EN / NL

Auditorium

Moderation : Valérie Arnould - Legal & policy Advisor Transitional Justice, ASF

- **Khayem Chemli** - Advocacy Officer, ASF (Tunisia)
- **Thérèse Kulungu** - Lawyer and coordinator of the Transitional justice working group (DRC)
- **Ram Bandhari** - Co-founder of INOVAS (Nepal)
- **Elisabeth Baumgartner** - Key Expert n°1, EU Facility on Justice in Conflict and Transition (Belgium)

In transitional justice processes, civil society plays a key role in ensuring the participation and ownership of local populations. The involvement of civil society is essential both in setting up these mechanisms and in monitoring the integrity of the process at different stages of its implementation. Building coalitions within civil society helps to strengthen the claims of victims and ensure their participation in transitional justice processes. However, these coalitions may suffer from a lack of clear strategic direction and difficulty in maintaining long-term commitment.

This workshop will bring together actors from the North and South who are active on these issues. Its aim will be to explore the conditions necessary for effective transitional justice coalitions and to develop a community of practice to share knowledge and experience on transitional justice coalitions.

2**Breaking the prison deadlock, moving towards grounded public policies**French
Room D**Moderation : Bruno Langhendries** - Head of strategic support, ASF (Belgium)

- **Sarah Grandfils** - Researcher and member of the CCSP (Belgium)
- **Carole Berrih** - Researcher and consultant specialised in detention (France)
- **Sana Ben Achour** - Professor of public law, president of NGO Beity (Tunisia)
- **Romain Ravet** - Regional Director in Eastern Africa, ASF (Uganda)

Prison is one of the most criticized institutions in the world for its massive and systematic use. However, incarceration remains the preferred instrument in the fight against crime, regularly generating state violence. After taking a look at the state of the prison system, this workshop will explore the dynamics of advocacy in the North and South (what can be done? how to act? how to be receptive?) but will also question the possible responsibility of international cooperation actors.

5pm End of the first day**6pm** Cocktail

- Location: **Grand Hospice** (7 rue du Grand Hospice, 1000 Brussels)
- Hours: 6pm - 9pm
- Snacks & 1 drink offered

Thursday October 13

9am OPENING OF DAY 2

FR/EN/NL

Auditorium

- **Chantal Van Cutsem**, Executive Director of ASF

9:30am ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE - plenary

FR/EN/NL

Auditorium

How to advocate for an effective and lasting societal change?

Moderation : **Antonio Manganella**, Regional director Euromed region, ASF

- **Maria Arena** - Member of the European Parliament (Belgium)
- **Soheila Comminos** - Senior programme officer, Open Society Foundations (US)
- **Sara Prestianni** - Researcher and migration programme officer, Euromed (Belgium)
- **Ali Idrissa** - Human Rights Defender and national coordinator of ROTAB (Niger)

As the world becomes more and more interconnected and interdependent, new eminently political global issues are emerging and civil society is trying to take hold of them so as not to leave them to political and economic actors alone. Based on concrete examples, this plenary will attempt to identify the conditions for a successful advocacy strategy, by presenting different modes of action that have led to concrete changes in public policy. Global issues such as the criminalisation of poverty, migration and the responsibility of economic actors will be addressed.

11am COFFEE BREAK (snacks & drinks)

What role for digital technology in the fight for human rights? Opportunities, challenges and limits

Moderation : **Justine Dofal** - Justice ExPEERience Coordinator ASF (Belgium)

- **Cherif El Kadhi** - Policy Analyst MENA region, Access Now (Tunisia)
- **Gerald Abila** - Founder of Barefoot Law (Uganda)
- **Brianne McGonigle Leyh** - Associate PProfessor of Human Rights & Global Justice (Netherlands)

Digital issues have become increasingly important in the fields of justice, security and development. While new technologies definitely offer new opportunities and can be tools to improve access to law and justice, they also represent new threats to human rights. How can we therefore ensure that the use of digital technologies in these sectors serves human rights and the strengthening of the rule of law? How can digital development be used as a tool towards more inclusion and participation, but not as an end in itself? Through the sharing of field experiences, research and investigations, this plenary session aims to explore how digital technologies can be used in projects improving access to justice in a way that is reasonable, ethical and respectful of human rights and individual freedoms.

1pm LUNCH BREAK (sandwiches and drinks)

1 Access to justice in contexts of shrinking civic space

FR / EN / NL

Auditorium

Moderation : Longin Baranyizigiye - Programme coordinator, ASF (Uganda)

- **Wahid Ferchichi** - Professor of public law, president of ADLI (Tunisia)
- **Tristan Wibault** - Lawyer at the Brussels Bar (Belgium)
- **Nicole Kaneza** - Strategic Litigation officer, ASF (Uganda)
- **Ali Idrissa** - Human rights defender, national coordinator of ROTAB (Niger)

Everywhere, the authoritarian tendencies of states are strengthening and civic space is shrinking. Despite the institutional and socio-economic differences between the different contexts, a number of similarities emerge: harassment or arrest of civil society representatives and human rights defenders, prohibition of demonstrations, violent police repression, strong interference by the executive in the functioning of the judiciary, etc. These trends have worsened as a result of the measures taken by governments around the world in response to the global pandemic crisis of Covid-19.

What forms does the shrinking of civic space take in different local contexts? What are its consequences for access to justice and the promotion of human rights? Through the sharing of experiences of mobilizations for access to justice in contexts of shrinking civic space, this workshop aims to identify judicial and extra-judicial innovative practices, and to strengthen collaborative links between actors involved in defending access to justice and human rights in these contexts.

2 The (in)effectiveness of legal remedies in natural resource governance

English
Room C

Moderation : Grazia Scocca - Legal & policy Advisor Business&Human Rights, ASF

- **Antonio Manganello** - Regional director Euromed, ASF (Tunisia)
- **Deus Valentine** - Executive director Center for Strategic Litigation (Tanzania)
- **Léa Kulinowski** - Legal officer, Amis de la Terre (France)

Good governance of natural resources requires the guarantee of rights, participation of affected populations and sharing of decision-making power, as well as access to justice

mechanisms to resolve conflicts and seek redress. However, in many contexts of natural resource exploitation, these guarantees are far from being ensured. Based on the sharing of concrete experiences between actors, this workshop aims to highlight the challenges related to these issues, define recommendations and work on the development of new strategies to ensure access to effective remedies.

3

How to involve young generations towards change through legal clinics?

French
Room D

Moderation : Arnaud Dandoy - Knowledge & Learning Manager, ASF (Tunisia)

- **Fathiya Saidi** - General Secretary of UAF in Tanger (Morocco)
- **Younous Arbaoui** - Assistant professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- **Ulrich Stege** - Director of IUC Clinical Legal Education Programme (Morocco)
- **Titouan Berhaut-Streel** - Equality Law Clinic, ULB (Belgium)

In many countries, ASF witnesses that the population is turning away from state justice systems. Slowness reigns, judicial guarantees are not respected, judicial decisions are influenced by the executive power, etc. In these diagnoses, the emphasis is rarely placed on lawyers, who have a major role to play in enabling litigants to have effective access to their rights and to justice. This is because the training process for lawyers is very selective and costly, and the content of the training itself, based on theory and doctrine, provides very little practical training and, in some contexts, is even completely disconnected from the state of knowledge and the needs of vulnerable populations. Faced with this situation, many actors have adopted the model of legal clinics to accompany and advise litigants. These clinics have a dual educational and social function. This workshop will seek to identify the good practices and difficulties encountered by the various actors in the North and South who have attempted the legal clinic adventure.

3:20pm COFFEE BREAK (snacks & drinks)

How to reposition justice at the heart of social and political regulation?

Moderation : **Romain Ravet**, Regional director in Eastern Africa, ASF (Uganda)

- **Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa** - CEO of LASPNET (Uganda)
- **Chantal Van Cutsem** - Executive director of ASF (Belgique)
- **Sophia Aziz** - Programme Officer at the US Department of State (US)

Challenged, disdained by populations and politicians, how can the notion of the rule of law, and with it the systems of justice, be put back at the heart of social and political regulation? This concluding plenary session seeks to highlight avenues for future action, based on the perspectives of the actors concerned (governmental actors, civil society and development partners) and through a series of structuring questions: How can we consolidate the place of the public service of justice within the States? How can justice better meet and satisfy the expectations of citizens? What official development assistance strategies should be used to assert the rule of law paradigm?

5pm END OF THE CONFERENCE

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Empowering
Lawyering
Advocating

FOR CHANGE



PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKERS

Gérald ABILA is a Ugandan Lawyer and pioneer of the legal innovation movement in Africa.

He is the founder of BarefootLaw which, through the innovative use of digital technology, empowers people to develop legal solutions for their justice needs.

Gerald is steadfast in the belief that access to the law for all is fundamental to a just, equitable, and thriving society and that new and emerging technologies have a significant role to play in achieving this goal.



Sami ADOUANI represents the Tunisian association FTDES - Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux.

Trained as an economist and in charge of migration issues within the association's steering committee, his background is in multi-actor dialogue and the defence of migrants' rights.

The FTDES coordinates with partner associations on both sides of the Mediterranean the documentation of the situation of migrants living in Tunisia and of Tunisians who attempt to cross. The association also runs an observatory and publishes an annual report describing the situation of irregular migration in Tunisia.

Diletta AGRESTA is in charge of the operational coordination of the Sciabaca & Oruka project for the Associazione Studi Giuridici Immigrazione (ASGI), where she maintains the network with African organisations involved in the presentation of joint strategic actions and conducts research and analysis on European policies of border externalisation in Africa.

For several years, Diletta has been involved in the legal support and accompaniment of asylum seekers and refugees in Italy.



Irene Winnie ANYING is currently the Country Director of Avocats Sans Frontières Uganda. Before joining ASF, she worked in the field of human rights and access to justice for over 10 years. She worked with USAID –SAFE program as an access to justice advisor and with Human Rights Focus as a human rights officer.

Ms Irene has research interest in legal empowerment, rule of law and access to justice. She has taught international human rights law at the Faculty of Law at Gulu University-Uganda and is an enrolled advocate of the High Court of Uganda.

Younous ARBAOUI is Assistant Professor at the Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law. His current research project focuses on the Global Compact on Migration and the International Convention on Migrant Workers. Arbaoui is also the chair of the Hijra Morocco Legal Clinic and is active in the Migration Law Clinic of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.



Ram Kumar BANDHARI is a human rights activist based in Nepal, who founded the Network of Families of the Disappeared in Nepal (NEFAD) to advance victim-led transitional justice advocacy. Ram is one of the foremost advocates for a system of transitional justice that addresses the needs of relatives, and one of the strongest voices at the federal level in support of victim-centered transitional

justice and accountability efforts.

He has over fifteen years of experience organizing grassroots mobilization in Nepal and in South Asia. In the years since he has pioneered many of the techniques of grassroots activism, mobilisation, campaigning and networking.

He has also led petitions to the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, and the Nepali Supreme Court. Ram also serves as policy analyst with local governments in Nepal.

Sophia AZIZ is the Senior Program Officer for North Africa at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL). She has managed the Bureau's North Africa portfolio since 2015.

Prior to joining the Department of State, Sophia worked with international NGOs to design and implement human rights and economic empowerment programs in the Middle East and North Africa.



Maria ARENA is a former federal minister in Belgium, and she is a member of the European Parliament since 2014. In the European Parliament, she is a member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats and is in charge of the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.



Elisabeth BAUMGARTNER is a Senior Programme Manager at the Constitution-Building programme of The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). As Key expert, she manages the Facility on Justice in Conflict and Transition for the European Union. The Facility provides support in the areas of transitional justice and constitution-building in different contexts.

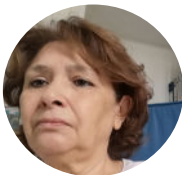
She is a lawyer specialized in international criminal law and transitional justice. Before joining International IDEA she headed the Dealing with the Past programme at swisspeace. Previously, Elisabeth Baumgartner also worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Africa and South America, as a trial attorney for the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and as an attorney in Switzerland. She teaches international criminal law at the University of Lucerne and publishes regularly on transitional justice issues.

Sana BEN ACHOUR is professor and researcher at the Faculty of Law in Tunis. She focuses her research activity on four fields: urban planning and heritage protection, history of law and political institutions, gender studies and women's rights in Islamic countries, and democratic issues and public liberties.



As an activist involved in the feminist and democratic movement since the 1970s, Sana Ben Achour has participated in the creation of several organisations such as the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women, of which she was president, the Association of University Women for Research and Development, and the National Council for Liberties. She also founded the association BEITY in 2011, which works to protect women victims of discrimination, violence and exclusion.

In the face of growing threats to the independence of the judiciary in Tunisia, she joined the National Committee for the Defence of the Independence of the Judiciary in 2022 to accompany magistrates affected by the arbitrary measures of suspension and to initiate a reflection on the reform of the Tunisian justice system.



Sihem BEN SEDRINE is a writer, journalist and expert on transitional justice. She is a leading figure in the struggle for human rights in Tunisia and has worked for over three decades to denounce violations and defend freedoms. Under the despotic regime of Ben Ali, she was imprisoned and persecuted. After the 2011 revolution she continued her fight for human rights, women's rights and freedom of expression. From June 2014 to December 2018 Sihem Bensedrine was president of the «Truth and Dignity Authority» which implemented the law on transitional justice and published a comprehensive report on human rights violations including recommendations on institutional reforms to ensure non-repetition. She is currently president of the association Mémoire et citoyenneté.

Sihem Bensedrine has received more than fifteen awards for her fight for freedoms, including those from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. She is a Doctor Honoris Causa of the ULB and the VUB.



Titouan BERHAULT STREEL holds a Master's degree in International and Public Law and a Master's degree in Human Rights. He has been coordinating the Equality Law Clinic and the Refugee Law Clinic since February 2022, in parallel with the practical courses he teaches in Introduction to Law, as a practice assistant. He mainly deals with issues relating to the right to non-discrimination, and in particular

those relating to positive action

Carole BERRIH has a dual education as a lawyer and sociologist. She has been working in the field of human rights, prison and criminal justice for twenty years. After serving as a chief of mission and programme coordinator for the promotion and protection of human rights (2001-2010), she founded the consulting agency Synergies Cooperation in which she carries out research, program development, evaluation and training assignments for regional and international institutions and NGOs. Specialized in the fight against poor prison conditions, she focuses on the informal governance of penal institutions and the impact of their management practices on detention conditions and prisoner's rights.



Beside her consulting activities, she has been conducting research on the governance of Niger prisons since 2019, as part of a Phd in Public Law at the University of Grenoble/Alpes (laboratory CERDAP).



Khayem CHEMLI is ASF's Research and Advocacy Manager for the Euro-Mediterranean region. In 2011, he became involved with the Tunisian watchdog «Al Bawsala». This organization monitors public policies, parliamentary performance and local authorities in Tunisia.

After an experience in a consulting firm, Khayem Chemli joined ASF to manage the Transitional Justice project from 2018 to 2021, for which

he coordinated the National Coalition for the Defence of Transitional Justice.

Soheila COMNINOS works as a Senior Program Officer within the Global Programs, Special Programs and Crisis Response team at Open Society Foundations (OSF), based in Washington DC. She joined OSF in 2016 to manage the portfolio of the Initiative Human Rights Program on the right to freedom, whose purpose is to question the policies leading to over-reliance on incarceration and to promote other approaches to public safety. She focuses on transformative justice and empowering communities directly affected by the criminal justice system. She also co-leads the OSF's crossregional campaign on the criminalization of status and activism. Before joining OSF, Soheila worked in the humanitarian field, leading protection programs of the International Comity of the Red Cross in Darfour, Irak, Libya and Central Africa.



Sandra COSSART headed the Globalisation and Human Rights programme of the NGO Sherpa for 8 years. She played an important role in the drafting of the law on the duty of vigilance, enacted in March 2017 in France. She has initiated and participated in some of the most innovative litigation in the fight against human rights violations by economic actors.

A lawyer by training, she began her career in international organisations. She then joined a business law firm and at the same time became involved in refugee aid associations. In 2002, she developed a consultancy business in London before joining the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.

Gaëtane DECRAYENCOUR has been a lawyer at the Brussels bar since 2006 with the firm Alter Egaux.

She practices family law, private international law and foreigners' law, mainly defending women who are victims of violence, particularly intra-family and/or institutional violence.

She is a member of the association Fem&LAW and has published in the Code commenté de droits des femmes (Larcier 2020).



Georgine DIBUA MBOMBO is coordinator and project manager of Bakushinta. The association, founded in 2007, works on the valorisation of Congolese culture. As a decolonial guide and trainer, she collaborates with various Brussels municipalities and associations on decolonisation issues in Brussels and in Flanders.

She was part of the working group on the decolonisation of the public space set up by the Brussels government. She is also a co-founder of the Fédération des Congolais de Bruxelles asbl and a member of the Cacoburwa collective, which monitors the work of the special parliamentary committee responsible for dealing with the Belgian colonial past.

Gonzague DUPAS joined ASF Canada in 2018. He was a legal advisor for projects in the Northern Triangle of Central America and in Mali, particularly for women's rights protection projects. He is now a consultant for ASF Canada and is based in France to help manage a project in Ukraine and support the organisation's development efforts. With a degree in international human rights law, Gonzague Dupas worked with the United Nations Office on drugs and crimes in Dakar and with the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association.



Cherif EL KADHI is a policy analyst at Access Now. He graduated in computer engineering and holds a Bachelor's Degree in data management.

Passionate about politics in a data-driven society, he previously worked with "I Watch", the Tunisian section of Transparency International, as an IT & communications manager before joining the National Democratic

Institute as a parliament and political affairs officer.

Chérif strongly believes that technology and today's politics are closely interconnected, considering the protection of digital rights in the design and implementation of public policies as both a legal and technological challenge.

Wahid FERCHICHI is a professor in Public Law at the University of Carthage, where he teaches at the Faculty of legal, political and social sciences of Tunis, leads the department of public law, and co-leads the master's degree in human rights and international humanitarian law and coordinates the legal clinic « gender based violence ».



Professor Ferchichi focuses his researches on individual freedoms, on the transition in Tunisia and on environmental law. Wahid Ferchichi participates at the public life, he has been a member of the national Commission of investigation on corruption and malpractices (2011-2012), a member of the technical committee of transitional justice (2012-2013), a member of the national Instance of personal data protection (2015-2018), a member of the National Commission of legal texts with the Constitution and International Conventions (2019-2022). Founder of the association of defense of individual liberties (www.adlitn.org), Wahid Ferchichi is very active in the civil society where he leads his activities of fight for human rights including for minorities and those who are more vulnerables.



Nicolas FERRAN is a Doctor of Law, and has been in charge of the litigation department of the French section of the International Prison Observatory since January 2011. Within this framework, he has notably piloted the litigation campaign which enabled around 30 individuals subjected to appalling detention conditions to obtain the condemnation of France by the European Court of Human Rights for violation of articles 3 and 13 of the ECHR. He was also involved in the fight for foreigners' rights for around 20 years. In 2007, he founded the movement « Amoureux au ban public », which aims to offer Franco-foreign couples a space for collective mobilization in the defence of their rights and he ensured the national coordination of this movement for several years.

François GODBOUT is the Director of Programmes at Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU). He manages, coordinates and provides leadership for multi-agency projects, and engages with high-level officers of African intergovernmental organizations, the leadership and membership of Bar Associations and Law Societies throughout the continent, and a wide range of international civil society organizations.



Prior to joining PALU, he was Head of Programmes at the East Africa Law Society (EALS) and undertook various consultancy projects both in Canada and Africa, including in design and implementation of social survey instruments and policy and legal research. Mr. Godbout is well versed in litigating before international and regional courts and tribunals. He contributed to dozens of successful human rights' cases before the East African Court of Justice and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and was a legal assistant at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.



Sarah GRANDFILS is a permanent member of the Central Monitoring Board and an expert in the monitoring of places of detention and author of a practical guide on the monitoring of places where children are deprived of their liberty.

Before becoming a member of a monitoring commission and then of the Central Council, Sarah was a lawyer and then a project coordinator in several NGOs specialised in children's and women's rights, including Defence for Children International (DCI) - Belgium.

Previously, Sarah also coordinated the Belgian NGO coalition for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.



Ali IDRISSE is a Nigerian human rights defender and anti-corruption activist who has dedicated his life to ensuring that natural resources are managed in the interest of and for the benefit of the people of Niger.

He has a long-standing commitment to put an end to bad governance of public resources and to fight for tax justice. His 'Don't touch my uranium' campaign has mobilised communities, artists, parliamentarians, (international) civil society to advocate for good governance in the gas, oil and mining sector. His work has resulted in a new Mining Code (2006), a new constitution (2010) that state that natural resources belong to the people.

Despite threats of imprisonment, intimidation and harassment, Ali Idrissa has vowed never to give up his activism.

Nicole KANEZA currently serves as the Litigation Manager for Avocats Sans Frontières (East African Region) in Kampala, where she is in charge of strategic human rights litigation. She earned her law degree at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and an LL.M degree in Public International Law at the University of California Berkeley.



She worked as a researcher at the Human Rights Center of the University of California Berkeley Law School, where her focus was on the prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes in international law. She was a Visiting Professional at the International Criminal Court in a defense team.

She has also served in various capacities in organizations involved in the representation of asylum seekers, especially gender-based asylum claims, in Paris.



Léa KULINOWSKI works as a lawyer in the campaign for the regulation of multinationals at Friends of the Earth France. Within this framework, she works mainly on the legal action against the multinational Total. This case focuses on the impacts and risks of Total's activities in Uganda and Tanzania on human rights and the environment. It is the first legal action based on the Duty of Care Act of

2017. Léa is also working on the activities of the multinational oil company Perenco in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the pollution incidents observed in the coastal region of Muanda.

Previously, Léa Kulinowski has worked on international criminal law in the Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Rwanda, as well as on land conflicts, freedom of expression and the protection of rights defenders in Cambodia



Thérèse KULUNGU is a lawyer at the bar of South-Kivu (Democratic Republic of Congo) since 2009. She is very active in the promotion of human rights in the DRC and is a member of several women's rights protection associations. She was the Executive Secretary of the Panzi-RDC Foundation from 2008 to 2016, and coordinator of the legal clinics of the Panzi Foundation. Thérèse Kulugu was also a consultant at the Human Rights Ministry. She coordinated the working group on transitional justice in 2021-2022 and provided legal advisory services for the Panzi clinic of Kinshasa. T. Kulungu is now the official representative in Kinshasa of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Denis Mukwege.

Giorgia LINARDI has an academic background in international law and extensive humanitarian experience, she is specialised in migration in the Central Mediterranean. Her participation in aerial monitoring operations of maritime migration and migrant support missions in Libya and Tunisia has given her solid field experience in search and rescue at sea.



Former spokesperson and Legal Advisor for Sea-Watch and ex-head of the Italy Country Team, she currently works as an Advocacy Manager in Libya, for Médecins Sans Frontières.



Sharon Joy LUCIMA graduated in Statistics and a Monitoring and Evaluation practitioner and has over the years developed a passion for data analytics and results based reporting. She has worked for Hub for Investigative Media (HIM), a national NGO that is active in promoting the knowledge and application of the Access to Information (ATI) Law 2005 and the Access to Information Regulations 2011 in Uganda. She is currently working as the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for Avocats Sans Frontières, Uganda Office.

She is a data enthusiast who enjoys using her skills to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights for the most vulnerable groups, especially women and girls, through learnings and reflections.

Antonio MANGANELLA is currently the regional director of Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) for the Euro-Mediterranean region after having been the country director for Tunisia from 2015 to 2020. He is responsible for the deployment of the organization's action in the region, by developing partnerships and advocacy strategies. Antonio graduated in International and Diplomatic Sciences: he started his studies at the University of Bologna and obtained his Master's at the Sorbonne University (Paris).



Antonio has collaborated with several French NGO's such as CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Aides and Amnesty International France, as an advocacy and institutional relations officer, before joining ASF in 2014 in Tunisia.

Brianne McGONIGLE LEYH is an Associate Professor at Utrecht University's School of Law and Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), where she is also a member of the Montaigne Research Centre for the Rule of Law and Administration of Justice. She specializes in human rights law, international criminal law, transitional justice, victims' rights, and documentation and accountability for serious human rights violations. She is a Senior Teaching Fellow leading an interdisciplinary project on Open Source Investigations and a member of the core team of the interdisciplinary research platform Contesting Governance. In 2020, she launched a Podcast series 'Travelling Concepts on Air' to address to issues of interdisciplinarity in scholarship and teaching. In addition to her academic work, she is a Senior Peace Fellow with the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) and on the advisory committee of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.



Katia MELIS has been a lawyer at the Brussels bar since 2010 and is a specialist in foreigners' law. Driven by her fight for the recognition of people's rights in the face of the administrative complexities - and for human rights in general -, she participated in the foundation of the non-profit organisation casa legal in 2019. This is the first non-profit organisation in Belgium to bring together lawyers and psycho-social workers in the same place. Like a medical centre, Casa Legal wants to offer a holistic support service to litigants.

Julien MORICEAU has a dual education as a lawyer and sociologist. He has 15 years of professional experience in the field of access to justice and the rule of law, mainly in Central Africa, the Indian Ocean region, South East Asia and West Africa. Julien carried out numerous qualitative and quantitative field studies : project assessments, perception and practice surveys, insitutionnal diagnostics... Since 2013, he has focused his research on local justice practices, legal pluralisms and the relationship between state and local justice. He founded the research firm Inanga in 2021, which offers consulting and research services in the field of justice and governance, education and local development.



Sylvia NAMUBIRU MUKASA is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and the current Executive Director of the Legal Aid Service Provider's Network (LASPNET). She previously worked for 5 years as a Magistrate with the Judiciary of Uganda, before joining the Uganda Law Society, where she was appointed Executive Director in 2010. With 15 years of experience as a Manager/Administrator /Trainer for human rights and access to justice, her career has mainly focused on programming and advocating for the rights of vulnerable and marginalised people, such as women and children. Sylvia was recently awarded the Service Appreciation Award for her work on behalf of the rights of vulnerable people and was listed as one of the 100 most influential African women lawyers of 2022 by the Coutroom Mail.



Sara PRESTIANNI has been working as Head of the Thematic Programmes Unit (Migration and Asylum; Gender Justice; Economic and Social Rights) in the Brussels office of EuroMed Rights since January 2022. A specialist in international migration and asylum policies, she has focused her research since 2004 on migration in the Mediterranean area and the Sahel region, through field missions at the internal and external borders of this region.

Romain RAVET is a Rule of Law and Human Rights specialist, with over 10 years of experience with the United Nations, Research Centres and Non-Governmental Organisations.

With a dual background in Law and Social Sciences, Romain began his career as a researcher and an analyst, authoring several books, reports and articles on conflict management, justice and security reforms.

Since 2016, Romain has held senior management positions with ASF. He headed the country offices in Burundi and Uganda, before taking on his current position as Regional Director for Eastern Africa.



Fathiya SAIDI became member of the Union de l'Action Féministe (UAF) in 2006, as a fundraiser and project manager to support women victims of violence and help their economic reintegration. In 2020, she was appointed general secretary of the association.

With the help of UAF, she set up a legal clinic in the Annajda center, in Tangier. To date, more than a thousand women victims of violence have been welcomed, psychologically assisted and legally supported. She extended the Tangier experience by overseeing the implementation of the legal clinic model in 8 Annajda centers in other UAF sections in Morocco. Fathiya Saidi also designed an employment and self-employment desk within UAF Tangier, which has been supporting the socio-economic empowerment of women victims of violence since 2015. This desk allowed to create and assist some fifty women's cooperatives and to insert more than 800 women and young people into local businesses.

Ulrich STEGE is an International University College of Turin (IUC) Faculty Member and Director of the IUC Clinical Legal Education Program.

In addition to his role at the IUC, he is a practicing lawyer and member of the Italian and German bars. He has been a speaker, expert, and trainer in numerous conferences, international expert groups, and training of trainers on subjects including European Law, asylum and immigration law, trafficking in human beings, and clinical legal education.

Since 2019, he is collaborating with the Italian Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration and its MEDEA project related to migrants' rights on internal EU borders. He participated in the foundation of the European Network for Clinical Education, of which he is now the Executive Secretary.





Deus VALENTINE is the Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Strategic Litigation (CSL), East Africa's leading think-and-do tank on the rule of law, constitutionalism and public interest litigation.

With over a decade of experience working to promote social justice in the Eastern African region, Deus joined his colleagues to set up CSL in 2018 amid concerns over a declining civic space trend that swept the region. He has since worked to establish the institution and led the development of its first ever strategy. His passion for social justice and human rights stems from years working in the Eastern African region with some of the most marginalized communities and vulnerable groups.

He has worked as a researcher; grant maker and independent advisor with numerous bilateral and multilateral agencies in Tanzania and Eastern Africa.

Chantal VAN CUTSEM has been working for Avocats Sans Frontières for nearly 20 years. She is now of the Executive Director of the organization and has worked on issues of access to justice, transitional justice and more broadly on human rights in several countries in the Great Lakes region of Africa (including Burundi, Rwanda, DRC and Uganda), North Africa (Tunisia and Morocco) and Asia.



Before working as a lawyer in the field of international cooperation for various organizations, she was a member of the Brussels Bar, specializing in international criminal law and specialized in foreigners' law, particularly in the accompaniment of unaccompanied foreign minors. Chantal holds a law degree from the KULeuven in Belgium.



Tristan WIBAULT is a lawyer at the Brussels Bar since 2015 and coordinator of the European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA) for Belgium. Former coordinator of the Belgian Refugee Aid Committee for the support of detained persons seeking international protection, he has a great expertise in the field of asylum.

His practice extends to other areas of foreigners' law, residence and free movement of persons. His knowledge of fundamental rights is also put to use in extradition matters.

Tristan Wibault regularly publishes analyses and commentaries on international protection law.

THANK YOU

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Thank you and see you soon!

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