

Friends of Community Law Centre

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Note from the Editors

Dear Friends,

The Centre welcomes you to the second issue of the **Friends of Community Law Centre!** 2007 is almost half way over and so much has happened at the Centre. We hope that the students who completed their LLM course last year have adapted to their new jobs and internships and that the course has expanded their views on human rights and democratisation.

A new addition to the Centre is the Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative Project (CSPRI). Although the Project was launched in 2003, it has joined the Centre in July 2005 only. Initially CSPRI was located in the Children's Rights Project but it has now become a full-fledged project. The CSPRI focuses on prisons and corrections facilities with a view to improve the protection of human rights in South African prisons through increased oversight by civil society. Mr Lukas Minting is the coordinator of the project.

We have decided to place all the dissertations of the LLM programme thus far on our website, adding to the research material already available on the site. We are still waiting for a number of your CVs. Also, please let us know about your career highlights. Please email them to jclaassen@uwc.ac.za at your earliest convenience.

If you would like to write an article for the Projects' lay journals, please contact the Project Co-ordinators. Their contact details are available on the Centre's website.

Best wishes

Jill Claassen and Yonatan T. Fessha

News and events

Project Publications

Child Justice in South Africa: Children's Rights under Construction



The Children's Rights Project, together with the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, has published a conference report, ***Child Justice in South Africa: Children's Rights under Construction***. Prepared by Jacqui Gallinetti, Daksha Kassan and Louise Ehlers, the conference report showcase a range of new research findings in relation to child justice, review policy and legal precedents and provide an opportunity to further the debate on child justice in South Africa.

30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku

Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative (CSPRI) has launched **30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku**, a free monthly electronic review of media reports focusing on prisons, prisoner rights and related issues. The English, Afrikaans and IsiZulu title is reflective of the often-imposed sentence of 30 days imprisonment. Visit the CSPRI website to subscribe to this Newsletter!

All publications mentioned here are available on our website:

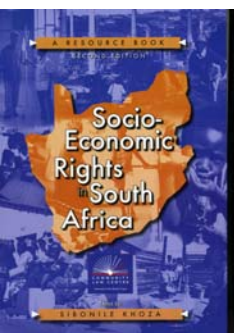
www.communitylawcentre.org.za

Maintenance Update and Iminyango



The Gender Project has produced two new publications: The *Maintenance Update* and *Iminyango* recently. The *Maintenance Update* deals with legal issues in children maintenance, and aims to provide information on recent developments in this area of expertise. It is published in conjunction with the Saartjie Baartman Legal Advice and Training Project. *Iminyango* is aimed at providing information on the intersections between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. A special website will be launched later in the year on gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa, which will include *Iminyango*, as well as research reports on the topic.

Socio-Economic Rights in South Africa (2nd edition)



The Socio-Economic Rights Project has published the second edition of the resource book, *Socio-Economic Rights in South Africa*, edited by Mr Sibonile Khoza. This resource book was launched at the tenth anniversary of the Project on 12th April 2007 (see details under EVENTS). The book has updated information on socio-economic rights internationally and in South Africa and discusses rights relating to environment, land, housing, health care, food, water, social security and education. For a copy of this book, please contact the Project Co-ordinator, Mr Sibonile Khoza.

People

- The Local Government Project bid farewell to two Canadian interns from the Forum of Federations, **Omo Akintan** and **Megan McDermott**.
- The CSPRI welcomed **Jamil Mujuzi** as the new doctoral intern. Some of you will remember Jamil from the Class of 2005. Jamil's doctoral research focuses on Life Imprisonment in Southern and Eastern Africa.
- **Ms Annette Christmas** joined the Local Government Project as a researcher as of 1 January 2007. Ms Christmas completed her LLM at the University of Pretoria in 2002.
- **Mr Siyambonga Heleba** joined the Socio-Economic Rights Project in April 2007. He completed his LLM at the University of Utrecht in 2006, specialising in International and European Protection of Human Rights.

Events

Fourth Dullah Omar Memorial Lecture

The fourth Dullah Omar Memorial Lecture was held on Tuesday, 20 March 2007 at the UWC Library auditorium, on the eve of the anniversary of Human Rights Day. The Guest Speaker was the honourable Trevor A Manuel, Minister of Finance who spoke on the title "Human rights and budget".

The Minister ended his moving speech by presenting Mrs Farieda Omar with a copy of a book by Amilcar Cabral. He said:, "Before I step off the podium, I have a confession to make. I am clearly inspired by Amilcar Cabral. When I used the copy of the book, I became aware of a terrible wrong I have committed. For on the first page is an inscription that reads: "To Dullah, from Ramesh, May 1980." Farida, I apologize for having kept this book for so long. Let me return it to you. Hopefully others will also draw inspiration from it. " Mrs Omar, and other family members of the late Dullah Omar, members of the legal fraternity including Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Adv. Johnny de Lange, judges, consulates and funders of the Centre attended the lecture.



Finance Minister Trevor Manuel & Mrs Farieda Omar

Local Government

The Local Government Project organised a country roundtable on local government in South Africa. The roundtable, which was held in Cape Town on February 8 and 9 in Cape Town, considered the challenges of local governments and metropolitan regions within the multilevel system of government in South Africa. Participants included academics, government officials and politicians. The roundtable is part of the Global Dialogue on Federalism.

The Local Government Project, in association with the Forum of Federations, also organised an international roundtable for the Global Dialogue on Federalism theme on local and municipal governance on April 21-22, 2007 in Johannesburg. Experts from federal countries around the world compared how their countries have organized local and municipal governance. The roundtable, which is the forum's sixth in the Global Dialogue series, will be followed by a publication of a book. The experts also participated on the Global City Region – Forms and Models of City Region Governance Conference, which was hosted by the province of Gauteng on 20 April at the Sandton Convention Centre in association with the Centre and the Forum of Federations. The conference provided a forum to exchange and develop knowledge and experience about the global city regions.

Socio-Economic Rights

The Socio-Economic Rights Project celebrated 10 years of its existence on 12 April 2007. The celebration included a panel discussion on the theme of *10 Years: Are they fulfilling their transformative potential?* The panellists included Judge Albie Sachs of the Constitutional Court; Mr Vusi Madonsela Director-General of the Department of Social Development; Prof Sandra Liebenberg and Adv Tseliso Thiphanyane, Chief Executive Officer of the South African Human Rights Commission and Adv Geoff Budlender of the Cape Bar. The Project was founded by Professor Sandra Liebenberg, Harry Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law at the University of Stellenbosch and renowned expert in socio-economic rights, in 1997.

Forthcoming

LLM in Local Government and Decentralisation in the pipeline

In 2009 the Law Faculty, through the Community Law Centre, will be hosting a programme, "Local Government and Decentralisation". The aim is to establish the leading research and training programme in Africa on local government and decentralisation in Africa, for the realisation of democracy, human rights and development. The major activity of the program is to produce highly trained masters students from South Africa and the rest of Africa in a multi-disciplinary and practice-based Masters programme on local government and decentralisation. As part of the programme, the centre will host doctoral researchers from South Africa and the rest of Africa on local government and decentralisation. Producing cutting edge research on local government and decentralisation that promotes democracy, good governance and development in the continent is also part of the programme.

If you would like to know more about this programme, please contact Dr Jaap de Visser or Prof. Nico Steytler. If you have access to Local Government legislation in the countries in Africa, please email, fax or post it.

Friends Update

Rebecca Amollo, from Class of 2006, is pursuing a PhD on the sexual and reproductive health rights of women. She is also an assistant lecturer in constitutional law at the Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape.

Sehen Bekele, from Class of 2006, is currently working as a Project Officer at Organisation for Social Justice. It is a public interest law organisation that works to foster access to justice, democracy, good governance and the rule of law in Ethiopia.

Luís Huamusse, from Class of 2006, is an advisor for local governance and decentralisation at SNV, a Netherlands-based, international development organisation that provides advisory services to nearly 1800 local organisations in over 30 developing countries to support their fight against poverty.

Coel Kirkby (Local Government Project intern, 2005-2006) is pursuing his Masters in Constitutional Law at McGill University, Canada.



CLC's Class of 2006

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