

CONFERENCE CALL AND CALL FOR PAPERS



ZIMBABWE WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION AND INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

THEME: MAKING THE LEGAL PROFESSION WORK FOR WOMEN

Dates : 13 and 14 November 2014

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

BACKGROUND

The Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) is an association of lawyers found with the mission of not only defending, developing and dialoguing on women rights Zimbabwe, but to represent women lawyers as a constituency, to dialogue on their issues and to defend their causes.

21 years ago women lawyers agreed that ZWLA would defend their professional interest. However, they noted that defending, dialoguing and developing on the plight of Zimbabwean women lawyers could not be ZWLA's end goal. ZWLA's end goal would be a just and equitable society. To ensure that ZWLA's goal is achieved, women lawyers agreed to go beyond addressing the plight of women lawyers to also ensuring that they contribute to addressing the plights of women in Zimbabwe through the provision of free legal aid, advocacy work, lobbying for law reform and defending the rights of Zimbabwean women.

It is within the above context that the International Commission of Jurists which shares the same vision with ZWLA, partnered with ZWLA to hold a yearly Women Lawyers Conference which will has two goals, to dialogue, defend and develop on women lawyer's issues, and to dialogue, defend and develop of women rights in Zimbabwe.

OBJECTIVES OF CONFERNANCE

1. Objective 1: Dialogue, defend and develop on women lawyer's issues.

Zimbabwean women lawyer's especially young lawyers have expressed concerns over a variety of issues ranging from their inability to penetrate certain spaces within the law profession due to various reasons yet to be explored, to the absence of proper mentoring from senior lawyers, to the absence of opportunities to develop professionally. The conference seeks to provide a platform which will bring Zimbabwean lawyers from all over the world and all over the country to dialogue on issues which affect them with the view to provide a lasting solution to their concerns.

Tapping from the knowledge of leading experts, women lawyers will discuss various issues inclusive of but not limited to the following

- a. Learning how to climb the legal ladder to the next career level.
- b. Knowing the challenges, identifying opportunities and having a personal law career plan.
- c. The importance of a mentor.
- d. A winning personality.
- e. How to create a sphere of influence: Understanding power.
- f. Understanding corporate governance.

- g. Navigating different legal careers i.e how to be a judge, academic or politician.
- h. How to start a law firm and sustain the dream.

2. Objective 2: Dialogue, defend and develop of women rights in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association and the International Commission of Jurists have for the past years worked towards defending the rights of women and children. In ensuring a just and equitable society, they have realised that women rarely live in a peaceful and secure Zimbabwe. The peace and security of women is compromised by members of the society, private as well as state actors. Violence against women is inflicted by families in the form of domestic violence, by private actors in the form of social, economic religious or politically motivated violence, by church leaders usually in the form of sexual assault and by the state especially the police in the form of wrongful, arbitrary arrests and torture. Laws insensitive to the plight of women have immensely contributed to the erosion of peace and security for women. The conference calls for academic papers within the following thematic areas

- a. Child marriages and Zimbabwean laws.
- b. The realities in Zimbabwe vis a vis the Zimbabwean marriage framework.
- c. Women's land rights.
- d. Termination of pregnancy and Zimbabwean laws.
- e. Rights and opportunities of women in the new Constitution.
- f. Gender and the law.
- g. Counselling and the resolution of legal disputes within the family.
- h. The right to basic education and the Zimbabwean education system.

3. Guidelines for submitting papers for the conference

- a. Abstracts must be submitted by 6 October.
- b. Full papers must be submitted by 17 October.
- c. Papers must not exceed 4000 words.
- d. Papers must be in Roman Times Numeral, font 1,5.

- e. All papers submitted will be subjected to a peer reviewed process of a panel of Professors and Doctors in the legal profession and published in a book at the end of the conference.
- f. Authors are not precluded from submitting their papers to other academic journals for their professional development.
- g. ZWLA and ICJ will submit the papers to the Law Society for the authors to be exempted from any professional development courses for 2014 and gain all the required credits by virtue of authoring the papers.
- h. All presenters will receive an honorarium at the end of the conference.

4. Guidelines for attending the conference

- a. Register with ZWLA on or before 30 October and the registration fee is US\$20.
- b. ZWLA and ICJ will cover transport costs, food and accommodation for all registered lawyers.
- c. The Conference is for 100 lawyers mainly women lawyers from all over the world and all over Zimbabwe and registration is on a first come first served.
- d. Men who want to attend should indicate intention by a motivation letter.

5. Benefits of attending the Conference

- 1. Networking
- 2. Learning
- 3. ZWLA and ICJ will engage with the Law Society for you to be exempted from its continuous development courses by virtue of attending the educative conference.
- 4. If you present, you get an opportunity to publish your work.
- 5. ZWLA and ICJ will cover all conference costs.

Registration now open call Merit Rumema 0774138924/ Fiso Ncube 0772870118 for registration and payment.

Papers and enquiries must be submitted to director@zwla.co.zw

DEFENDING WOMEN; DEFENDING RIGHTS