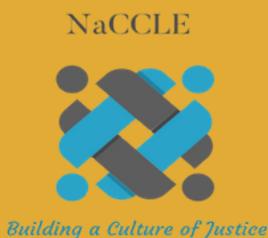




# WEST AFRICA VIRTUAL LEGAL EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

October 5-9, 2020  
2pm (WAT), 9am (EDT)



# Opening Session

The opening session sets the tone for the 5 day summit with key note speeches from The Elders, a Minister of Justice from the West African Region, a Grassroots Justice Actor and a member of The Task Force on Justice - each weighing in on the importance of regional collaboration to further the justice for all agenda.



**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**

**The Elders, Former President of Liberia**

"Be not afraid to denounce injustice, though you may be outnumbered. Be not afraid to seek peace, even if your voice may be small. Be not afraid to demand peace."



**Me Malick SALL,**

**Ministre de la Justice, Senegal**

"My priority, first of all, is to ensure that justice regains its lustre. My job will be to restore order"



**Amina Hanga**

**Director, Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative**

"I believe strongly that every human being has rights, should know their rights and be able to access justice if those rights are being denied or violated."



**Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson QC**

**Member of Taskforce on Justice**

**Former Attorney-General & Minister of Legal Affairs, Bahamas**

"We should take seriously our mandate to be held to account and to involve people. Opening the doors, demystifying the courts, making information publicly available. Data brings accountability and transparency."

# Strengthened Partnerships with Government on Legal Empowerment

## How Practitioners are Effectively Engaging

This session will explore how justice practitioners are effectively engaging with each other to address the legal needs of people and communities, as well as opportunities and strategies for strengthening collaboration. It will also discuss why justice solutions that are transparent, inclusive and accountable tend to be more impactful.

**Moderator: Sabrina Mahtani \_ Senior Policy Advisor Access to Justice, The Elders**



Sabrina Mahtani is a human rights lawyer from Zambia/UK who works for The Elders as a Senior Policy Advisor on Access to Justice. She is also the co-founder of AdvocAid: a holistic organization providing access to justice, education and empowerment for women and girls in Sierra Leone, that works with incarcerated women and sex workers.

### Speakers

**Fatima Adamu \_ IWEI**



Fatima is Program Manager at the Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative: an organisation that seeks to transform the society by enabling women, youth and children escape the cycle of poverty and ignorance; mostly fostered by harmful traditional practices.

**Ousseynou Ngom \_ OGP**



Ousseynou is a Senior Regional Coordinator for Africa & The Middle East at Open Government Partnership where he helps identify and encourage learning and experience sharing between OGP countries.

**Abubakar Ahmed Umar\_ Legal Aid Council of Nigeria**



Mr. Umar heads the North West Zone of the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria where they provide free effective and efficient legal aid services to indigents in Nigeria. Before joining the council, Abubakar served in the Keno State ministry of justice for 20 years.

**Bilgho Palakwinde \_ Legal Aid Fund**



BILGHO Palakwinde is a magistrate by profession and currently Director of Recovery and Litigation at the Legal Aid Fund. He's worked in Burkina Faso's courts as a Deputy Government Commissioner and an Investigating Judge. He's also served as Vice President at the Court of Justice of the ECOWAS Community.

# Legal Empowerment, COVID-19 and Beyond

## Solutions to Challenges and Necessary Adaptations, Including Technology

This session will explore adaptations and innovations that have been utilized in legal empowerment work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The session will reflect diverse experiences across both urban and rural contexts.

### Moderator: Megan Chapman\_ JEI Co-Director



Megan is a human rights lawyer and the co-founder / co-director of Justice & Empowerment Initiatives – Nigeria (JEI), a non-profit, non-governmental organization, whose mission is to work side-by-side with the urban poor and marginalized members of society to peacefully seek justice and accountability through the protection of their fundamental human rights and provision of free legal aid.

### Speakers

#### Nankunda Katangaza \_ ALT Network



Nankunda is a Co-Founder of the Africa Law and Tech Network: a hub and facilitator of dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders working at the intersection of technology and law. Her work has focused on leading policy reform efforts for services liberalization and regulatory good practice in key emerging markets.

#### Messan Kounagbe \_ JEI



Messan is a jurist with JEI in Benin, where he supports a team of community-based paralegals from waterfront informal settlements in Cotonou, tackling justice and development challenges coming up in their communities.

#### Fred Patrick \_ JEI



Fred is JEI's lead paralegal in Lagos. He was himself forcibly evicted from his community, and has worked as a JEI paralegal for the last five years. He leads training of new paralegal classes in Lagos, and has extensive experience handling cases of wrongful arrest and detention.

#### Daniel Sessay \_ Namati Sierra Leone



Daniel Sessay is currently a Program Officer with Namati \_ Sierra Leone, where he plays a leading role in training paralegals in line with a recent Legal Aid Act that formally recognizes paralegal practitioners. He also provides mentorship and technical advice to a range of legal empowerment organizations in the country.

# Sustainable Financing for Legal Empowerment Programs

This session will present sustainable financing options, including regional examples of public financing, and uses of various program innovations that achieve scale or cut costs and make programming more financially sustainable.

**Moderator: Afia Asantewaa Asare-Kyei, OSIWA Program Manager**



Afia is responsible for the overall development and management of the OSIWA Equality, Justice and Human Rights Program portfolio. She has a background in development programs, ranging training civil society groups and communities on general human rights and on the special discourse of transitional justice, and working with governments and organizations on justice sector reform and access to justice.

## Speakers

**Seth Tladi \_ SCAT**



Seth currently serves as the Social Change Assistance Trust programme director, after working in the development sector for

more than 20 years. Apart from serving on various community development structures and organizations, Seth has widely presented papers on economic development in the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises sector.

**Chelcy Heroe \_ DHO**



Chelcy is the CEO and founder of Domestic Helpers Association; an organization that promotes the awareness of the

violations of the rights of domestic workers and empowers them through skills training. She is also an entrepreneurship trainer.

**Mademba Gueye\_Maison de Justice**



Mr. Mademba has held several judicial functions within Senegalese courts for more than 20 years. He is currently the Director of Proximity

Justice & the Promotion of Access to Law where he heads the drafting text on local justice, setting up courthouses in local communities and training courses for local justice actors.

**Nancy Sesay \_ OSIWA**



Nancy Sesay is the Program Coordinator at OSIWA where she led the development of the legal empowerment strategy and heads the

legal empowerment work. She has a strong background in clinical legal education and has worked extensively with law students on access to justice issues.

**Patrick JohnBull \_ CAJPHR**



Patrick Ngenda Johnbull Esq. is the founder and Executive Director of Centre for Access to Justice Peace and

Human Rights; an indigenous voluntary non-governmental and civil society organization that focuses on legal empowerment for rural communities in Sierra Leone from 2011 to present.

**Fatmata Soire \_ L.A.W.Y.E.R.S**



Fatmata is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the current president of L.A.W.Y.E.R.S. where she

leads a group of female lawyers in advocating for sexual reproductive health-rights for women, the review and amendment of gender laws and ease of access to services for victims of sexual and gender based violence.

# Benchmarking & Scaling Legal Empowerment Projects Good Practices

This session will highlight various legal empowerment service delivery models, how they've been able to deepen impact, and what opportunities exist for sharing good practices and models across various partners moving forward.

## Moderator: Kimberly Brown \_The Carter Center



Kimberly is a human rights lawyer and Obama Foundation Scholar. At present she serves as Associate Director of the Rule of Law Program at the Carter Center. Prior to joining the Center, she worked with Pathfinders as a Senior Policy Analyst, managed IDLO's programs in Kenya relating to access to justice and gender reforms, and helped lead Equality Now's Justice for Girls programming in Africa.

## Speakers

### Annette Mbogoh \_ Kituo cha Sheria



Dr. Annette Mbogoh is the Executive Director at Kituo cha Sheria where she provides legal intervention on behalf of clients and leads the team. Dr. Mbogoh is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a Gender and Women's Human Rights Specialist. She is a Doctor of Philosophy in Law.

### Michala Mackay \_ DSTI, Government of Sierra Leone



Michala Mackay is the current Director & Chief Operating Officer of the Directorate of Science, Technology & Innovation in the Government of Sierra Leone. Before joining DSTI, Mackay was CEO and Registrar of the Corporate Affairs Commission and Director of Legal and Licensing Affairs at the National Telecommunications Commission.

### Adrien Tossa Montcho \_ MDT, Guinea



Mr. Montcho is the National Coordinator at Les Mêmes Droits Pour Tous; a Guinean organization that works in the defense and the

promotion of human rights. He leads MDT in providing free legal aid to victims of human rights violations and in training & monitoring paralegals in the field.

### Sheila Grace A. Formento \_ ALG



Atty. Sheila is the National Coordinator at The Alternative Law Groups; a coalition of legal resource non-governmental organizations. Sheila

coordinates members of this group in empowering the poor and the marginalized, and in effecting justice system reforms in education, policy, litigation, research & publication.

### Mohamed Jalloh \_ LEWAF



M. Jalloh is the founder of Lady Ellen Women's Aid Foundation; an organization that focuses on tackling Violence against

Women's and Girls in Sierra Leone. He specializes in Social Development Policy and Management where he has worked for over two decades.

# Closing Session

## Building West Africa Connections for Advocacy & Synergy

This session will draw together key lessons from the previous sessions and chart a clear set of regional actions and outcomes to feed into a broader advocacy. An outcome document capturing regional commitments and recommendations will be developed and shared with the public.

**Moderator: Aimee Ongeso \_ Legal Empowerment Network**



Aimee currently works at Namati and the Legal Empowerment Network as a Senior Global Network Officer where she works on regional advocacy and learning initiatives. She has vast experience supporting communities, ensuring their active participation in the design, execution and implementation of pro-poor policies and legislation.

### Speakers

**Abigail Moy \_ Legal Empowerment Network**



Abigail Moy is the Director of the Legal Empowerment Network, convened by Namati. She has led efforts to build a thriving global movement for legal empowerment: one capable of innovating boldly and collectively tackling the greatest justice challenges of our time.

**Ayisha Osori \_ OSIWA**



Ayisha Osori is the Executive Director for Open Society Initiative for West Africa, a grant making and advocacy organization working in 10 countries within the region. She has over 20 years experience as a lawyer, development consultant and writer.

**Paige Alexander \_ The Carter Center**



Paige joined The Carter Center as CEO in June 2020. She has had a distinguished global development career, with over two decades of experience spanning the government and nonprofit sectors. She has held senior leadership positions at two regional bureaus of the USAID, covering missions and development programs in 25 countries.

**Simeon Koroma \_ Timap for Justice & Founding Member, Africa Centre of Excellence for Access to Justice**



Simeon spearheaded the campaign for the formal recognition of paralegals in Sierra Leone and served as a member of the inaugural Legal Aid Board. ACE-AJ is a continent wide network of African CSO's working to promote access to justice for the poor and marginalised.

**Eyesan E. Okorodudu\_ ECOWAS**



Eyesan heads the Democracy and Good Governance Political Affairs Directorate in the ECOWAS Commission. In 2019, ECOWAS engaged Civil Society Organizations in the region to review and validate the draft ECOWAS handbook on access to justice and transitional justice in order to bring about sustainable peace and development in ECOWAS Member States.

**H.E. Maarten Brouwer\_ Ambassador of Netherlands to Mali**



Marchel Gerrmann joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995 and worked in HMA Nairobi and the World Bank and in the department at the Directorate of Multilateral Development Financing and the Directorate of Financial and Economic Affairs. He has also been part of the EU Delegation to Lilongwe and the EU delegation to Malawi.

**H.E. Musa F. Dean Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia**



H. E. Frank Musa Dean is the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of the Republic of Liberia. He also served as the Honorary Consul General of the Russian Federation in Liberia and a partner at Dean & Associates law office.

**Conclusion**

**Amina Hanga \_ Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative**



Ms. Amina is the Executive Director at IWEI, Nigeria, where she leads the IWEI team in training community based paralegals to provide access to justice for the underprivileged, vulnerable members of rural and urban poor communities, and for pre-trial persons in police stations and prisons.

Join us at: <http://bit.ly/WestAfricaLegalEmpowermentSummit>



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Building a Culture of Justice



Legal Empowerment Network

Open Government Partnership

