

# International Conference

## Theme: Violence and Displacement in Africa

**Venue:** University of the Witwatersrand,  
Johannesburg  
South Africa

Date: 13–14 May, 2026



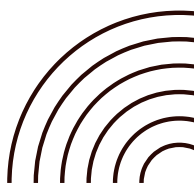
STOP VIOLENCE





## WELCOME MESSAGE

It is my distinguished pleasure to welcome everyone (colleagues, researcher, policymaker, and guests) to the International Conference on Violence and Displacement in Africa, hosted at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. The consideration of this conference is urgent as the threads of violence and displacement run deep across the continent of Africa with various shades as seen in the papers gathered for this conference. From the female students of North-Central Nigeria who have become soft targets in terrorism-prone environments, to the displaced women of Zimbabwe whose disabilities and gender compound their exclusion; from the economically displaced Zimbabwean migrants facing a mental health paradox in South Africa, to the Basotho miners trapped between structural poverty and physical violence—the threads of violence and displacement run deep across our continent. Yet within these struggles, we find not merely victims but resilient communities, innovative governance models, and pathways toward justice. The contributions here examine traditional courts as restorative justice mechanisms, indigenous ethical values as peacebuilding resources, and the Tuseme learner-centred model as an empowerment innovation for refugee children in Uganda. Africa remains resilient in these trying times. Over the next two days, we will interrogate how climate change multiplies resource conflict, how neoliberal waste governance excludes informal labour, how military regimes deplete green political thinking, and how securitised migration frameworks unmake regional order. We will ask whether the US-Nigeria joint operation serves resource interests or human security, and whether our normative commitments to the Kampala Convention have translated into implementation. This conference is a space for critical dialogue, uncomfortable truths, and transformative action. Welcome and let us make the best of this meeting





**Prof. Jean Marc Lukamba  
Muhiya Tshombe**

Jean Marc Lukamba Muhiya Tshombe PhD is a Professor in Public Management and Administration at the Vaal Triangle Campus of the North-West University in South Africa. He is the Deputy Director of the School of Government Studies, Vaal Triangle Campus. Tshombe holds a B.A. Honours in Public Administration, and MPhil (Energy Policy) from the University of Cape Town, and a Doctoral degree in Public Management from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. He is lecturing interests in Public Management, Human Resources, Comparative Public Administration, Public Sector Reform, Public Private Partnership, and Energy Security. In these, he has presented several research papers at international conferences in Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Brazil and Italy.

He was a visiting research fellow in different universities such as University of Speyer in 2014, 2018 in Germany, and 2022 at University of Guelph in Canada. He is a visiting professor at Kehl University of Applied Sciences in Germany, lecturing at Public Management in International Cooperation (PMIC) MA programme. He is lecturing interests in Public Management, Human Resources, Comparative Public Administration, Public Sector Reform, Public Private Partnership, and Energy Security. In these, he has presented several research papers at international conferences in Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Brazil and Italy. He was a visiting research fellow in different universities such as University of Speyer in 2014, 2018 in Germany, and 2022 at University of Guelph in Canada.

He has published more than 65 articles in referred accredited journals. He has already co-edited three books. The first book was co-edited in 2013 entitled 'Public Administration in Africa: Performance and Challenges, Published by Taylor and Francis in April 2013. The second book was published in 2018 entitled New Public Management in Africa: Emerging Issues and Lessons published by Routledge. In 2024, he co-edited a book entitled Public-Private Partnerships in Africa: Exploring Africa's Growth Potential. Published by Lexington Books. He is currently supervising MA and PhD students in the field of Public Management and Administration. Professor Lukamba serves as external examiner for MA and PhD for several universities in South Africa, and outside the country.



Dr. Alex Asakitikpi is Senior Researcher in the Faculty of Humanities at the Independent Institute of Education and a former Professor of Sociology at Monash University South Africa. He has served as Section Editor of the South African Journal of Human Resource Management, and on the Executive Board of the International Society for Urban Health of the New York Academy of Medicine; and the International Sociological Association (Research Committee 15). He is co-author of *Modern Nigeria*, and co-editor of *Gender-Based Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa: Prevalence, Patterns, and Policies*. He has facilitated research sessions and roundtable discussions across Africa, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

### **Dr. Alex Asakitikpi**

His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals and books, including *Africa Development*, *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, *Synthesis Philosophica*, and *The Palgrave International Handbook of Healthcare Policy and Governance*.

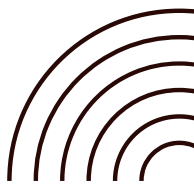
## DELEGATES

### **Prof. Nomusa Mabaso**

DUT Business School, Durban University of Technology, 41 M.L Sultan Road, Greyville, Berea, 400, Durban, South Africa

### **Prof. Ndumiso Ngidi**

DUT Business School, Durban University of Technology, 41 M.L Sultan Road, Greyville, Berea, 400, Durban, South Africa



# PROGRAMME

**DAY ONE, 13 May 2026**

## **Welcome Address**

9am-9:10am

- Welcome Address
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## **Keynote Lecture by: Dr. Alex Asakitikpi**

9:10am-9:45am

- Topic: Rethinking Violence, Displacement, and the Struggle for Belonging in Contemporary Africa
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## **Session I**

9:45am- 12:25pm

**Chair Person: Dr. Rookmoney Thakur, Durban University of Technology, South Africa**

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## **K.S. Mphahlele (Phd) & Dr. G.S. Mrubula Ngwenya** 9:45am -10am

- Between Abandonment and Migration: A critical discourse analysis of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa 2018-2030: K.S. Mphahlele (Phd) & Dr. G.S. Mrubula Ngwenya University of Limpopo Department of Cultural and Political Studies
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## **Dr. S Sikwela & Prof. M Diedericks**

10am-10:15am

- Administrative Violence, Scarce-Skills Displacement, and Power-With HR Governance for Economic Development: Dr.S Sikwela & Prof. M Diedericks, North West University
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## **Prof. Hebert Sihle Ntuli**

10:15am-10:30am

- Administrative Violence, Scarce-Skills Displacement, and Power-With HR Governance for Economic Development: Dr.S Sikwela & Prof. M Diedericks, North West University
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**Andrisha Beharry-Ramraj**

10:50am-11:05am

- Tourism and Violence in Africa: Implications for Mobility, Development, and Destination Governance: Andrisha Beharry-Ramraj University of KwaZulu-Natal
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**TEA BREAK**

11:05am-11:25am

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**Dr. Omowumi Boboye & Nirmala Dorasamy**

11:25-11:40am

- Beyond the Barracks: Examining Intersectional Vulnerabilities and the Protracted Displacement Crisis in Nigeria's Evolving Conflict Landscape: Dr. Omowumi Boboye & Nirmala Dorasamy, Durban University of Technology Durban, South Africa
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**Ms Shylet Chikato Muserere**

11:40pm-11:55pm

- Traditional Leaders and Gender-Based Violence in Zimbabwe: National Perspectives and Lessons from Musasa Project: Ms Shylet Chikato Muserere, Durban University of Technology, Durban South Africa
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**Samkelisiwe Phokoye and Siphokazi Dlamini**

11:55pm-12:10pm

- Digital Systems and Proactive Conflict Management in South African Higher Education Institutions: A Scoping Review: Samkelisiwe Phokoye and Siphokazi Dlamini, DUT Business School-Durban University of Technology
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**Kelebogile Kegakilwe**

12:10pm-12:25pm

- Military Regimes and the depletion of Africa's Green Political Thinking: The Case of of the Democratic Republic of Congo: Kelebogile Kegakilwe, North West University
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**Chair Person: Dr.S Sikwela**

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**Prof. Lusanda Juta & Dr Olaleke Michael Alao** 12:30pm–12:45pm

- Violence, Displacement, And The Development Paradox In Africa: Institutional Failures And Policy Implications: Professor Lusanda Juta & Dr Olaleke Michael Alao, Department Of Public Management, Law And Economics, Durban University Of Technology, South Africa
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**Dr Phuti Ignatius Moloto & Ms. Rosinah Pillay** 12:45pm–1pm

- The Influence Of Technology On Governance: A Case Of The South African Local Municipalities: Dr Phuti Ignatius Moloto & Ms. Rosinah Pillay, Department Of Public Administration, University Of Limpopo, South Africa
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**Ms Malehloka Baptistina Thakalekoala** 1pm–1:15pm

- Bridging Policy and Practice: Civil Society Engagement in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Lesotho : Ms Malehloka Baptistina Thakalekoala, Durban University of Technology
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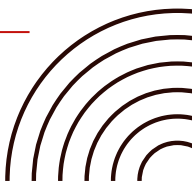

**Akinwale, Gbenusola A. And Ojakorotu, Victor** 1:15pm–1:30pm

- A Micro Evaluation of Rehabilitation of Trafficking in Nigeria: Akinwale, Gbenusola A. And Ojakorotu, Victor, Department of Political Studies & International Relations, North West University, Mafikeng, South Africa.
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**LUNCH**

1:30pm–2:25pm

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**Dr Simbarashe Magaisa**

2:25pm-2:40pm

- Violence, Forced Displacement and the Reversal of Maternal Health Gains in Africa: Dr Simbarashe Magaisa, Durban University of Technology, South Africa
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**Dr. Onuk Bulus Ojem  
Prof. Phemelo Olifile Marumo**

2:40pm-2:55:pm

- Role of African Ethical Values in Mitigating Violence and Internal Displacement in Nigeria: Dr. Onuk Bulus Ojem, Prof. Phemelo Olifile Marumo, Faculty of Humanities , North-West University, South Africa
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**Thabo Prince Zondo**

2:55pm-3:10pm

- Back to the Roots: Indigenous Knowledge Systems as a means to circumvent poverty in Ngugi's Petals of Blood: Thabo Prince Zondo, Department of English, university of Zululand.
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**Dr. Rookmoney Thakur**

3:10pm-3:25pm

- Localising Climate Security: Community Governance, Violence and Displacement in African Contexts: Dr. Rookmoney Thakur, Durban University of Technology, South Africa
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**Chair Persson: Dr. Thabo Prince Zondo, Department of English, university of Zululand.**

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**Shabane Prim-Rose Makosazane**

3:30pm-3:45pm

- Gender, violence and displacement in Africa: Intersectional vulnerabilities and survival strategies in contexts of extended crisis: Shabane Prim-Rose Makosazane: Durban University of Technology, South Africa
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**Muchandiona Cosmas, Moyo Annah**

3:45pm-4pm

- Gendered impacts of violence and displacement on the development of early childhood learners in Africa: Muchandiona Cosmas, Moyo Annah , Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
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**Tlohang W Letsie**

4pm-4:15pm

- From Structural To Physical Violence: An Ordeal Of Basotho Illegal Miners In South Africa: Tlohang W Letsie, National University of Lesotho
- 

**Prof. Kenneth Orido**

4:15-4:30pm

- Adaptation, Scalability and Sustainability of Learner Centered Education Models: Evidence from Tuseme in Refugee and Internally Displaced Communities in Uganda: Prof. Kenneth Orido University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
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**Rofem Bassey, Pfarelo Matshidze, Ishmael Iwara** 4:30–4:45pm

- Beyond the classroom: Indigenous Leadership, Non-formal Citizen Education, and Democratic Participation in Thohoyandou, Limpopo, South Africa: Rofem Bassey, Pfarelo Matshidze, Ishmael Iwara,, University of Venda

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**Mphathesitthe Mkhize and Innocent Sithole** 4:45–5pm

- Metropolitan Governance, Violence-Driven Displacement, and  
SDG Localisation: Strategic Priorities for African Cities Toward 2030 and Beyond: Mphathesitthe Mkhize and Innocent Sithole  
Mangosuthu Durban University of Technology

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**Dr Isheachida Manatsa** 5pm–5:15

- Early Pathways to Femicide and GBV: How Township Schools Socialise Gendered Harm in South Africa: Dr Isheachida Manatsa, Durban University of Technology

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**Mr. Shepherd Chitsama** 5:15–5:30pm

- Responsibility Without Equity: Evaluating Refugee Protection and Global Burden-Sharing in Africa: Mr. Shepherd Chitsama, DUT Business School, Durban, South Africa
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# PROGRAMME

**DAY TWO, 14 May 2026**

## **Welcome Address**

9am–9:10am

- Welcome Address
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## **Keynote Lecture** **Prof. Lukamba Muhiya Tshombe**

9:10am–9:45am

- Topic: Political Patronage in Africa: Governance and Challenge
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## **Session I**

10am–3pm

### **Chair Person: Dr. Akinwale Gbenushola**

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#### **Mr. Shepherd Chitsama**

10am–10:15am

- Pathways to Resilience: Addressing Refugee Vulnerabilities and Humanitarian Response in Rwanda: Mr. Shepherd Chitsama, DUT Business School, Durban, South Africa
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#### **Dr Xolisile G. Ngumbela**

10:15am–10:30am

- Climate Change, Resource Scarcity And The Escalation Of Conflict In Africa: Implications For Governance And Sustainable Peace: Dr Xolisile G. Ngumbela, Department Of Government Management, Faculty Of Management Sciences, Central University Of Technology
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#### **Snethemba H. Fundiswa Jili**

10:30am–10–45am

- An Exploration of the Roles of Traditional Courts in Combating Crime: A Study of The Maphumulo Traditional Tribe, Stanger, Kzn: Snethemba H. Fundiswa Jili, University of KwaZulu-Natal
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**Daniel Kambiri**

10:45am-11am

- From normative commitment to implementation failure: Governance challenges in managing internal displacement in Africa: Daniel Kambiri, Department of Public Management and Governance, University of Johannesburg (South Africa)
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**TEA BREAK**

11am-11:25am

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**Professor Kwandiwe Kondlo & Abayomi Aluko** 11:25am-11:40am

- The Securitisation of Migration Governance and the Unmaking of Regional Order: Political Economy, Violence, and Displacement in the Sahel and Horn of Africa: Professor Kwandiwe Kondlo & Abayomi Aluko, Wits School of Governance, South Africa
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**Dr. Grace Olubunmi BABALOLA**

11:40am-11:55am

- The Furnace Of Learning: Female Students As Soft Targets- Terrorism, Vulnerability, And The Limits Of Protection Under The Law Of Armed Conflict In Africa (Nigeria's North-Central Case Study): Dr. Grace Olubunmi BABALOLA, Deputy Registrar (Academic), Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria
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**Marandure Mufaro (Mrs), Mr. Farai Chikwature** 11:55am-12:10pm

- Disability, Gender, Violence, and Displacement in Zimbabwe: A Hidden Crisis. Marandure Mufaro (Mrs), Mr. Farai Chikwature, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
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**Dr Musline Munodawafa**

12:10pm-12:25pm

- A Gendered Dimension of Violence - Induced Displacement: Experiences of displaced women in Mutare, Zimbabwe., Dr Musline Munodawafa, Department of Social Sciences at the Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe
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**Dr Evans Mandova**

12:25pm-12:40pm

- Violence and Commerce : The economic impact of Displacement on Africa :  
Dr Evans Mandova , Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
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**Kazeem Oyedele Lamidi, Costa Hofisi**

12:40pm-12:55pm

- Violence and Internal Displacement in Northern Nigeria: Patterns, Impacts, and Policy Responses: Kazeem Oyedele Lamidi, Costa Hofisi, Department of Public Administration and Management, School of Government Studies, Faculty of Humanities, North West University, Vaal Campus, South Africa
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**LUNCH**

12:55pm-2pm

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**Dr Songile Mhlanga**

2pm-2:15pm

- The Mental Health Paradox of Zimbabwean Economic Migrants in South Africa: Dr Songile Mhlanga, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Applied Psychology Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
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**Ms Shylet Chikato Muserere**

2:15pm-2:30pm

- Traditional Leaders and Gender-Based Violence in Zimbabwe: National Perspectives and Lessons from Musasa Project: Ms Shylet Chikato Muserere, Durban University of Technology
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**David Matsepe, Mugwena Maluleke  
Thembinkosi Zwane**

2:30pm-2:45pm

- A Collaborative or Disputed Space? Teacher Unions and The Professionalization of School Leadership: David Matsepe, Mugwena Maluleke, South African Democratic Teachers Union Research Department. Thembinkosi Zwane University of Johannesburg
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**Prof. Victor Ojatorotu & Daniel John**

2:45pm–3pm

- Those who escaped are staying with their relatives': Terrorism and Secondary Displacement in Kwara State, Nigeria: Professor Victor OJAKOROTU, North West University, DANIEL John, Glotan Research Services and Department of History, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
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## Session II

3pm–5:30pm

**Chair Person: Andrisha Beharry–Ramraj**

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**Dr Viriri Maradze**

3:05pm–3:20pm

- Exploring the 'marriage' of Artificial Intelligence and indigenous Knowledge systems in enhancing food security in draught prone Buhera South; Zimbabwe: Dr Viriri Maradze, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
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**Mrs Marandure Mufaro, Mr. Farai Chikwature.**

**Mr. Rwakonda Sebastian, Ms Maruzani Bhasera**

3:20pm–3:35pm

- Inclusive Education and Disability Policy: An Analytical Study of Deaf blindness in Zimbabwe: Mrs Marandure Mufaro, Mr. Farai Chikwature, Mr. Rwakonda Sebastian, Ms Maruzani Bhasera, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
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**Bamidele Olajide & Victor Ojatorotu**

3:35pm–3:50pm

- Neoliberalizing Waste, Excluding Labour: The Privatisation of Lagos's Waste Economy and the Crisis of Informal Livelihoods: Bamidele Olajide & Victor Ojatorotu, Department of Politics and International Relations, North West University, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa
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**Dr. Olomitutu, Adeniyi Kehinde**  
**Prof. Ojakorotu, Victor**

3:50pm-4:05pm

- Banditry and the Relocation of Rural Communities in North-Central Nigeria: Dr. OLOMITUTU, Adeniyi Kehinde, Prof. OJAKOROTU, Victor , Political Studies & International Relations, North West University, Mafikeng, South Africa
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**Matsa Winniefridah, Defe Rameck,**  
**MatopeNogget, Juliet Chidochashe Runokunda**  
**Amanda T Mugadza**

4:05pm-4:20pm

- Political violence and displacement in Africa: Linking eco-feminism, patriarchy and GED (Gender, Environment and Development): Matsa Winniefridah, Defe Rameck, MatopeNogget, Juliet Chidochashe Runokunda Amanda T Mugadza, Gender Institute, Midlands State University, Gweru, Zimbabwe
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**Mr. Shepherd Chitsama**

4:20pm-4:35pm

- Unseen Struggles: Gendered Vulnerabilities and Humanitarian Gaps among Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Women in Rwanda: Mr. Shepherd Chitsama, DUT Business School, Durban, South Africa
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**Chukwudi Agunyai**

4:35pm-4:50pm

- Violence and Displacement: Is the US-Nigeria joint operation against terrorism for resource motive or the ending of violence and human displacement? : Samuel Chukwudi AGUNYAI, Department of Political Studies and International Relations, North West University, South Africa
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**Temitope Omotayo Solomon, Victor Ojatorotu** 4:50pm–5:15pm  
**Deborah Ifeoluwa Makanjuola**

- Refugee Protection as a Political Bargain: Host States vs. International Responsibility: Temitope Omotayo Solomon, Researcher, Glotan Research Services, Lagos, Nigeria. Victor Ojatorotu, Department of Political Studies & International Relations, North West University, Mafikeng, South Africa. Deborah Ifeoluwa Makanjuola, Department of Political Science, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria.

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**Mr Peter Morepje Nchabeleng** 5:15pm–5:30pm

- Negative Impacts of Public Service Delivery Protests on South Africans: With Specific Reference To Black Communities: Mr Peter Morepje Nchabeleng: North West Community Education And Training College, South Africa
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## Abstract 001

### THE FURNACE OF LEARNING: FEMALE STUDENTS AS SOFT TARGETS- TERRORISM, VULNERABILITY, AND THE LIMITS OF PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT IN AFRICA (NIGERIA'S NORTH- CENTRAL CASE STUDY)

Grace Olubunmi BABALOLA, Ph.D, FCAI, FCIPM, FIPMLD  
Deputy Registrar (Academic),  
Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko,  
Ondo State,  
Nigeria

Grace Olubunmi BABALOLA, Ph.D, FCAI, FCIPM, FIPMLD  
Deputy Registrar (Academic),  
Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko,  
Ondo State,  
Nigeria

*Educational institutions across conflict-affected regions of Africa are increasingly exposed to violence, rendering students, particularly female learners, soft targets within terrorism-prone environments. This paper examines the gendered vulnerability of female students in Nigeria's North-Central region, a zone often overlooked in security and humanitarian discourse despite its escalating patterns of terror-adjacent violence, communal conflict and armed banditry. Moving beyond the traditional North-East insurgency narrative, the study situates education within the broader dynamics of contemporary African conflict. Grounded in the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) and informed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the AU Policy on the Protection of Civilians, and relevant ECOWAS conflict-prevention and security protocols, the paper interrogates the adequacy and practical limits of existing legal protections for students in hybrid conflict settings. In terms of methodology, the study employs a qualitative socio-legal approach, combining doctrinal legal analysis with policy review, conflict mapping and selected institutional case illustrations from tertiary and secondary educational institutions in North-Central Nigeria. A gender-sensitive analytical lens is applied to foreground the differentiated risks faced by female students, including displacement, sexual violence, educational disruption, and psychosocial harm. The paper argues that prevailing legal and institutional frameworks insufficiently translate normative commitments into effective protection for learners. It recommends the domestication of international and regional norms through gender-responsive campus security governance, operationalization of the Safe Schools Declaration, clearer civil-military coordination protocols, and accountability mechanisms linking educational authorities, security agencies, and regional bodies. The study ultimately advances education as a protected civilian space, central to peacebuilding and sustainable security in Africa.*

**Keywords:**

*African Union; ECOWAS; Education in Armed Conflict; Female Students; Law of Armed Conflict; Nigeria's North-Central Region; Safe Schools Declaration; Terrorism; UNSCR 1325; Vulnerability*

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## Abstract 002

### A COLLABORATIVE OR DISPUTED SPACE? TEACHER UNIONS AND THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

David Matsepe  
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Department  
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*The function of teacher unions (TUs) in the realm of school leadership is frequently characterized by their commitment to collective bargaining and the promotion of improved working conditions for educators. This typically results in a narrow focus on the professionalization of school leadership. The professionalisation of school leadership pertains to the process of improving the knowledge, standards, skills, and practices of school leaders, ensuring they operate effectively as educational professionals. This research investigates the extent to which TUs, and school leadership engage in collaboration or contribute to contestation in the advancement of professionalisation. Rooted in collaboration theory, this research employed a qualitative phenomenological approach to investigate the ways in which TUs interact with school leadership frameworks. By school leadership structures, we refer to the school governing bodies (SGB) and the school management teams (SMTs). Data were collected from principals (n=4), SMT members (n=4), SGB members (n=4), and union representatives (n=4), resulting in a total of 16 participants. Our findings indicate that although TUs aims to support the professionalisation of schools, their engagement with school leadership structures frequently encounters challenges such as role overlap, power dynamics, and conflicting priorities. Organised collaboration between TUs and school leadership structures presents an opportunity to enhance leadership capacity, promote equity-driven governance, and effectively support school improvement initiatives. Therefore, it is advisable to reconceptualize TUs as collaborative partners in the development of leadership, rather than viewing them as adversaries, to cultivate a more professional and sustainable leadership environment.*

**Keywords:** Leadership professionalisation; collaboration theory; equity governance; equity leadership; role conflict

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## Abstract 003

### DISABILITY, GENDER, VIOLENCE, AND DISPLACEMENT IN ZIMBABWE: A HIDDEN CRISIS.

Marandure Mufaro (Mrs).  
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&  
Mr. Farai Chikwature  
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*This study explores the intersection of disability, gender, violence, and displacement in Zimbabwe, an area often overlooked despite its urgent social implications. Persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, face heightened risks of gender-based violence and forced displacement, yet their experiences remain largely invisible in humanitarian and policy frameworks. Addressing this gap, the research emphasizes how overlapping identities of disability and gender compound exclusion. Using a qualitative design, the study engaged around 60 participants, including women and men with disabilities, caregivers, and community leaders affected by displacement. Data were gathered through interviews, focus groups, and case studies, and then analysed thematically to identify patterns of vulnerability, resilience, and coping strategies. Intersectionality theory and human rights frameworks, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), guided the interpretation of findings. Results reveal that persons with disabilities in Zimbabwe endure unique marginalisation during crises: exclusion from aid distribution, increased exposure to violence, and limited access to protective services. By documenting these realities, the study extends intersectional analysis to a Southern African crisis context, highlights the invisibility of disabled populations in humanitarian responses, and provides evidence-based recommendations for inclusive policy and intervention.*

**Keywords:** *disability, gender, violence, displacement, intersectionality*

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## Abstract 004

### **ADAPTATION, SCALABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF LEARNER CENTERED EDUCATION MODELS: EVIDENCE FROM TUSEME IN REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA**

Dr. Kenneth Orido  
Faculty of Business and Development Studies,  
Gulu University, Uganda

*As at of June 2025, there were 1.9 million refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and asylum seekers in Uganda, a home to the largest refugee population in Africa and the fifth largest in the world. Despite Uganda's progressive policies towards refugee integration, refugee children face significant challenges even with successful government implementation of policies such as right to education, access is hampered by overcrowding, lack of sufficient resources, and inadequate resources in refugee-hosting areas*

*Tuseme ("Let us speak out") is a FAWE Learner Centered Education empowerment innovation that aims to foster children's agency, to enhance their self-esteem, leadership, social, and life-skills. Tuseme model is intended to enhance agency and confidence of learners in traditional school settings across Sub-Saharan Africa. However, its effectiveness has not been tested in refugee and IDP settings, The objective of this study was to document enabling and disabling factors for adaptation, scalability and sustainability of Tuseme in Refugee and Internally Displaced Communities in Uganda. Key findings: For Tuseme to be successfully and sustainably scaled in refugee & IDP settings in Uganda, the following challenges will need to be addressed: Pervasive Poverty & Material Needs; Entrenched Cultural & Gender Biases; Psychosocial Impact of Displacement and Resource & Infrastructure Gaps*

*Conclusion: Overall, the findings indicate that sustainably scaling TUSEME in Uganda's refugee and IDP settlement schools requires moving beyond project-based delivery toward an ecosystem approach that institutionalizes Tuseme within existing education governance structures.*

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## Abstract 005

### LOCALISING CLIMATE SECURITY: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE, VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICAN CONTEXTS

Dr.Rookmoney Thakur  
International Centre of Non-Violence (ICON),  
Durban University of Technology,  
South Africa.

*Climate change has emerged as a critical multiplier of violence and displacement across Africa, intensifying pre-existing structural vulnerabilities rooted in inequality, fragile governance, and historical marginalisation. Increasingly frequent droughts, floods, and environmental degradation are placing severe pressure on land, water, and livelihood systems, particularly in rural and peri-urban contexts. Drawing on political ecology and human security perspectives, this paper argues that climate-induced resource stress does not directly cause violence, but interacts with governance failures, uneven power relations, and limited adaptive capacity to produce conflict and forced displacement.*

*Using a qualitative desk-based analysis of secondary literature, policy frameworks, and selected African case examples, the study examines how climate change reshapes access to natural resources and amplifies competition, social fragmentation, and insecurity. The analysis situates climate-related displacement within broader development challenges, demonstrating how violence and mobility undermine progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 1, 6, 11, 13, and 16, and threaten the realisation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 aspirations for inclusive growth, peace, and resilience.*

*The paper advances a community-centred governance framework that foregrounds indigenous knowledge systems, participatory resource management, and locally grounded peacebuilding as critical mechanisms for reducing climate-related violence and displacement. It contends that technocratic and securitised climate responses remain insufficient in the absence of inclusive institutions, social cohesion, and accountable governance at the local level. By integrating climate adaptation, conflict prevention, and sustainable development, the study offers policy-relevant insights to strengthen resilience, protect vulnerable populations, and advance long-term peace in climate-stressed African contexts and displacement dynamics.*

**Keywords:** Climate-Induced Displacement, Resource Conflict, Political Ecology, Human Security Framework, Agenda 2063

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## Abstract 006

### THE INFLUENCE OF TECHNOLOGY ON GOVERNANCE: A CASE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

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*This study explores the intricate relationship between Technology and governance in South African Municipalities. The analysis is based on the systematic review of secondary data on technology and governance using conceptual framework. The data were gathered from variety of sources including academic journals, government documents, new articles and policies papers. The system of technology and democracy in South Africa is imperfect and democratic governance is primarily aimed at expanding rights, the scope and credibility of democracy (Darke, 1996). Focuses on governance in the light of twelve (12) principles of good democratic governance risk and opportunities, mitigating factors, incentives, and examples. Digital transformation also affects the political landscape and the state of civil society. Talk of democracy has emerged as traditional actors adapt to new methods of campaigning to spread ideas and as some political parties targeted micro goals in their political campaigns. There is much debate about the future of democracy in the digital age. Further research and better access to data are needed to fully understand the impact of micro targeting on public opinion. They play an increasingly central role in the public sphere as providers, creators and distributors of infrastructure contracts, controlling choices and creating the information published on social platforms focused on specific topics. However, the quality of democracy, accountability and efficiency and digitalization provide new channels for delivering quality services to governments.*

**KeyWords:** South African Municipalities, Digital transformation, Governance and Technology

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## Abstract 007

### A MICRO EVALUATION OF REHABILITATION OF TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

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*Human trafficking remains a major organized crime with severe implications for human development, exposing victims to exploitation, abuse, and long-term psychological trauma. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the rehabilitation activities of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in Nigeria. Using a qualitative research design, the study systematically reviewed thirty-two NAPTIP-related headlines published in The Guardian newspaper between 2021 and 2025. Media reports were used as an analytical lens to examine the agency's rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. Data were collected through keyword searches, including human trafficking, victims, rehabilitation, NAPTIP, and reintegration. Findings indicate that NAPTIP demonstrates considerable effectiveness in rescue operations, prosecution of offenders, awareness creation, provision of shelters, and some forms of economic empowerment for survivors. However, the analysis reveals inconsistencies in long-term rehabilitation services, particularly in the provision of structured mental health and psychosocial support. Evidence suggests limited follow-up monitoring systems and insufficient individualized rehabilitation plans, raising concerns about the sustainability of survivors' reintegration. The study concludes that while NAPTIP performs strongly in immediate intervention strategies, there is a significant gap between rescue operations and holistic rehabilitation. Strengthening trauma-informed psychological services, structured follow-up programs, and multidisciplinary rehabilitation frameworks is essential for promoting sustainable recovery and reducing the risk of re-trafficking. The study highlights the critical role of psychologists in strengthening rehabilitation outcomes for trafficking survivors in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** Rehabilitation, Micro-Evaluation, Human trafficking, Psychology

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## Abstract 008

### VIOLENCE, DISPLACEMENT, AND THE DEVELOPMENT PARADOX IN AFRICA: INSTITUTIONAL FAILURES AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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*This article challenges the persisting paradox of development in Africa. The simultaneous presence of plenty and underdevelopment in the face of violence and displacement. It suggests that long-term insecurity in the continent is not just an incidental consequence of weak growth, but a structural consequence of institutional weakness, deficit of governance, and lack of even state legitimacy. Based on comparative case studies and interdisciplinary literature, the study will aim to explain how armed warfare, forced migration and informalized economies reinforce each other to the detriment of state capacity and the breaking of social contracts.*

*The article goes on to propose a re-evaluation of mainstream development models which focus on technocratic remedies but ignore the politics of violence. It reveals that displacement (internal and cross-border) is not merely a humanitarian crisis but also a development constraint that not only distorts labour markets but also disrupts the education system and entrenches spatial inequalities. Simultaneously, it also emphasizes the ways in which local resilience practices and informal governance arrangements tend to arise to address institutional gaps, although with mixed effects on the stabilization of the situation in the long term.*

*This article prefigures the necessity to reconstruct responsible, inclusive, and context-sensitive institutions as the foundation of sustainable development. It demands policy to be changed towards proactive governance by being more reactive to crisis management to preventive governance; regional collaboration, development planning that is sensitive to conflicts and the reinforcement of civic trust. The study adds value to the current discussion of the development path of Africa and is instrumental in providing practical solutions to policymakers, scholars, and continental institutions that aim at transformative change by interconnected violence, displacement, and institutional failure.*

**Keywords:** Violence; Forced Displacement; Institutional Fragility; Governance; Development Paradox

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## Abstract 009

### GENDERED IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNERS IN AFRICA

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*Violence-driven displacement has surged across Africa, disrupting schooling, care arrangements and broader development prospects for millions of children. Basing on the current state of affairs, little is known about how these disruptions differently affect early childhood children along gender lines, especially in fragile and marginalised societies. This study explores the gendered impacts of violence and displacement on the cognitive, socio-emotional and physical development of early childhood children, who are aged 3-8, in selected African displacement contexts. Anchored in intersectional feminist gender theory by Kimberlé Crenshaw and Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, the study explores how conflict-related displacement reshapes care-giving practices, access to early childhood development (ECD) services and exposure to protection risks for young boys and girls. The study further interrogates how gender norms and roles among the displaced persons and host communities influence participation in early learning, play, psychosocial support and daily safety. The study adopts pragmatism as the research paradigm, a mixed-approach and a descriptive survey design, where purposive sampling was done to select 30 caregivers, 20 teachers, 20 ECD learners and 5 humanitarian aid staff from displacement - affected communities. Data were generated through questionnaires for teachers, focus group discussions with caregivers and ECD learners, and in-depth interviews with humanitarian aid personnel. The study argues that disregarding gendered experiences in ECD within displacement contexts deepens existing inequalities, reproduces inter-generational vulnerabilities and undermines long-term peace-building and human development in Africa. It recommends concrete policy and programming measures to integrate gender-sensitive ECD programmes into violence and displacement responses.*

**Keywords:** Gender; Displacement; Violence; Early Childhood Development (ECD); Africa.

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## Abstract 010

### A GENDERED DIMENSION OF VIOLENCE - INDUCED DISPLACEMENT: EXPERIENCES OF DISPLACED WOMEN IN MUTARE, ZIMBABWE.

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*The effects of violence have long been known to be some of the worst man-made disasters because of their impact on men, women, children and infrastructure. There are international, regional and country level policies that guide the settlement of refugees. However, there are men, women and children who escaped violence and have settled in Zimbabwe. Their status has not been formalised through legal processes in Zimbabwe, hence not residing in refugee camps. The formalisation of their status in Zimbabwe entitles them to protection of specific rights and welfare. While, violence affects both men and women, it yields differential outcomes due to gendered historical imbalances. Using a qualitative approach, the study explored the experiences and coping mechanisms of women who were displaced by violence and have settled in Zimbabwe for safety. In-depth interview participants included 7 women and 3 men. Participants were identified using a snowballing technique. A thematic analysis was utilised to analyse data. The study applied an intersectional theoretical lens to capture the contextual experiences of women displaced by violence. The domestic refugee policy framework was narrowly examined to locate the point at which the gender specific welfare needs of informal placements in Zimbabwe are met at a policy level. The study limited itself to displaced women who reside outside of refugee camps and did not examine the existing refugee policy in Zimbabwe but only highlights any gender specific proclamations. The experiences and overall welfare of women displaced by violence affect the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (5).*

**Keywords:** *violence-induced, displacement, refugee, gendered, intersectionality*

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## Abstract 011

### INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND DISABILITY POLICY: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF DEAF BLINDNESS IN ZIMBABWE

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*Learners with deaf blindness in Zimbabwe continue to experience considerable barriers to accessing inclusive education, despite the presence of progressive disability rights frameworks. Challenges such as insufficient teacher training in tactile sign language and braille, limited availability of assistive technologies, weak policy implementation, and entrenched social stigma highlight the structural obstacles that perpetuate exclusion. This study employs a qualitative single-case study design at a special school in Masvingo District, which enrolls deafblind learners, to explore their lived experiences alongside perspectives from teachers, caregivers, and education officials. A total of 25 participants were purposively selected to provide in-depth insights through interviews and focus group discussions, complemented by the review of relevant school policies and documentation. The research is guided by the Social Model of Disability and Critical Disability Theory, providing a lens to examine how institutional practices and cultural attitudes shape understandings of disability and restrict participation. Thematic analysis of the data reveals barriers to learning, existing support mechanisms, and areas requiring improvement in policy and practice. Key findings underscore the need to strengthen teacher preparation programs, enhance access to assistive technologies, improve accountability in policy enforcement, and increase community awareness to foster more inclusive learning environments. By foregrounding deaf blindness as a distinct and underexplored category within Zimbabwean and African disability studies, the study addresses a critical gap in both research and practice. Ultimately, the study situates inclusive education as a human rights imperative and a matter of social justice, contributing to broader efforts to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and promote meaningful participation for all learners.*

**Keywords:** Deaf blindness, Inclusive education, Social Model of Disability, Critical Disability Theory, Ableism

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## Abstract 012

### VIOLENCE AND COMMERCE: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DISPLACEMENT ON AFRICA

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*Violence and Commerce: The economic impact of Displacement on Africa*  
Africa is facing copious challenges such as armed conflicts, political instability, climate change, environmental degradation and poor governance among diverse internal and external burdens which have led to human capital flight. This presentation is a discourse on the economic impact of displacement on Africa. It probes the sophisticated nexus between violence, displacement and economic growth on Africa. In that regard, it seeks to explore the modes in which displacement shapes trade and economic co-operation, investment and entrepreneurship, sustainable economic development and establish stratagems for lessening violence and displacement in Africa. This paper contends that the economic impact of displacement on Africa is complex and multifaceted. This includes the economic losses of human capital flight, interruption of trade flows, loss of markets, demolition of infrastructure and distraction of economic activities. This study engages a qualitative research method. Data is collected from policy makers, various practitioners, governments and non-governmental organisations, experts from academia and reseachers. It is analysed to ascertain the objectives of this research viz to assess the economic impact of displacement on Africa. Motivated by the high rate of human capital flight in Africa, this research aims to contribute to the current discourses on violence and displacent in Africa. It notes that displacement has fundamental economic significances distressing not only the displaced populaces but also the broader regional, continental and global economies.

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## Abstract 013

### ROLE OF AFRICAN ETHICAL VALUES IN MITIGATING VIOLENCE AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

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*Nigeria continues to experience persistent violence arising from insurgency, banditry, and communal conflicts, particularly in the North-East and North-Central regions. The activities of Boko Haram have significantly contributed to internal displacement, generating humanitarian crises, social fragmentation, and prolonged insecurity. Despite interventions by state institutions and international humanitarian agencies, internal displacement remains widespread and protracted. The major problem addressed in this study is the limited integration of indigenous African ethical values into formal conflict mitigation and humanitarian strategies, despite their historic role in fostering social cohesion, solidarity, and collective responsibility. The objective of this study is to examine the role of African ethical values, such as communalism, solidarity, extended family support systems, and shared moral obligation, in mitigating violence and internal displacement in Nigeria. The study adopts a qualitative research design, relying on secondary data sources including academic literature, government publications, and reports from humanitarian organisations. A case study approach focusing on North-East Nigeria is employed. The analysis is anchored on African Communitarianism and Human Security Theory as the theoretical framework. Findings reveal that African ethical values contribute significantly to informal conflict resolution, community resilience, and support systems for internally displaced persons through traditional institutions, religious bodies, and local solidarity networks. However, these indigenous mechanisms remain underutilised in formal humanitarian policy frameworks. The study concludes that institutionalising African ethical principles within national peacebuilding strategies can strengthen sustainable conflict mitigation. It recommends integrating community-based ethical structures into policy design and empowering traditional leaders in peacebuilding initiatives.*

**Keywords:** African ethical values, Violence, Internal displacement, Communalism, Humanitarian response,

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## Abstract 014

### **'THOSE WHO ESCAPED ARE STAYING WITH THEIR RELATIVES': TERRORISM AND SECONDARY DISPLACEMENT IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA**

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*Military actions against insurgent groups such as Boko Haram have resulted in significant civilian harm, including mis-targeted airstrikes, destruction of property, and widespread internal displacement. These are no more distant stories as attacks are closer to Southwestern Nigeria than ever. The influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into both camp and non-camp settings has strained host communities, exacerbating insecurity, demographic imbalances, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. This paper examines the 'unintended' humanitarian consequences of counter-terrorism operations in Kwara State, Nigeria, with a focus on collateral damage and secondary displacement. Gendered experiences reveal that women and children constitute the majority of displaced populations, facing heightened risks of exploitation and marginalization. The psychological toll on IDPs is profound, manifesting as trauma, anxiety disorders, and diminished prospects for reintegration. It employs a historical research methodology that relies on primary sources gathered through oral interviews and secondary data gathered through existing written works on terrorism and displacement in Africa. Findings underscore the necessity for addressing these challenges, not only for safeguarding civilian lives, but also for fostering sustainable peace and stability in Kwara State and similar conflict-affected regions. This synthesis contributes to policy debates by foregrounding the lived realities of unseen victims and advocating for context-sensitive approaches to counter-terrorism.*

**Keywords:** *Collateral Damage, Secondary Displacement, Counter-Terrorism, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Humanitarian Impact.*

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## Abstract 015

### FROM STRUCTURAL TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE: AN ORDEAL OF BASOTHO ILLEGAL MINERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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*Using qualitative methods, this paper demonstrates how the structural violence contained within Lesotho's economy has led to the unique displacement of Basotho men into the brutal physical violence within the illegal mining industry in South Africa. It shows that until the mid-19th century, Lesotho's economy was flourishing, and migration of Basotho men to the South African mines was voluntary and based on short contracts. Later, Lesotho's economy declined and began to portray elements of structural violence that subject the majority to abject poverty. Migration then became a way of survival, increasing the number of men joining the South African mining industry, legally. The decommissioning of many gold mines in the 1990s diminished job opportunities for Basotho men, who began to resort to illegal mining in South Africa. Apart from the risky working conditions, illegal mining comprises highly organised criminal syndicates who engage in violent wars amongst themselves, and at times against the South African security agencies. Basotho nationals are central to this violence and have died in large numbers. They are frequently heavily armed, with many of their guns allegedly stolen from the Lesotho Defence Force. Recently, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that soldiers are going to be deployed alongside the police to combat gangs and armed groups associated with illegal mining. This implies the likelihood of more intense violent confrontations for the battle-hardened Basotho illegal miners. Suffering defeat, they will certainly migrate back to Lesotho, bringing their culture of violence to the country already struggling with high crime rates.*

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## Abstract 016

### EXPLORING THE 'MARRIAGE' OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY IN DRAUGHT PRONE BUHERA SOUTH; ZIMBABWE

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*Climate change has become a topical issue these days and this has seen most areas worldwide being affected resulting in food insecurity. Changes in climate is occurring worldwide and is already manifesting itself in many ways including global warming, rising sea levels, floods, heat waves, storage and more frequent storms and draught. Countries must come up with measures to counter climate change and bringing Artificial Intelligence in preserving our Indigenous Knowledge systems will go a long way in ensuring food security in Buhera South. The purpose of this article is to find out how Artificial intelligence can be merged with IKS to boost food security in Buhera South. Buhera South is more vulnerable because the area receives low rainfall. Climate change increasingly exacerbates poverty in this part of Buhera and residence of this area need to use their Indigenous Knowledge to enhance food security. The study is informed by the Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk) theory and its methodological approach involves interviews with the elderly people in Buhera south and documentary analysis on Artificial Intelligence. The paper posits that combining Artificial Intelligence and Indigenous Knowledge in agriculture will go a long way in enhancing food security in the area.*

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Indigenous Knowledge, Climate change, Buhera South,

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## Abstract 017

### THE MENTAL HEALTH PARADOX OF ZIMBABWEAN ECONOMIC MIGRANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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*This study explores the mental health experiences of economically displaced Zimbabweans living in South Africa. While migration to South Africa is often viewed as a route to financial emancipation, emerging evidence suggests a concurrent deterioration in mental well-being. Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa have often faced xenophobic violence, cultural alienation, pressure to provide remittances, labelling and recently, discrimination in access to health care and education. This study posits that, mental health paradox emanates from the complex interplay between socioeconomic achievement and the, multifaceted adversities inherent in the migrant experience. Through a sequential mixed methods design, this study purposively collects both quantitative and qualitative data from a Facebook posting from February to June 2026, "#mental health experiences of Zimbabwean economic migrants in South Africa". In-depth interviews further explore the lived experiences underpinning statistical trends. The integration of theories of acculturative stress and social defeat provide a framework to analyse the phenomenon. Preliminary SPSS and thematic analysis indicate that migrants experience psychosocial distress such as loneliness; social and self-isolation; fear of victimization and targeted violence; inferiority complex, suicide ideation, signs of depression, stress, anxiety, and pressure to send back remittances (black tax). These experiences were undermined by the pressure to create a state of thriving yet suffering through persistent structural exclusion subsequently the study identifies sources of resilience and coping strategies employed. The study proposes a nuanced framework that addresses the dynamics of mental health challenges in economically displaced migrants with implications for mental health practitioners, social workers and policy makers.*

**Keywords:** Psychological distress, cultural alienation, economic migrants, structural exclusion, mental health.

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## Abstract 018

### VIOLENCE, FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND THE REVERSAL OF MATERNAL HEALTH GAINS IN AFRICA

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*Over the past two decades, African countries have made measurable progress in reducing maternal mortality. However, escalating violence and forced displacement threaten to reverse these hard-won gains. This paper explores how conflict and mass displacement undermine maternal health outcomes and obstruct progress toward regional and global development agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3.1).*

*Using a political economy and health systems lens, the study examines how displacement disrupts service delivery, depletes skilled health personnel, damages infrastructure, and diverts public resources from maternal health programming. In displacement settings, pregnant women face delayed antenatal care, limited access to emergency obstetric services, shortages of essential medicines, and unsafe delivery environments. These disruptions increase preventable maternal deaths and widen rural-urban and socioeconomic disparities.*

*The paper argues that violence-driven displacement is not only a humanitarian issue but a development crisis that destabilises health system resilience and erodes maternal health progress. By analysing trends from conflict-affected countries with high internally displaced populations, the study demonstrates how instability creates cyclical setbacks in maternal mortality reduction efforts.*

*The paper concludes by proposing resilience-based strategies, including conflict-sensitive health planning, integration of maternal health into emergency response frameworks, and cross-sectoral collaboration to protect reproductive health services during crises. Sustainable development in Africa cannot be realised without safeguarding maternal health in contexts of violence and displacement*

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## Abstract 019

### NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY PROTESTS ON SOUTH AFRICANS: WITH SPECIFIC REREFERENCE TO BLACK COMMUNITIES

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*South African local municipalities have the responsibility to provide basic services such as housing, water and sanitation, land, electricity and infrastructure, among others, to the public in an efficient and sustainable ways. However, most local municipalities in the country have been failing their communities in the provision of these services. The failure to provide basic services to the people leads to protests in many municipalities. Almost every day in South Africa, there is public delivery protest due to poor delivery of services in most parts of the country. The purpose of this paper is to discuss and analyze the negative impacts of public service delivery protests on South Africans, with specific reference to black communities. It focusses on various issues such as the disruption of teaching and learning, violence and destruction of property, disruption of daily life, law enforcement, loss of investor confidence, mismanagement of services and disruption of local economy. It attempts to discuss on how the South Africans, and black communities in particular are being negatively impacted by the public service delivery protests. This study will utilize secondary method of research to collect, interpret and analyse data. Data will be collected through academic materials such as journal article, books, review articles, conference papers and dissertations/theses. Through secondary data sources, the study revealed that lack of provision of basic services to the people, causes protests and violence in the country.*

*Most protests in most municipalities in the country are caused by poor service delivery and these protests disrupt teaching and learning, violence and destruction of property, disruption of daily life, law enforcement, loss of investors confidence and mismanagement of services and disruption of local economy. Recommendations. This study recommends that the South African government should make sure that it delivered adequate services to the community so that it can reduce public service delivery protest.*

**Keywords:** *Negative impacts, public service delivery protests, South Africans, black communities*

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## Abstract 020

### MILITARY REGIMES AND THE DEPLETION OF AFRICA'S GREEN POLITICAL THINKING: THE CASE OF OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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*The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been subjected to a long history of atrocious military regimes. This paper argues that since colonial rule, the Congolese have experienced large-scale brutality of armed forces which sought to control their mineral endowment. This paper also argues that the militarisation of the DRC's extractive sector has also depleted the natural enviroment due to the release of toxic materials and significant consumption of non-renewable energy. Wide-spread killings and oppression have also undermined indegenous communities's co-existence with the natural environment. The present-day government is faced with insurmountable continuties of military regimes with advese effects on political stability and economic pursuits. With the growing demand for clean technologies, the DRC is well-positioned to contribute towards low-carbon economies. Like its African counterparts, the DRC is not only endowed with minerals but it is also home to idegenous knowledge systems (IKS) which are paramount to reinforce the continent's green political perspectives in the global order. Despite these invaluable advantages, this study argues that the expansion of military regimes in the DRC has eroded community-based participation and institutions to foster Africa's green political thinking. As a result, the state is continuously diverting reconfiguring mainstream economic structures. Vulnerabilities emerging in militarised political landscapes are inhibiting structural changes that are necessary to cater for DRC's unique realities. This qualitative research study draws on secondary data for a comprehensive discourse on DRC's military regimes and how they disrupt the DRC's green political perspectives. It is divided into seven sections namely; introduction, problem statement, research methodology, theoretical and conceptual framework, literature review, gaps and opportunities for enhanced participation in green political thinking.*

**Keywords:** Militarisation, Green political thinking, Low-carbon-economies, Structuralism, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Community-Based Participation,

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## Abstract 021

### BACK TO THE ROOTS: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AS A MEANS TO CIRCUMVENT POVERTY IN NGUGI'S PETALS OF BLOOD

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*African people had high expectations from their post-independence leaders after colonial rulers left their countries. However, they have been greatly disappointed and feel betrayed as many African leaders appear to have taken the reins only to enrich themselves and their families and further exploit the poor instead of serving them. My point of departure for this study of a rural community depicted in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's novel, *Petals of Blood* (1977). The focus is on members of the impoverished and socio-economically disadvantaged community who are distressed by incessant drought and the government's blasé attitude and incompetence towards their plight. This engenders a crisis as the community is placed on the brink of abject poverty, which incites the village elders to consult a seer and offer sacrifices to seek solutions. I use this as a point of departure to explore how the text gestures at the potential of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) to address the real dilemmas faced by Africans following the extensive and cross-generational crises that accompany coloniality. I provide a postcolonial critique of how African governance contributes to the violence and displacement of its peoples. And, I also provide ecocritical reading of the text, drawing on relevant postcolonial / decolonial ideas to illustrate the ways in which indigenous African epistemologies can indeed boost efforts at environmental conservation and poverty alleviation in rural communities today.*

**Keywords:** *Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), Africa, Ngugi, Petals of Blood*

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## Abstract 022

### ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLENCE, SCARCE-SKILLS DISPLACEMENT, AND POWER-WITH HR GOVERNANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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*Scholars frame violence and displacement in Africa as armed conflict and forced migration, yet routine administrative systems also produce harm and displacement by eroding career development opportunities. In the public service, these forms of institutional harm are detrimental to economic development because scarce-skilled professionals, especially in the built environment, are essential to infrastructure delivery, human settlements outcomes and local economic development. The North West provincial Department of CGHTS faces persistent retention challenges among scarce skilled employees. Reports of politicised recruitment, cadre-linked appointments, uneven career development support and contested performance management raise the possibility that HR systems are producing harmful administrative violence that displaces competence, weakens trust and undermines developmental capacity. The study demonstrates that labour-market competition does not fully explain the "talent flight" of scarce skills; administrative violence within recruitment, career development, and performance management drives exits by rewarding alignment and informal networks over capability. Using mixed methods conducted within the Department, the findings echo these sentiments. Guided by Mary Parker Follett's lens on conflict resolution, the paper argues that the solution is a shift from power-over HR to power-with HR governance, including integrative recruitment processes and transparent capability-based career pathways. Hence, reframing HR as a constructive-conflict system can reduce administrative violence, curb the displacement of scarce skills, and strengthen the state's capability for economic development.*

**Keywords:** Talent retention, constructive conflict, integrative governance, HRM, built environment,

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## Abstract 023

### MIGRATION AS A RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE IN AFRICA: AN ASSESSMENT OF XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN URBAN SOUTH AFRICA

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*instability, and economic hardship. Communities and individuals often move across borders to escape conflict, structural inequalities, and persecution. However, migrants who seek safety and better opportunities frequently encounter new forms of violence in host societies. In urban South Africa, xenophobic violence has emerged as a recurring challenge affecting migrants from other African countries. This paper examines migration as a response to violence in Africa and critically assesses the dynamics of xenophobic violence in urban South Africa. It explores political, socio-economic, and historical factors that fuel hostility towards foreign nationals, including poverty, unemployment, competition for resources, and social migration mechanisms. The paper further discusses the consequences for xenophobic attacks for migrants and host communities and highlight the need for policy interventions, social awareness, and regional cooperation to address the root causes of both migration and xenophobia. The study adopted interpretive and thematic analysis.*

**Keywords:** *Xenophobia, Migration, Urban violence, South Africa, African migrants*

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## Abstract 024

### GENDER, VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA: INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITIES AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES IN CONTEXTS OF EXTENDED CRISIS

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*Violence and displacement remain persistent challenges across Africa, which hosts nearly half of the world's internally displaced persons. Although conflict, revolt and political instability are widely recognised as key drivers of displacement, the gendered dimensions of these crises remain inadequately theorised. Women and girls often experience violence not only as a trigger for displacement but as an enduring condition shaping their mobility, livelihoods and security within displacement settings. This paper examines how gender mediates experiences of violence before, during and after displacement. It further explores how displaced women navigate structural vulnerabilities while constructing survival strategies in contexts of prolonged crisis. The paper adopts a qualitative interpretive design based on a desk-based analysis of secondary literature, policy frameworks and selected African case examples. Drawing on scholarly studies, humanitarian reports and documented experiences from displacement-affected communities, the paper synthesises evidence from internally displaced persons' camps, informal settlements and host communities in conflict-prone regions of sub-Saharan Africa. The analysis is informed by intersectionality theory and the concept of structural violence to examine how gender intersects with age, class and displacement status to produce layered vulnerabilities. The analysis suggests that gender-based violence often precedes and intensifies during displacement, reinforcing structural inequalities that shape women's experiences in crisis contexts. Furthermore, it highlights how displaced women navigate these constraints through informal economic networks, collective organising, and community-based support systems. The paper advances an intersectional framework for analysing gendered displacement and argues for gender-responsive policies addressing structural inequalities, contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 5, 10, and 16.*

**Keywords:** *Conflict-related gender-based violence, forced migration in Africa, gendered displacement, humanitarian governance, intersectional vulnerability*

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## Abstract 025

### THE SECURITISATION OF MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND THE UNMAKING OF REGIONAL ORDER: POLITICAL ECONOMY, VIOLENCE, AND DISPLACEMENT IN THE SAHEL AND HORN OF AFRICA

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*Current migration management regimes prioritise border security and population control over livelihood protection and human rights, transforming migrant populations into security threats rather than recognising sub-national agency as rights-bearing subjects. This criminalisation generates conditions for displacement and state-sanctioned violence against vulnerable migrant communities. Given the foregoing, this study examines the extent to which securitisation frameworks in migration governance reproduce and intensify political violence and territorial displacement across the Sahel and Horn of Africa, thereby undermining regional order and institutional cooperation. Employing the Political Economy of Dispossession and Critical Securitisation Theory as complementary analytical frameworks, this study investigates how transnational migration governance serves as a modality of accumulation through which labour is extracted, territories are controlled, and political autonomy is suppressed. This study draws on semi-structured interviews with 13 respondents comprising government officials, international migration governance actors, pastoralist community leaders, and displaced persons from Senegal and the Great Lakes Region, conducted during 2024-2025. Data are analysed through thematic coding and comparative narrative analysis, examining how securitisation discourse in policy documents intersects with ground-level experiences of violence and displacement. This study illuminates that migration governance serves as a mechanism of state consolidation and capital accumulation, with grave consequences for regional stability, community autonomy, and the possibility of equitable cross-border governance. Hence, this study contributes to critical migration studies by situating securitisation within broader processes of political-economic reorganisation in Africa.*

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## Abstract 026

### TOURISM AND VIOLENCE IN AFRICA: IMPLICATIONS FOR MOBILITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND DESTINATION GOVERNANCE

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*Tourism is widely regarded as a critical driver of economic growth, employment creation, and regional integration across Africa. However, the sector remains highly vulnerable to political instability, armed conflict, terrorism, and other forms of violence that continue to shape the socio-political landscape of the continent. Within the broader context of violence and displacement in Africa, tourism is both affected by and implicated in the dynamics of insecurity, mobility disruptions, and socio-economic vulnerability. This study examines the relationship between tourism and violence in Africa, focusing on how persistent conflict, political instability, and displacement influence tourism development, destination governance, and local livelihoods. Using a desktop research methodology, the study synthesises existing scholarly literature, policy reports, and secondary data from international organisations such as the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the African Union, and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. The objective is to critically analyse the ways in which violence reshapes tourism systems across the continent and to identify emerging patterns and policy implications. The analysis is organised around four key themes: security and destination image, tourism disruption and economic vulnerability, displacement and community resilience, and governance responses to violence in tourism-dependent economies. First, violence significantly affects the global perception of African destinations. Political unrest, insurgencies, and terrorist activities in regions such as the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and parts of Central Africa have contributed to negative destination imagery, travel advisories, and declining tourist arrivals. These perceptions often extend beyond conflict zones, affecting neighbouring countries and regional tourism circuits. Second, the disruption of tourism activities due to violence has serious economic implications for countries that rely heavily on tourism revenues. Tourism-dependent economies such as Kenya, Egypt, and Tunisia have historically experienced significant declines in visitor numbers following violent incidents, demonstrating the sector's sensitivity to security concerns. Third, violence-induced displacement alters tourism landscapes by reshaping local communities and labour markets. The displacement of populations due to armed conflict can lead to the loss of cultural heritage custodians, disruption of community-based tourism initiatives, and increased pressure on host communities. At the same time, displaced populations often become economically marginalized, limiting their ability to participate in tourism value chains. However, in some contexts, communities have demonstrated resilience by adapting tourism practices, diversifying livelihoods, and engaging in heritage preservation initiatives despite ongoing insecurity. Fourth, governance and policy responses play a critical role in mitigating the impact of violence on tourism. African governments and regional organizations have increasingly adopted strategies such as tourism security frameworks, crisis communication mechanisms, and destination risk management approaches. Nonetheless, these responses often remain fragmented, highlighting the need for integrated governance models that link tourism policy with broader peacebuilding and development agendas. Strengthening institutional capacity, improving regional cooperation, and incorporating community-based security approaches are essential for building resilient tourism systems in conflict-prone environments. The study contributes to ongoing scholarly debates on violence and displacement in Africa by foregrounding tourism as a critical yet underexplored dimension of the continent's security-development nexus. By drawing on desktop research and interdisciplinary sources, the paper highlights how violence not only disrupts tourism economies but also reshapes patterns of mobility, community livelihoods, and destination governance. Ultimately, the study argues that sustainable tourism development in Africa requires a more holistic approach that integrates security management, inclusive governance, and community resilience within broader strategies aimed at addressing violence and displacement on the continent.*

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## Abstract 027

### BEYOND THE BARRACKS: EXAMINING INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITIES AND THE PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT CRISIS IN NIGERIA'S EVOLVING CONFLICT LANDSCAPE

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*This paper critically investigates the intensifying and geographically expanding patterns of violence in Nigeria, with particular attention to the rise of rural banditry and communal clashes alongside enduring insurgency, and their far-reaching implications for displacement and humanitarian response. Drawing on a multidisciplinary theoretical framework, the study contends that the changing dynamics of conflict have produced a complex and protracted displacement crisis marked by intersectional vulnerabilities and a significant disjuncture between short-term humanitarian interventions and long-term development trajectories. Through a human-centred analysis, the paper demonstrates that existing humanitarian responses are frequently inadequate in addressing the compounded effects of climate change, gender-based violence, and structural marginalisation, thereby reinforcing cycles of aid dependency and obstructing the pursuit of durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations. A comprehensive gap analysis underscores the need for more nuanced research on the geographic diffusion of violence, the climate-conflict nexus, the operationalisation of the Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) nexus, and the intersectional vulnerabilities within displaced communities. By positioning Nigeria as a critical case study, this research advances a deeper understanding of protracted displacement in Africa and calls for more integrated, equitable, and context-responsive humanitarian and development strategies.*

**Keywords:** Nigeria; protracted displacement; evolving conflict; rural banditry; communal violence; intersectional vulnerability

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## Abstract 028

### BEYOND THE BARRACKS: EXAMINING INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITIES AND THE PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT CRISIS IN NIGERIA'S EVOLVING CONFLICT LANDSCAPE

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**Background:** Gender-based violence (GBV) is a cause and consequence of vulnerability and displacement in Zimbabwe. Survivors face forced migration, loss of livelihoods, and social exclusion, while communities struggle with insecurity and weakened protection systems. Traditional leaders play a pivotal role in shaping responses to GBV alongside state institutions and civil society. Musasa Project, is a national NGO focusing on GBV prevention and response in Zimbabwe.

**Problem:** Despite national policies and NGO interventions, GBV persists at alarming levels. The underexplored role of traditional leaders raises critical questions about whether they perpetuate harmful norms or contribute to community-level protection and displacement reduction.

**Objectives:** This study examines how traditional leaders influence GBV response in Zimbabwe, analyzes their interaction with Musasa Project's programming, and explores implications for national and continental strategies on violence, vulnerability, and displacement.

**Methodology:** A qualitative case study approach is adopted, combining key informant interviews, focus group discussions and document review of Zimbabwe GBV frameworks.

**Findings:** Preliminary findings suggest GBV drives displacement by undermining safety and social cohesion. Traditional leaders can reinforce harmful practices, but when constructively engaged, they enhance accountability and community resilience.

**Recommendations/Future Implications:** Integrating traditional leadership into national GBV strategies is essential for reducing displacement, advancing gender-responsive protection, and achieving SDGs and Agenda 2063.

**Keywords:** Gender-based violence; displacement; traditional leaders; Zimbabwe; indigenous governance.

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## Abstract 029

### BETWEEN ABANDONMENT AND MIGRATION: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE MIGRATION POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA 2018-2030

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**Background:** *The increasingly anti-gay, anti-migrant policies and anti-immigrant social environment worldwide have raised concerns attendant to queer migrants. On the African continent the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) facilitates the creation of what abolition scholar Saidiya Hartman through her seminal work terms “scenes of subjection” which often results in migration displacement. This is owed to the fact that while the policy makes provision for gender migration, it restricts the movement only to men, women and children while ignoring the plight of the queer community which often flees draconian laws which criminalizes people. Aim: This paper conducts “a critical analysis of policy and lived experiences and how they factor into queer migration in Africa”.*

**Method:** *This paper is posed as a qualitative research intervention drawing from secondary data through policy provisions which inform the living experiences of queer migrants. By doing so the study engages in critical analysis of the policy provisions stipulated in the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) 2018 -2030.*

**Findings:** *Currently there are shortfalls in legislative policies in the MPFA which directly breaks the binary male-female migration tropes to include gender diverse identities.*

**Conclusion and recommendation:** *This argumentative paper argues that while the MPFA is earmarked to reach its full lifespan by 2030, immediate review mechanisms should be explored to make amendments on the policy or alternatively recommend future amendments on the binary outlook of migration in Africa.*

**Keywords:** *Queer, Migration, Mental Health, Violence, Abandonment, Policy*

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## Abstract 030

### FROM NORMATIVE COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION FAILURE: GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN MANAGING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA

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*Despite the existence of sound normative frameworks in Africa, such as the Kampala Convention under the African Union, internal displacement remains a persistent governance and human security problem on the continent. Some African states are committed to protecting and assisting Internally Displaced People (IDPs), however, there is a gap between normative adoption and effective implementation. This article discusses governance dynamics that explain the transition from formal commitment to practical failure in managing internal displacement in Africa. Drawing on qualitative analysis of policy documents, regional instruments, and selected country cases, it examines institutional fragmentation, limited state capacity, weak intergovernmental coordination and inadequate resource allocation. It further explores how sovereignty concerns and contested state legitimacy constrain collaboration with international actors such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The findings suggest that implementation failure is not administrative but deeply embedded in political economy structures, patronage networks, and fragile accountability systems. The article argues that bridging the gap between normative commitment and implementation requires strengthening domestic legal harmonisation, enhancing institutional capacity, improving vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms, and embedding accountability frameworks that prioritise durable solutions. This study contributes to African politics and humanitarian governance, offering policy-relevant insights for advancing effective and sustainable IDP management across the continent.*

**Keywords:** *Governance, internal displacement, human security*

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## Abstract 031

### AN EXPLORATION OF THE ROLES OF TRADITIONAL COURTS IN COMBATING CRIME: A STUDY OF THE MAPHUMULO TRADITIONAL TRIBE, STANGER, KZN”.

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*The restorative justice system has existed among nations across the world for centuries. It is argued that this form of justice draws on the wisdom of indigenous cultures for restorative and not punitive justice. South Africa is amongst countries that acknowledges restorative justice as its indigenous people have been using traditional systems as a tool to manage crime for a very long time. One such tool is indigenous or tribal courts. African restorative justice is believed to be embedded in African norms, values and beliefs which maintain social peace, resolve conflict, and combat crime. Despite, the arrival of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa, the traditional justice system has survived as it still exists and thrives in resolving disputes and managing crime in some parts of South Africa, especially in rural areas.*

*However, because South Africa is a democratic country that has been steered by a human rights-based Constitution for more than two decades, this study was conducted to address the question whether rural communities have unrestricted access to the formal justice system. This was done against background evidence that the formal justice system has been unable to reach and serve all the inhabitants of this country, and that rural people would then seek legal support and restitution by approaching the traditional justice system. The aim of the study was thus to investigate the role of alternative justice measures in maintaining peace and combating crime in a rural area. The study adopted an exploratory and descriptive research design, and the qualitative research approach was used to obtain the required information. Data was collected through semi-structured, one-on-one in-depth interviews with participants. The participants could fully and frankly express themselves and provide their detailed shared opinions, thoughts, experiences, proceedings, and the role played by traditional courts in combating crime. The study findings revealed that, more than two decades into democracy, many residents in this rural area experienced frustrating challenges in accessing the formal justice system. It was mainly for this reason that the participants admitted that they relied almost exclusively on the traditional justice system as their only effective and available channel to seek restitution for legal matters and injustices.*

*This study concluded that the role played by the traditional justice system in the rural area under study bridged the gap between rural residents and the formal justice system. Therefore, although this informal justice system was plagued by shortcomings such as gender-based flaws, it was concluded that traditional courts are effective in combating acts of crime that might otherwise have escalated into serious threats against justice and the peaceful coexistence of the affected community.*

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## Abstract 032

# METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE, VIOLENCE-DRIVEN DISPLACEMENT, AND SDG LOCALISATION: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR AFRICAN CITIES TOWARD 2030 AND BEYOND

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*African metropolitan cities are increasingly at the frontline of violence-related displacement, rapid urbanisation, and rising socio-economic pressures dynamics that profoundly shape their ability to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As violence and political instability across the continent continue to drive large-scale internal and cross-border displacement, major cities such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Lagos, Nairobi, and Addis Ababa face escalating demands on housing, water and sanitation systems, public safety, and social services. These pressures intersect with long-standing governance challenges, including uneven institutional capacity, fragmented planning systems, and limited intergovernmental coordination, thereby undermining progress toward SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 16, and SDG 17. This study examines how violence and displacement reshape the developmental landscape of African metropolitan municipalities and identifies the strategic priorities required to strengthen SDG localisation in the lead-up to 2030 and beyond. Despite the presence of enabling policy frameworks such as integrated development planning, metropolitan governance reforms, and national urban policies, cities struggle to manage the compounded effects of insecurity, migration flows, informal settlement expansion, and socio-economic inequality. Weak data ecosystems, overstretched infrastructure, and limited institutional coherence further constrain their ability to translate global goals into sustainable urban outcomes. Using South Africa's metropolitan municipalities as an entry point, the paper explores governance actions that can accelerate SDG localisation under conditions of instability. These include strengthening metropolitan resilience systems, enhancing data-driven planning for mobility and vulnerability, expanding multi-stakeholder partnerships, improving urban safety governance, and investing in administrative and technical capabilities. The analysis argues that sustainable development in the context of violence and displacement requires coordinated action across government spheres and forward-looking reforms that build inclusive, resilient urban systems.*

**Keywords:** Metropolitan Governance, Violence-Driven Displacement, SDG Localisation, Urban Resilience, African Cities

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## Abstract 033

### NEOLIBERALIZING WASTE, EXCLUDING LABOUR: THE PRIVATISATION OF LAGOS'S WASTE ECONOMY AND THE CRISIS OF INFORMAL LIVELIHOODS

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*This paper examines the neoliberal transformation of waste governance in Lagos, Nigeria, and its structural production of informal sector exclusion. Since the 1990s, Lagos State has progressively privatised waste management through the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and its Private Sector Participant (PSP) franchising model, creating territorial monopolies that service affluent districts while abandoning informal settlements to “self-help” sanitation. Concurrently, the state has criminalised informal waste pickers—who constitute 59.3% of Nigeria’s waste collection labour, through harassment, eviction, and refusal of operating licenses, despite their essential role in landfill diversion and methane avoidance. Drawing on political ecology and critical infrastructure studies, this paper argues that informality functions not as policy failure but as the state maintains a reserve army of cheap, flexible labour that subsidises both municipal legitimacy (visible cleanliness in elite zones) and private recycling profits (below-market material recovery). Recent “green” transitions - organic waste valorisation facilities, carbon credit schemes, and circular economy partnerships - exemplify “green grabbing”, enclosing waste commons while displacing pickers without alternative livelihoods. This neoliberal waste regime thus produces a double crisis: climate vulnerability from unprocessed organics, and a social reproduction crisis for thousands of urban poor. The paper concludes by examining emergent alternatives, including the Waste Pickers Association of Nigeria (WAPAN) and international models of cooperative integration (Brazil’s ASMARE). It argues that genuine climate justice in Lagos requires not “inclusive” green capitalism but decommodified waste governance, recognising pickers as infrastructure citizens with rights to material resources, democratic participation, and fair compensation for environmental services rendered.*

**Keywords:** waste pickers, neoliberal governance, green grabbing, infrastructure citizenship, Lagos, climate justice

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## Abstract 034

### UNSEEN STRUGGLES: GENDERED VULNERABILITIES AND HUMANITARIAN GAPS AMONG REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN IN RWANDA

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**Background:** *The experiences of violence and displacement in Rwanda are significantly influenced by gender. A large percentage of displaced people are refugees and asylum seeker women and girls, who are more vulnerable to exploitation, economic marginalisation, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). According to reports, more than 60% of displaced women encounter gender-based violence in these crisis environments globally. Furthermore, social protection systems are frequently disrupted by displacement, which exacerbates gender disparities and limits access to support systems.*

**Problem:** *Humanitarian and protection responses have not fully addressed the gender-specific vulnerabilities of women and girls' refugees and asylum seekers in Rwanda. As a result, gender inequalities and protection risks persist despite humanitarian interventions.*

**Objective:** *The gendered aspects of violence and displacement in Rwanda will be examined in this study, with a particular emphasis on how women and girl refugees and asylum seekers are disproportionately impacted by war and forced migration. It will assess how well humanitarian interventions support empowerment and address gender-specific vulnerabilities in situations of displacement, and integrate migrant women's voices in protection and community-based programs*

**Methodology:** *The study will adopt a qualitative research design grounded in feminist theory, utilizing case studies from Rwanda refugee camps. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions with women refugees, and analysis of policy and program documents from humanitarian organizations.*

**Results:** *A greater comprehension of the intersectionality of institutional, structural, and cultural elements that worsen gender vulnerabilities in Rwanda. It is expected that the study will highlight the under-representation of women in decision-making processes and identify gaps in the application of gender-sensitive policies. In order to contribute to more fair and successful humanitarian responses, it will provide methods for bolstering gender-responsive programming, improving protection systems, and encouraging the participation of women in peacebuilding and reconstruction initiatives.*

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## Abstract 035

### BANDITRY AND THE RELOCATION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

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*Banditry remains one of the most pressing security challenges in many parts of North-Central Nigeria, extending well beyond the traditionally studied North-West and North-East conflict zones. In states like Niger, Kwara, Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa, and Kogi, a convergence of armed bandit activities, significantly affecting the stability and livelihoods of rural communities. Persistent attacks, killings, kidnapping, and destruction of property have forced many households to abandon their ancestral homes in search of safer environments. This paper examines the relationship between banditry and the relocation of rural communities in North-Central Nigeria, with particular attention to the patterns, drivers, and socio-economic effects of displacement. The paper seeks to identify how insecurity influences migration decisions and the strategies adopted by affected communities. Using secondary data obtained from academic journals, government reports, security briefings, and media sources on banditry and displacement in North-Central Nigeria. The data will be analysed through thematic content analysis. The paper is anchored on the Push-Pull Migration Theory, which explains migration as a result of factors that push individuals away from their place of origin and those that attract them to safer environments. The paper also applies the Human Security Theory, which emphasizes the protection of individuals from threats such as violence, hunger, and economic instability. The paper reveals that banditry has significantly contributed to the forced relocation of rural populations across several communities in North-Central Nigeria. Many households have migrated to nearby towns and urban centers, while others have moved to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. The paper further indicates that the destruction of farmlands, fear of repeated attacks, and loss of livelihood are the major drivers of relocation. In addition, displaced communities face numerous challenges in their new locations, including unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate shelter, and limited access to social services. Despite these difficulties, affected communities have developed mechanisms such as community intelligence networks, collective migration to nearby towns or safer settlements, reliance on traditional institutions, formation of vigilant groups and collaboration with local authorities for security assistance. The paper concludes that banditry has profound effects for rural settlement patterns, agricultural productivity, and socio-economic stability in Nigeria. It therefore recommends stronger security interventions, community-based conflict management strategies, and sustainable resettlement policies to address the growing problem of forced relocation in banditry-affected rural areas.*

**Keywords:** *Banditry, Relocation, Rural Community, Internal Displacement, North-Central Nigeria.*

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## Abstract 036

### POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA: LINKING ECO-FEMINISM, PATRIARCHY AND GED (GENDER, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT)

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*Millions of people worldwide have been forcibly displaced, exposing links between political violence, environmental degradation, and stalled sustainable development. This review synthesizes empirical and theoretical literature on how political violence relates to environmental change through gendered power structures. The research was based on a systematic review using the PRISMA methodology. Scopus and Google Scholar were used to search for relevant literature, resulting in 26 articles. Thematic analysis was conducted interpretively, with each source individually analyzed and synthesized according to the study's objectives. Findings show that patriarchal practices of land dispossession, militarized resource control, and unequal legal systems fuel political contestation and increase displacement risks. Displacement intensifies environmental pressures on host communities, weakens social capital, and diminishes institutional capacity, thereby hindering progress on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and disrupting SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The review highlights the value of eco-feminism and GED frameworks for uncovering structural drivers and designing intersectional responses. The study recommended strengthening gender-inclusive and gender justice in land and resource rights; incorporating displacement metrics into environmental and development plans, respect of environmental laws as well as fostering multi-stakeholder peace building partnerships that emphasize women's leadership and local knowledge.*

**Keywords:** Displacement, eco-feminism, gender justice, sustainable development, environment

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## Abstract 037

### BRIDGING POLICY AND PRACTICE: CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS) AGENDA IN LESOTHO

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**Background:** *United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 established the WPS agenda, emphasizing women's significant contribution in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-war recovery. Across Africa, localizing this agenda has become critical to achieving long-term peace. In Lesotho, civil society organizations have emerged as critical players in converting global WPS commitments into national and community-level actions.*

*Problem Statement* *Despite governmental commitments and advocacy efforts, there is still a gap between the adoption and implementation of the WPS agenda in Lesotho. The civil society faces structural, institutional, and socio-cultural barriers that impede consistent progress toward gender-inclusive peacebuilding outcomes.*

#### **Objectives**

- *Examine civil society's involvement in supporting the WPS agenda in Lesotho.*
- *Evaluate the extent to which WPS policies are implemented at the community level.*
- *Identify major challenges that impede effective implementation.*

**Methodology:** *The study employs a qualitative research approach, analyzing documents, reviewing policies, and conducting semi-structured interviews with important stakeholders such as civil society members, policymakers, and community actors in Lesotho. This method allows for a thorough understanding of both formal frameworks and actual realities related to WPS implementation.*

**Findings:** *Civil society advances advocacy and grassroots peacebuilding but faces resource and capacity constraints; weak coordination, patriarchal norms, and gaps between national policies and local realities continue to limit effective WPS implementation.*

**Recommendations:** *Increase institutional support and funding for civil society, strengthen coordination between government and non-state actors, and promote community-driven, culturally relevant approaches to effective WPS implementation.*

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## Abstract 038

### RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT EQUITY: EVALUATING REFUGEE PROTECTION AND GLOBAL BURDEN-SHARING IN AFRICA

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#### **Background:**

Millions of refugees live in various African nations, including Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia, making up a sizable portion of the world's displaced population. Over 100 million people have been displaced worldwide, but there is still an unequal distribution of responsibility for refugee protection. Despite limited economic capabilities and infrastructure limitations, many African host countries continue to bear disproportionate responsibility despite international frameworks advocating for burden-sharing. The effectiveness of international responsibility-sharing frameworks in promoting refugee protection in Africa will be investigated in this study. With an emphasis on legal frameworks, resource allocation, and policy execution in significant refugee-hosting nations, it will assess how well global pledges fit with actual practices.

#### **Methodology:**

The study will analyse refugee protection systems in a few African nations using a qualitative comparative case study design. It will make use of document analysis of national and international agreements as well as interviews with representatives of refugees, humanitarian organisations, and legislators. Additionally, secondary data on financing flows, resettlement trends, and refugee populations will be examined.

#### **Results:**

Significant discrepancies between international promises and the actual state of refugee protection on the ground are anticipated to be revealed by the study. It will probably draw attention to financial support shortages, a lack of resettlement options, and restrictive international immigration laws. In order to provide long-term refugee protection, it is expected that the results would bolster calls for a more equitable and all-encompassing approach to responsibility-sharing, including more financial contributions, larger resettlement programs, and reinforced regional cooperation frameworks.

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## Abstract 039

### VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT: IS THE US-NIGERIA JOINT OPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM FOR RESOURCE MOTIVE OR THE ENDING OF VIOLENCE AND HUMAN DISPLACEMENT?

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This article examines the utility of the recent US-Nigeria joint force against the terrorism in Nigeria. It specifically questions the underlying motive of the US in trying to assist Nigeria to combat its age-long enemies, Boko-Haram, ISWAP, and other fundamentalists. This suspicion is hinged on the belief that most US missions in Africa and other continents, is often driven by natural resources. This research is an attempt to test whether the US-Nigeria joint operation is actually to end the age-long violence and insecurity perpetrated by the fundamentalists or for resource purpose. Drawing on document analysis method, this article examines the likely relevance of the US-Nigeria joint operation on terrorism in Nigeria. The findings are most likely to expose the real interest of the US in Nigeria, using the joint operation. The findings suggest means through which the Nigerian state can leverage on the US collaboration in ending terrorism in the country.

**Keywords:** Displacement, Joint operation, Resources, Violence, US-Nigeria

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## Abstract 040

### DIGITAL SYSTEMS AND PROACTIVE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: A SCOPING REVIEW

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South African universities continue to experience recurring periods of student unrest that disrupt academic activities, governance processes, and institutional stability. At the same time, higher education institutions (HEIs) such as the Durban University of Technology (DUT) make extensive use of digital platforms including Blackboard, Moodle, Microsoft Teams, and PeopleSoft for teaching, communication, and administration. While these systems play an essential role in daily institutional operations, their potential to support structured conflict prevention and early-warning strategies remains under explored. Given the increasing reliance on digital infrastructure within universities, it is important to examine how existing technologies can be repositioned to strengthen proactive conflict management.

The aim of this study was to conduct a scoping review of the use of digital technologies in conflict prevention and resolution within higher education contexts. The study had two primary objectives: to identify how digital systems are currently used to manage institutional unrest, and to examine the governance and coordination factors influencing their effective integration into conflict management frameworks. A scoping review methodology was employed, drawing on peer-reviewed literature retrieved from the Scopus database. The screening and selection of articles were conducted using Rayyan, ensuring systematic application of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

The findings reveal that although digital platforms enhance communication and data management, their use in higher education remains largely reactive rather than preventive. The study highlights the need for integrated digital early-warning models and clear institutional governance frameworks to strengthen proactive conflict management in South African universities.

**Keyword:** Digital Governance, Conflict Management, Institutional Capacity, Technology Adoption, Conflict Resolution, Higher Education

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## Abstract 041

### EARLY PATHWAYS TO FEMICIDE AND GBV: HOW TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS SOCIALISE GENDERED HARM IN SOUTH AFRICA

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South African universities continue to experience recurring periods of student unrest that disrupt academic activities, governance processes, and institutional stability. At the same time, higher education institutions (HEIs) such as the Durban University of Technology (DUT) make extensive use of digital platforms including Blackboard, Moodle, Microsoft Teams, and PeopleSoft for teaching, communication, and administration. While these systems play an essential role in daily institutional operations, their potential to support structured conflict prevention and early-warning strategies remains under explored. Given the increasing reliance on digital infrastructure within universities, it is important to examine how existing technologies can be repositioned to strengthen proactive conflict management.

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## Abstract 042

### CLIMATE CHANGE, RESOURCE SCARCITY AND THE ESCALATION OF CONFLICT IN AFRICA: IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE

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The paper examines how resource competition between farmers, pastoralists, and local populations has become more violent due to climate change, using specific case studies from areas including the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and parts of Southern Africa. Due to increased competition for limited natural resources and the escalation of pre-existing social, economic, and political vulnerabilities, climate change has become a significant non-traditional security challenge in Africa. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, protracted droughts, and flooding have threatened livelihoods that rely significantly on climate-sensitive resources including pasture, water, and land throughout the continent. The relationship between climate change, resource shortages, and violent conflict in Africa is examined in this article, with a focus on how environmental stressors interact with ineffective governance systems to exacerbate displacement and instability. Poor land-tenure regimes, inefficient dispute resolution procedures, and the politicization of identity along ethnic or communal lines frequently exacerbate these confrontations. Climate change serves as a threat multiplier, escalating pre-existing grievances and governance shortcomings rather than directly causing violence. The study takes a qualitative approach, examining the connection between conflict dynamics and climate variability using secondary data, policy papers, and scholarly literature. It contends that responses to climate-related conflicts in Africa have mostly remained reactive and securitized, with inadequate integration of policies for peacebuilding, natural resource governance, and climate adaptation. As a result, marginalized populations and weak states continue to be caught in cycles of poverty, displacement, and instability. In its conclusion, the report advocates for a governance-centered approach that incorporates methods for conflict prevention, inclusive resource management, and climate adaptation. In order to reduce resource conflicts brought on by climate change and promote sustainable peace in Africa, it is determined that strengthening local institutions, encouraging livelihoods that are robust to climate change, and strengthening regional cooperation are essential.

**Keywords:** Climate change; Resource scarcity; Conflict; Governance; Sustainable peace

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## Abstract 043

### REFUGEE PROTECTION AS A POLITICAL BARGAIN: HOST STATES VS. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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The global refugee regime rests on a foundational tension: the legal principle of international responsibility versus the political reality of state sovereignty. Nowhere is this tension more acute than in Africa, where host states, often fragile and resource-constrained, bear disproportionate burdens while retaining sovereign control over refugee populations. This paper examines refugee protection as a political bargaining process between African host governments, international organizations, and donor states. Drawing on political economy and bargaining theory, it argues that host states strategically leverage refugee presence to extract material concessions, geopolitical favor, or security assistance from external actors. Conversely, donors use conditional aid to shape host state compliance with protection standards, producing an unstable equilibrium of cooperation and coercion. The paper further explores encampment policies as instruments of political control, confining refugees to marginal spaces while signaling host state sovereignty to domestic audiences. Through comparative case studies of Kenya's protracted negotiations over Dadaab camp and Uganda's ostensibly progressive self-reliance model, the analysis reveals how protection outcomes are shaped less by humanitarian principles than by shifting power asymmetries and interest-driven bargains. It concludes that sustainable refugee protection in Africa requires moving beyond normative appeals to responsibility-sharing and toward institutional mechanisms that align host state interests with refugee rights without reducing refugees to passive bargaining chips in interstate politics.

**Keywords:** Refugee protection; international responsibility; sovereignty; burden-sharing; host state bargaining;

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## Abstract 044

### VIOLENCE AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: PATTERNS, IMPACTS, AND POLICY RESPONSES

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Violence-induced internal displacement remains one of the most pressing humanitarian and development challenges in Northern Nigeria. Over the past decade, the region has witnessed escalating insecurity driven by insurgency, banditry, communal clashes, and criminal violence, resulting in the large-scale displacement of civilian populations. This paper examines the patterns, impacts, and policy responses associated with internal displacement in Northern Nigeria. Drawing on secondary data from international organizations, government reports, and existing scholarly literature, the study identifies key spatial and temporal trends in displacement, highlighting the concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Northeast and Northwest regions. The paper further interrogates the multidimensional impacts of displacement on affected populations, with particular emphasis on livelihoods, access to education, healthcare delivery, and social cohesion. It argues that displacement has deepened poverty, disrupted local economies, and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, especially among women and children. In addition, the study critically evaluates policy responses by the Nigerian government and international partners, focusing on humanitarian interventions, security strategies, and resettlement frameworks. While acknowledging some progress, the paper finds that policy responses remain largely reactive, fragmented, and insufficient to address the root causes of displacement. The study concludes by advocating for a more integrated and sustainable approach that combines security sector reform, community-based peacebuilding, and inclusive development strategies. Such an approach, it argues, is essential not only for mitigating displacement but also for advancing long-term stability and development in Northern Nigeria.

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## Abstract 045

### PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE: ADDRESSING REFUGEE VULNERABILITIES AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN RWANDA

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**Background:** By 2024, Africa hosts over 45 million displaced people, with Rwanda sheltering 136,000 refugees and ongoing inflows from the DRC and Sudan. Women, children, and other vulnerable groups face heightened risks of exploitation, gender-based violence, and limited access to education and livelihoods. These challenges are intensified by chronic funding shortages and largely reactive humanitarian responses, underscoring the need for resilience-focused, gender-sensitive, and locally integrated interventions.

**Problem:** Despite Rwanda's refugee policies and international support, humanitarian responses remain reactive and underfunded, leaving women, children, and other vulnerable refugees exposed to exploitation, gender-based violence, and weak protection, while long-term resilience and recovery remain largely unaddressed.

**Objective:** This study examines the effectiveness, timeliness, and sustainability of humanitarian responses for refugees in Rwanda, focusing on protection, resilience, and social integration. It evaluates how well local actors, refugee-led initiatives, and national institutions are involved in response systems and the extent to which interventions address the vulnerabilities of women, children, and other at-risk populations.

**Methodology:** This study will use a qualitative method, integrating qualitative case studies from chosen refugee camps hosting refugees in Rwanda. To give a thorough evaluation, policy analysis of response frameworks and key informant interviews with humanitarian practitioners will also be carried out.

**Results:** The study is expected to identify critical gaps in Rwanda's humanitarian responses, particularly in protection, gender-sensitive support, and community participation, highlighting the need for integrated, resilience-focused, and sustainable interventions.

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## Abstract 046

### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP, NON-FORMAL CITIZEN EDUCATION, AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION IN THOHoyANDOU, LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA.

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There has been renewed attention to how democratic values are created and maintained beyond formal institutions due to concerns about democratic failures and declining civic trust, which has led to citizens' limited participation in democratic activities. While existing studies have mostly focused on electoral systems and formal civic education, much less attention has been given to indigenous leadership systems as institutions where democratic norms are learned, practiced, and reproduced because, throughout the period of existence of the indigenous leadership in South Africa, the system adapted to colonial, apartheid, and democratic systems of governance.

This paper examines how traditional authorities and community-based institutions contribute to shaping civic knowledge, political participation, and leadership capability outside the formal schooling environment structure in Thohoyandou, Limpopo province of South Africa. Through the conceptual and exploratory approach, this paper argues that indigenous leadership structures are fundamental in fostering participatory norms and mediating state-citizen relationships. In some cases, these types of leadership structures compensate for limitations in formal democratic institutions by including civic education, into everyday social and cultural practices. Conclusively, this paper contributes to the discussion on democracy and African development in Africa by providing a bottom-up perspective on how democratic capability is built and sustained in contexts marked by weak institutional capacity.

**Keywords:** Democracy, Indigenous Leadership, Citizen Education, Non-formal education, Local Governance, South Africa

## CLOSING MESSAGE

Dear colleagues and friends, as we conclude two intense days of deliberation, I offer profound gratitude to every presenter, discussant, and participant who has enriched this gathering. This year's theme has compelled us to confront a painful but essential truth: violence and displacement are central to the continent's security, development, and humanitarian governance. Our gathering has been guided by the conviction that Africa can transform violence into peace and displacement into durable solutions—not through external prescriptions, but through locally grounded governance, inclusive institutions, and accountable leadership. The calibre of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers present has assured rich, multi-perspective dialogue. The breadth and quality of contributions from across Africa and beyond reflect the urgency of this conversation. As we close, let us carry forward not only our findings but our resolve: to translate research into policy, policy into protection, and protection into justice. May this conference mark not an end, but the beginning of concrete action toward an Africa free from the scourge of violence-induced displacement. Safe travels, and thank you.

