



## CPLO Roundtable Discussions



### **Strategies and solutions around the documentation and protection of foreign minors in South Africa, 1 July**

CPLO co-hosted a roundtable with the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town on unaccompanied and separated foreign children in South Africa. These children often face serious difficulties and are vulnerable to exploitation as a result of not being in possession of adequate documentation, such as ID books or passports. The roundtable was intended to bring together people working on the topic in order to develop a common policy and advocacy strategy for documenting foreign children. The participants were primarily experts in the field or people working directly on these issues.



### **The White Paper on post school education: What are the implications? 23 July**

This roundtable was a collaboration with the Thabiso Skills Institute. Mr John Pampallis, advisor to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, was one of the main speakers. The topic was dealt with intelligently by the speakers, and gave the participants not only a broad overview of the White Paper, but also some of the more substantial challenges in implementing the proposals of the White Paper. The participants, who included the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training, not only engaged well with the topic, but also provided some valuable feedback to the Department.



### **Youth and the family, 4 July.**

This roundtable was a collaboration with the Western Cape Department of Social Development and NICRO. The youth of today are confronted with many challenges including peer pressure, the risk of participation in gangs, crime and violence, substance abuse, unsafe sex, physical and sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, poor educational outcomes, lack of employment opportunities and the problems associated with living in poverty. How do we build the capacity and resilience of the family to help young people cope with these challenges so as to realize their hopes and aspirations?

The speakers at the event were David Abrahams, Acting Head of Ministry – Western Cape Department of Social Development; Quinton Adams, Educational Psychologist; Wayne Golding, Co-ordinator – St Kizito's Children's Programme; Jennifer Fredericks, Co-ordinator – Edmund Rice Camps; and Sean Lategan, Archdiocesan Youth Chaplaincy.



### **The human cost of undocumented migration: Alternatives to irregular entry in South Africa, 30 July**

CPLO, in collaboration with the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa, hosted a roundtable on the human cost of undocumented migration, and potential alternatives to irregular entry to South Africa. The presenters were Jacob Matakanye, Director of the Musina Legal Advice Office, Rene Manenti, Executive Director of the Centre for Migration Studies in Rome, and Zaheera Jinnah from the University of the Witwatersrand's African Centre for Migration and Society. The presentations and discussion centred on the difficulties faced by undocumented migrants who risked their lives to enter Europe and South Africa.



**Towards a regional integrated migration regime: A future perspective, 3 September**

CPLO collaborated with the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa on a discussion approach to asylum. The first speaker was Luca Marin, of the Centre for the Study of International Migration in Paris. The second speaker was Christopher Nshimbi of the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation at the University of Pretoria, and the third speaker was Roni Amit of the University of the Witwatersrand's African Centre for Migration Study. In attendance were delegates from academia, civil society organisations that focus on migration, and Parliamentary researchers.



**Grassroots social movements in South Africa, 1 October**

The aim of this roundtable discussion was to better understand what these social movements are and what they are trying to achieve. Are they authentic voices for the poor or merely proxies for political parties taking advantage of the plight of the poor? Making presentations at this event were: Thembani Ngongoma of Abahlali baseMjondolo Landless People's Movement in Durban; Andile Lili of Ses'khona People's Rights Movement, who has led a campaign that seeks to draw the attention of the country to sanitation issues in Khayelitsha; Nkwame Cedile of Embo, an organisation that promotes self-reliance and self-realisation in communities; and Ebrahim Fakir, who has worked on a study that looked at social movements, and whose presentation drew on his research on the phenomenon in his capacity as the Ruth First fellow at Wits University in Johannesburg. Government's failure to consult with and to listen to poor communities on issues that concern them came up as one of the reasons for the emergence of such movements.

The roundtable went very well and led to some robust discussion. One of the positive aspects of the discussion was raised by Mr Ngongoma, who pointed out that the biggest problem they and other movements faced was that authorities often talked about them but seldom bothered to talk to them. Thus they appreciated the opportunity to speak for themselves. As he put it: "Nothing about us without us!"



**Policing in South Africa, 12 September**

The quality of policing in South Africa came under the spotlight at a CPLO roundtable sponsored by the Hanns Seidel Foundation. It looked at the state of crime in SA, the steps being taken by the South African Police Service to improve crime prevention, and the many challenges the police face in carrying out their mandate. Four speakers participated: Mr Gareth Newham of the Institute for Security Studies; Mr Welcome Makele of the Social Justice Coalition; Mr Zackie Achmat of Ndifuna Ukwazi; and Major-General Sharon Jephta, the SAPS Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Western Cape.



**Teacher training and development – towards better teaching, 13 October**

CPLO, together with the Catholic Institute of Education, hosted a roundtable looking at teacher training and development. Dr Nick Taylor spoke about research conducted by JET Education Services on curricula for initial teacher training. They had sampled five universities that produced most of the teachers in SA, and the research showed that there were serious gaps in the curricula for teacher training. Mr Nic Spuull noted that teachers were not able to impart knowledge properly and that the content knowledge of the teachers was also lacking. He felt that the focus should be on student learning, looking at how good teachers improved and increased the 'quality' of what students learnt, and the 'volume' of what they learnt.



**The elderly and the family, 23 September**

During Heritage month, CPLO, NICRO and the Western Cape Department of Social Development held a roundtable discussion on the 'Elderly and the Family' which considered the important role that older persons have and continue to play in our families, our communities and the broader society. The roundtable was addressed by Prof Emeka Obioha of the Tshwane University of Technology; Gavin Weir of the Sector Task Team for Older Persons (STTOP) and NOAH; Chrina Barendse of the Older Persons Programme of the Western Cape Department of Social Development; Lulama Sigasana, the Programme Head: Health & Seniors, Ikamva Labantu; and Anton de Beer of Telecare Solutions.



**Parliament: Degraded or re-invigorated?  
22 October**

CPLO, together with the Hanss Siedel Foundation, hosted a roundtable discussion to look at the Parliament in SA today. The speakers at this gathering were Dr Zwelethu Jolobe, a lecturer at UCT's Department of Political Studies; Mr Kasper Hahndiek, former National Assembly secretary; and Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, former deputy speaker of the National Assembly. The event was attended by people from different NGOs and CBOs, parliamentary researchers and ordinary citizens.

The aim of this roundtable discussion was to look at Parliament in light of the disturbances that followed the EFF's demand that the President pay back the money spent on his homestead in Nkandla, as recommended by the Public Protector. Dr Jolobe gave an overview of our Parliamentary system, thereby providing a framework from which to look at the issue of Parliament. Mr Hahndiek gave an overview of the rules of Parliament; he stated that freedom of speech was one of the important rights enshrined in our Constitution but he urged that this right needed to be exercised with great responsibility. Further, he stated that he was of the view that it was important for the speaker of Parliament to be a politician, a senior one, because Parliament was a political environment. It was also advantageous for the speaker to be a senior politician because that way they could then exercise authority upon the members of their own political party. Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge stated that Parliament was one of the highest institutions of democracy, but it was also a very fragile institution that could easily be abused.



**Wildlife over-exploitation, 13 November**

The morning of Thursday, 13 November 2014, saw the CPLO host a roundtable on Wildlife over-exploitation. The speakers at the event were Ms Magdel Boschoff, who leads the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Policy Development division at the Department of Environmental Affairs; Mr Paul Gildenhuys, the Manager of Cape Nature's Biodiversity Crime Unit; as well as Ms Rynette Coetzee, who leads the Law & Policy Project at the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Some new insight was gained regarding how people think of different solutions to age-old problems. The topic is most important in establishing the way forward and the speaker content was interesting and relevant. The topic is extremely current and will be prominent in Parliament until 2016.



**Mainstreaming disability and the role of the family,  
21 November**

This roundtable was a collaboration with the Western Cape Department of Social Development and NICRO. The roundtable was addressed by Ms Patisa Momoza, Programme Manager of Services to Persons with Disability of the Western Cape Department of Social Development; Ms Caroline Taylor, from Inclusive Education; and Ms Gadija Koopman, who is the Director of the Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association. The rights of persons with disability, both in terms of the Constitution and International Instruments of Human Rights, were emphasized and the various policies and interventions that are necessary for those with disability to realize these rights and enable them to participate in the mainstream of society, were discussed. The point was strongly made that a person with disability is not defined by their condition.



**Religious freedom in schools: What works and what does not! 26 November**

CPLO, the Catholic Institute of Education, and the Council for Religious Rights and Freedoms hosted a roundtable discussion on religious freedom in schools. The main purpose of the roundtable was to provide an opportunity to discuss the various religions in South Africa and how they related to education. Delegates were also asked to consider questions like: Has your community had a long tradition of single perspective religious education? Has your religious community education had to deal with requests for exemption from religious observances (including prayers, uniform symbols, or other expressions of religious belief)? How were such requests handled?

The speakers covered a wide range of topics – from the Constitutional right to teach religious education, to more theoretical/philosophical questions on the difference between religious education, religion instruction & religious observance – and how the legislative environment responds to these differences.



### Alternative energy sources in South Africa, 27 November

This roundtable engaged in a wide-ranging discussion on how South Africans dealt with the transition to using alternative energy sources. Ms Holle Linnea Wlokas, from the Energy Research Centre at the University of Cape Town; Director of Genesis Eco Energy, Mr Davin Chown, as well as Dr Manfred Dutschke, from the South African Renewable Energy Training Centre were the speakers.

## PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED

### BRIEFING PAPERS:

- 356 Free and Fair Elections?
- 357 The Housing Crisis in South Africa
- 358 Private Equity Investment: Easing the Housing Shortage
- 359 The African Court for Justice and Human Rights
- 360 Energy, Poverty and the Family
- 361 Undocumented Migration and Foreign Children: Suffering in Search of a Better Life
- 362 Youth and the Family
- 363 Labour and Asylum
- 364 The Older Person and the Family
- 365 Why the Institutions are Under Attack
- 366 Have We Failed the Poor?
- 367 The First Frack is the Deepest
- 368 Policing in South Africa
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- 372 Disability and the Family
- 373 South Africa's Alternative Energy Resources

### OCCASIONAL PAPERS:

- 35 Small Business in South Africa

### OTHER:

#### Education Digests:

- 4 Education Digest 4 4–10 July
- 5 Education Digest 5 14–24 July
- 6 Education Digest 6 25–31 July
- 7 Education Digest 7 1–14 August
- 8 Education Digest 8 14–28 August
- 9 Education Digest 9 20 September–3 October
- 10 Education Digest 10 3–16 October
- 11 Education Digest 11 16–30 October
- 12 Education Digest 12 1–14 November
- 13 Education Digest 13 17 November–3 December

#### Family Digests:

- 3 Child Marriage and Ukutwala 10 September

*All of these publications are available on our website.*

## OTHER EVENTS

### Meetings with new Members of Parliament, 2 and 8 September and 12 November

CPLO collaborated with the Hanns Seidel Foundation to create opportunities for civil society to meet with Members of Parliament. This proved to be a valuable opportunity for open and useful discussions with parliamentarians who do not necessarily know the many organisations in and around Parliament. It also provided an opportunity for organisations to talk to public representatives about the work they do and their main concerns.



L-R: Fr Peter-John Pearson and AGANG Member of Parliament, Michael Tshishonga



L-R: DA Member of Parliament, Michael Bagraim, Councillors Stuart Diamond and Errol Anstey



L-R: Ms Cynthia Majeke (UDM Member of Parliament), Fr Peter-John Pearson (CPLO), Ms Felicity Harrison (Goedgedacht Forum for Social Reflection), Mr Mncedisi Filtane (UDM Member of Parliament), Mr Mputumi Ntabeni (UDM). In front: Mr Archie Ralo (UDM)