



CPLO Roundtable Discussions



Seminar on The White Paper on the Family, 25 February

"The Family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and state". Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16, 1948. This seminar was held in the CPLO boardroom. Inputs were given by Marjon Busstra from the Office of International Diplomacy: African Region, John O'Leary an attorney and family mediator as well as Lois Law, CPLO researcher. Marjon gave an overview of the different international conventions, charters and agreements pertaining to the family and spoke about the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family which will fall in 2014. Lois spoke about the development of the White Paper on the Family and John spoke about the paper within the context of family law and opportunities for family mediations.



Environmental Migration, 18 March

This collaboration with the Goedgeacht Forum and Jesuit Refugee Services was addressed by Professor Loren Landau, Director of the African Centre for Migration and Movement at Witswatersrand University, as well as Mr Patrick Kawuma Male who heads up the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) field office in Cape Town. While most of the focus in relation to climate change has to do with the scientific aspects, the humanitarian challenges that accompany this occurrence are often overlooked. The advent of climate change and the effects thereof have resulted in droughts, floods and other natural disasters resulting in the displacement of people in their multitudes. These individuals, who at times are led to cross international borders, find themselves excluded from being legally defined as refugees although they are compelled to migrate as a survival strategy. The discussion that ensued explored this global phenomenon and engaged organisations and individuals dealing with climate change and refugee related matters on the concept of environmental migration.



Roundtable Discussion Series Reflects on Aspects of Political Leadership in South Africa



Leadership and Vision held on 15 March was addressed by Prof. Steven Friedman, Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Johannesburg; Fr Smangalisso Mkhathswa, former Secretary-General of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, Deputy-Minister of Education in the Mandela government, and Mayor of Tshwane 2000-2005; and Dr Alex Boraine, former opposition MP, 1974-1986, founding Director of the Institute for Democratic Alternative in South Africa (IDASA), and Vice-chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, 1996-1998.



Accountability and Corruption held on 26 April was addressed by Mr Mondli Makhanya, columnist for the Sunday Times; Mr David Lewis, Executive Director of Corruption Watch; and Mr Jeremy Routledge, Deputy Director and founding member of Embrace Dignity, a women's human rights organization.



Institutional Leadership held on 31 May was addressed by Prof. Richard Calland, Associate Professor of Public Law at the University of Cape Town; and Dr Wilmot James, Federal Chairperson of the Democratic Alliance.



Leadership of Service, 5 August. In attendance were various media representatives, civil society organizations and Members of Parliament. The discussion was led by Judge Albie Sachs, Minister Trevor Manuel and Ms Zubeida Jaffer.



Civil Society Leadership, 13 September. Held at the Townhouse Hotel, this roundtable discussion fuelled discussion between various representatives around how civil society leadership can have a significant impact. Panellists included Mr Zackie Achmat, Ms Amelia Jones and Mr Paul Graham.



Aspects of Political Leadership in South Africa, 18 October. A roundtable discussion, in collaboration with the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action (PACSA) was held in Pietermaritzburg. The discussion focused on various aspects from the series of roundtable discussions held in Cape Town during the course of the year. Prof. Steven Friedman, Bishop Rubin Phillip, and the Minister of Communications, Mr Yunus Carrim were the speakers



Maternal Health, 20 March and 8 August

The Catholic Health Care Association (CATHCA) and World Vision SA collaborated with CPLO on these roundtable discussions, held in Cape Town and Durban respectively. Dr Douglas Ross, CEO of St Mary's Hospital, Mariannhill, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Chairperson of CATHCA, gave the keynote address at both events. Various organisations were represented including Life Line, The Children in our Future, as well as officials from the Department of Health.



Representatives from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales visited the CPLO on 5 April.

Bishop Declan Lang and Dr David Ryall, the chairperson and director respectively of the International Affairs and International Justice and Peace departments of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales were in Cape Town on a very short visit, en route to Zimbabwe. They are both seasoned justice and peace people and deeply committed to a range of international justice issues. A small gathering of mostly Cape Town-based organisations, some within the Church, and other NGOs attended this meeting and guests were given the opportunity to share some of their own perspectives on South Africa.



Promoting Human Dignity in a Society Engulfed by Violence, Rape, Abuse and Brutality, 18 April

This collaboration between NICRO, the Goedgegacht Forum for Social Reflection and CPLO was very well attended. The four speakers were Mr Mike Abrams from Hands On / Boys 2 Men, an NGO based in Bredasdorp, Ms Carol Bower from Linali Consulting, Ms Arina Smit from NICRO and Mr Desmond Lesejane from the Sonke Gender Justice Network.



School Violence in South Africa, 5 June and 30 July

This collaboration with the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) was held in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Both events were addressed by Ms Lezanne Leoschut from the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention. Her presentation focused on a national research project which highlighted that more than one million high school learners have fallen victim to some form of violence in schools; girls experienced slightly more incidents of violence; repeat victimization was common; most acts of violence or threats of violence happened within school confines; and the perpetrators were themselves often learners.



Navigating Towards a Green Economy, 24 May

Dr Leanne Seeliger from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Dr Jeff Rudin from the Climate Jobs Campaign addressed an intimate gathering, which provided good discussion points.



African Forum for Catholic Social Teaching (AFCAST), 28-29 May

Two separate events were hosted in collaboration with the Jesuit Institute of SA and AFCAST. The first event focused on the relevance of Catholic Social Teaching in African public life today; and the second looked more broadly at the contested role of religion in African public life. Guests included Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Judge Albie Sachs and the Iraqi Ambassador, Dr Hisham Al-Alawi.



African Exposure and Training Programme, 25-28 June

A specialized training programme was presented to eight bishops representing IMBISA (the Inter-regional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa). As part of learning about and understanding the importance of parliamentary advocacy, Adv. Steve Swart, an ACDP MP, addressed the group and spoke about how much he valued the focused and dedicated work done by the CPLO.



Accessing Socio-Economic Rights of Refugees, 10 September

Presentations were delivered by the Director of the UCT Refugee Rights Unit, Ms Fatima Khan, and a member of People Against Suffering Oppression and Poverty (PASSOP), Mr Langton Miriyoga. Both addressed issues that often go unseen as the rights of refugees are often unrecognized. This event sparked much discussion.



Food Sovereignty in a GMO Age, 12 September

Presented by the Chairperson of the Executive Council of the GMO Act, Dr Julian Jaftha and the Director of the Ekogaia Foundation, Mr Glenn Ashton.



Political Climate in the Run-up to the 2014 elections, 15 November

This event offered an academic perspective on how the elections may turn out. Presentations were given by Prof. Robert Mattes (University of Cape Town), Prof. Amanda Gouws (University of Stellenbosch), Dr Collette Schulz-Herzenberg (Centre for Social Science Research) and Dr Cherrel Africa of the University of the Western Cape. They each shared their foresights for the political arena in 2014.



Babies and Children of Mothers Incarcerated in Correctional Facilities, 28 November

An event held in collaboration with the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO), dealing with issues of a vulnerable sector, where young children are being raised within the confines of a correctional facility. This platform saw numerous guests engaged in a discussion with panellists giving inputs from the Family Advocate's Office, the Department of Social Development, the Department of Correctional Services and Child Welfare Society, Cape Town.



SA's Youth and the 2014 Elections, 29 November

The final instalment of 2013 on the elections sparked much discussion around the youth and the promise of their vote and how this can affect the upcoming elections. This discussion, hosted in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, was addressed by Mr Muhammed Khalid Sayed from the ANC Youth League, and Ms Anthea Limbener from the DA, who shared their plans on how their parties would attract young people. We also heard inputs from Mr Lungisa Mzizana, who represented the South African Youth Council, Mr Nkosikhulule Nyembezi, who represented the Election Monitoring Network, as well as from the IEC Western Cape Chief Electoral Officer, Rev. Courtney Sampson.



South Africa's Peacekeeping Efforts in Africa, 12 December

A small gathering, facilitated in the CPLO boardroom, was addressed by Prof. Abel Esterhuyse, Associate Professor of Strategy at Stellenbosch University and Mr Andre Roux, Senior Research Fellow and Training Co-ordinator at the Institute for Security Studies, Training for Peace Unit.



Seminar on The National Development Plan 2030 – Highway or Byway?

The CPLO hosted this seminar in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Institute for Security Studies. The implementation of South Africa's National Development Plan 2030 is crucial for our future. Without narrowing the huge gap between rich and poor, South Africa's stability could be at risk as structural unemployment and inequality, already among the highest in the world, become a toxic mixture that could undo progress in Africa's largest economy. Proper implementation of the NDP could potentially restructure the economy and put the country onto a sustained higher growth path. This would break the 'middle-income trap', the term economists often use to label South Africa's current predicament. At this seminar, the executive director of the ISS Dr Jakkie Cilliers presented a paper which looked at the feasibility of the NDP's economic growth targets.



The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act Mass

was held on 1 February.

On this day in 1997 the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act was passed by Parliament. Since then, many thousands of unborn children have been killed, their dignity and humanity counting for nothing. To mark this anniversary, and to pray for a change of heart on the part of all who disregard the rights of unborn children, Holy Mass is celebrated on this day, every year.

PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED

BRIEFING PAPERS:

- 315 COPI8: A Vital Meeting without much Fanfare
- 316 Encouraging Employment through Incentives: A Case for a Youth Wage Subsidy
- 317 The White Paper on the Family
- 318 Leadership and Vision
- 319 Environmental Migration
- 320 The National Key Points Act
- 321 Maternal Health
- 322 How we see our Members of Parliament
- 323 Corruption and Accountability
- 324 Textbook Alternatives
- 325 Institutional Leadership
- 326 School Violence
- 327 Navigating towards a Green Economy
- 328 Survival Strategies for the Poor
- 329 Leadership of Service
- 330 South Africa's Peacekeeping Activities in Africa (Part One)
- 331 Human Dignity and Gender-based Violence
- 332 South Africa's Peacekeeping Activities in Africa (Part Two)
- 333 Refugees and their Rights
- 334 Civil Society Leadership
- 335 South Africa's Youth: Agents of Change?
- 336 Food Sovereignty in a GMO Age
- 337 School Infrastructure Norms and Standards
- 338 Political Climate in the run-up to 2014 Elections
- 339 Xenophobia in SA: Six Years On (posted in 2014)
- 340 SA Water – Counting the Drops (posted in 2014)

RESPONSES:

- 1 State of the Nation Address
- 2 The Budget
- 3 School Textbooks
- 4 Electoral Reform
- 5 Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act
- 6 Mismanagement at the IEC
- 7 South Africa's Position on Syria
- 8 MPAT
- 9 Crime Statistics
- 10 MTBPS
- 11 School Infrastructure Norms and Standards

Responses are distributed via email only

OCCASIONAL PAPERS:

- 32 Western Sahara (2012 publication)
- 33 Corporal Punishment in the Home

OTHER:

Aspects of Political Leadership in South Africa (publication containing extracts from presentations made at each of the five roundtable discussions).

All of these publications are available on our website.