



## Roundtable Discussions



L-R: Fr Mathai Babychan; Prof Lukas Muntingh; Ms Lois Law (Project Co-ordinator, CPLO); Ms Jacqueline Hoorn; Fr Peter-John Pearson (Director, CPLO); and Mr Andries Esterhuizen

### Prisoners on Remand 25 July 2018

Prisoners on remand are those who have been arrested, have been refused or cannot afford bail, and are awaiting the start or completion of their trial. One third of the country's total prison population are on remand. Excessively long detention, and the conditions in which awaiting trial prisoners are kept, impact profoundly on their psycho-social and socio-economic well-being, as well as on that of their families. This Roundtable was addressed by Prof Lukas Muntingh from the African Criminal Justice Reform Programme at UWC; Mr Andries Esterhuizen, Deputy Director of the Regional Department of Prisons; Ms Jacqueline Hoorn of NICRO; and Fr Mathai Babychan of the Prison Care and Support Network.



L-R: Ms Lovedonia Mkansi (Project Co-ordinator, CPLO); Fr Peter-John Pearson; Ms Dorah Marema; Ms Seneo Madikiza; and Dr Ikalafeng Kgakatsi

### Climate Change & Food Security: The Impact on Rural Women 16 August 2018

The effects of climate change are being felt across the globe, and South Africa is not spared from these implications. As in many other developing countries, the burden will weigh on the most vulnerable of the society. Climate change threatens livelihoods, infrastructure and the development gains of the country. Agriculture is central to the livelihoods of women in South Africa, and especially women in rural areas. Women bear the responsibility of securing and distributing food for their households and communities. How much do women in rural communities know about climate change and how it affects food security? How equipped are they to respond to the challenges posed by climate change? The CPLO hosted a Roundtable Discussion that created a platform for engaging on the level of awareness of women in

rural areas about climate change and its impacts on food security. Among the speakers were Ms Dorah Marema from GenderCC-Southern Africa, and Dr Ikalafeng Kgakatsi and Ms Seneo Madikiza from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Participants from civil society organisations, faith based organisations, and business formed part of the discussion. It was acknowledged that rural women are the most vulnerable, and are also a crucial missing link in addressing climate change. Suggestions and questions were posed on how we empower women and give them opportunities to contribute to addressing issues of climate change, so as to ensure food security in the country.



## The 2019 General Election: Will we be ready for it? 17 & 24 August 2018

These Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) collaboration Roundtables were held in Cape Town and Pretoria respectively. The theme was the same for both discussions – an examination of the work of the Electoral Commission in preparing for next year’s national and provincial election (NPE), with further contributions from civil society organisations. The speakers were Dr Nomsa Masuku, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer; Dr Jakkie Cilliers, Chairperson of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS); and Ms Janine Ogle, National Director of the advocacy organisation My Vote Counts. The Pretoria meeting was co-hosted by the ISS. In addition to the main speakers, Mr Hanns Bühler of HSF gave a short presentation of the foundation’s ‘Civics Academy’ online voter education programme.

Dr Masuku gave a very comprehensive presentation, but noted that the Commission does not consider itself to be ‘ready’ until the election has been successfully conducted. Instead, it is ‘on track’ to carry out its mandate as specified in the Electoral Act and the Constitution. Among the key points she made were that almost exactly 75% of eligible voters (entitled by age and citizenship to vote) had registered; proportions were highest in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape, and lowest in Gauteng and the Western Cape. There was also a slightly lower rate of registration among youth, especially the 16-18 cohort. Countrywide, slightly more women than men were registered.

Dr Cilliers focused on the security aspects of the election. He noted that there was usually more violence associated with local government polls, since numerous councillors relied on their municipal seats for an income and for opportunities of material benefit through corruption. This tended to make the stakes



L-R: Dr Jakkie Cilliers, Fr Peter-John Pearson; Dr Nomsa Masuku; Ms Janine Ogle; and Mr Hanns Bühler

higher. In recent years, election-linked violence was concentrated in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, and this pattern would probably continue. It was likely that a large security force operation would be instituted – as it had been in 2014 – in order to suppress any violent outbursts before and during the elections next year.

Ms Ogle focused largely on legislative reforms to party funding. She warned that there was always a tendency for politicians in government positions to use public occasions – and sometimes public money – to advance party interests at election time. There were examples of both the ANC and the DA having done this. She also raised concerns that the new Bill to regulate party funding, which had been passed by Parliament, had not yet been signed into law by President Ramaphosa. Some people were of the opinion that he was under pressure from political parties to delay doing so until after the 2019 elections.

## Violence & Migrant Women: A Global Problem needing Local Solutions 25 September 2018



L-R: Ms Amy Shackelford; Ms Thembile Abigail Njojo (Storyteller 1); Mr George Mfwamba (Storyteller 2); Ms Delene Roberts; Fr Peter-John Pearson; Ms Sylvia Mbebe; Fr Filippo Ferraro (Co-Director, SIHMA); and Ms Aimée-Noel Mbiyozo

Together with the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town and the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), a Roundtable Discussion was held on Violence & Migrant Women. The discussion was particularly geared towards putting a spotlight on the abuse suffered by migrant women as they make their journey to countries of safety. Ms Amy Shackelford, representing the Scalabrini’s Centre’s Women’s Platform, opened the discussion by providing a global picture of the pervasiveness of violence against migrant women. In South Africa, femicide is five times higher than the global average, and half of the women murdered are killed by intimate partners. Globally, India is the most dangerous country for women to live in. Violence is a common thread for migrant women, who face many risks along the journey as they migrate from their home country to a new country. The discussion featured storytelling by those affected by violence and abuse as well as comments from service providers. Ms Sylvia Mbebe, coordinator at the Adonis Musati Project, focused her input on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and the factors contributing to its prevalence amongst refugees and migrants. Ms Aimée-Noel Mbiyozo, senior research consultant at the Institute for Security Studies, provided an intersectional analysis of women migrants in South Africa and the culture of violence that refugees and migrants encounter, while Ms Delene Roberts, manager at Sisters Incorporated, provided an analysis of possible gaps in policy as it pertains to protecting women from violence.



## Other Events & Visitors

### African Exposure and Training

From 22nd to 27th July, eleven delegates from eight African countries gathered in Cape Town for the annual African Exposure and Training course offered by CPLP. The course demonstrates CPLP's work to representatives from other Bishops' Conferences in Africa, in the hope that they will start something similar in their own countries. The course also has a training component which is aimed at deepening the advocacy skills of people already working in this field. This year there were delegates from Chad and Cameroun, which do not yet have CPLPs, and from existing offices in Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya. The new head of the Denis Hurley Peace Institute, Johan Viljoen, who is based at the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference head office in Pretoria, also attended, as well as Vincent Hendrickx, the Head of Office of Misereor in Chad.

The main picture shows the delegates with some of CPLP's staff and interns outside the Archdiocesan Chancery.





## Distributed Publications

### Briefing Papers:

- 458 Lawfare
- 459 Prisoners on Remand
- 460 The Long-Awaited Climate Change Bill
- 461 The Public Protector
- 462 Prostitution/Sex Work: Is it Work and is it a Choice?
- 463 Climate Change & Food Security: The Impact on Rural Women

### Digests

#### Refugee Digests:

- Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Persons 28
- Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Persons 29

#### Family Digest:

- Infant Deaths at Thelle Mogorane Hospital

#### Other:

- Expropriation without Compensation
- Economic Stimulus and Recovery Plan

#### Responses:

- Civil Society and the Global Compact
- Sister Water
- Reinstatement of the Death Penalty

#### Submissions:

- Draft Immigration Amendment Bill
- Draft Climate Change Bill
- Report by the Independent Panel on the Review of the Current list of Zero-Rated VAT Items

