

**PROMOTING CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS & COMBATTING STATELESSNESS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA  
THROUGH STRATEGIC LITIGATION  
TRAINING FOR LEGAL PRACTITIONERS**

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**Date: 22 November 2024**

**Time: 08h00 - 15h30 SAST**

**Language: English only**

**Participant Cap: 30 participants**

**Format: ONLINE**

**Apply here by 14 November 2024: <https://forms.gle/L7qfyTmpDt1D8y8r9>**

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## **OVERVIEW**

Statelessness is a human rights issue affecting millions globally, including in Southern Africa. Without nationality, stateless individuals are often denied basic rights such as access to education, healthcare, and legal protection. SADC States have legal obligations - under their constitutions and international and regional treaties - to protect stateless persons and uphold the right to a nationality. However, many States either lack adequate legal frameworks or fail to implement them effectively, leaving stateless persons in a legal limbo. Legal practitioners play a vital role in addressing these challenges. Strategic litigation is an essential tool for advancing citizenship rights and enforcing legal solutions against statelessness. This training aims to equip legal practitioners with advanced theoretical and practical skills to engage effectively in strategic litigation to promote citizenship rights and combat statelessness.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The primary objective of this training is to strengthen the capacity of legal practitioners in Southern Africa to use the law and strategic litigation as tools to promote citizenship rights and combat statelessness.

The specific goals are:

- i) to deepen participants' understanding of statelessness, nationality, and citizenship and the root causes of statelessness
- ii) to provide participants with an overview of relevant legal frameworks at the international, regional, and domestic levels

- iii) to offer guidance on litigating statelessness cases, including case selection, evidence gathering, forum choice, framing issues, developing legal arguments, crafting remedies, and measuring impact
- iv) to explore the use of regional and international human rights mechanisms as forums for litigation and advocacy
- v) to emphasise the importance of legal empowerment and community-based approaches in addressing statelessness.

## **OUTCOMES**

By the end of the training, we expect participants:

- i) to have a robust understanding of statelessness, its causes, and its impact in the Southern African context
- ii) to be equipped to approach statelessness cases with advanced legal strategies and tools
- iii) to build connections with peers and experts for future collaboration and ongoing engagement
- iv) to be prepared to apply legal frameworks and litigation strategies to advance the rights of stateless persons

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The training is designed for legal practitioners across the SADC region who can engage with complex theoretical content in a condensed timeframe and who can apply this knowledge through further research and practice. Lawyers with lived experience of statelessness, or those who work closely with stateless persons, or those with prior experience in strategic litigation related to human rights and/or statelessness matters are strongly encouraged to apply. (Minimum requirements: undergraduate law degree and at least 2 years of legal practice)

## **FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY**

The training will be hosted online and will include a combination of presentations, case studies, and interactive discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with experts in the field and exchange ideas with peers to address statelessness in their respective countries.