

# Leading in Public Life: Women, Influence, Power Programme (2021)

*PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES*



The Nelson Mandela School, in partnership  
with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Rule of  
Law Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa

## PARTICIPANTS

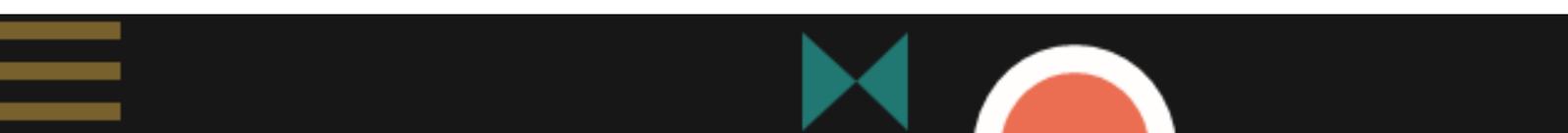
<b>Name:</b> Adaeze Anah	
<b>Country</b>	Nigeria
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	Member of the Abuja Literary Society

<b>Name:</b> Meron Aragaw	
<b>Country</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	<p>I am feminist and women's/girls' rights advocate and thus I am passionate about empowering women and girls. In this aspect I have been involving in mentoring women and girls and doing so I have brought significant and meaningful change in their lives. Currently I am one of the volunteer mentors for the FDRE Ministry of Women, Children and Youth in their mentorship program for the University Female Students.</p> <p>In addition, as I am professionally a Lawyer, I have been providing free legal advice to economically poor women and girls and accordingly I have been helping women and girls exercise their rights.</p> <p>I am actively engaging in the social media and advocate for the rights of women/girls and children in a way that influence policy and structural change.</p>

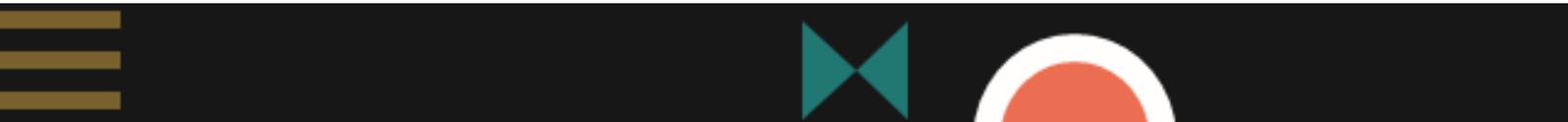


<b>Name:</b> Simphiwe Duze	
<b>Country</b>	South Africa
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	<p>           Outside of formal employment, my passion has always been people development and poverty alleviation. In particular, I enjoy working with young people and using education as a means of empowerment. I tutored high school students mathematics and economics for a period of about 5 years starting in 2013. When I started working for the law firm I used to work for, I tutored business law to students at Tsiba, a business school set up by Old Mutual as corporate social responsibility initiative in which students from poor communities were equipped with business skills and assisted by the institution to start their own business. I am also active in teaching and equipping young adults in my church community as a young adults ministry leader. Here, we run various seminars for young adults on an array of nation building topics which include family, world views and community development.         </p>

<b>Name:</b> Chimwemwe Fabiano	
<b>Country</b>	Malawi
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	<p>           Outside my and education spaces I provide mentorship, coaching and support. Currently I am mainly mentoring one colleague from Zambia. I have never met her in person, but we started the journey in 2019 and she has now proceeded to take up a technical role as gender specialist. I also help people I meet online and offline to look and apply for scholarships and fellowship opportunities or development grants.         </p>

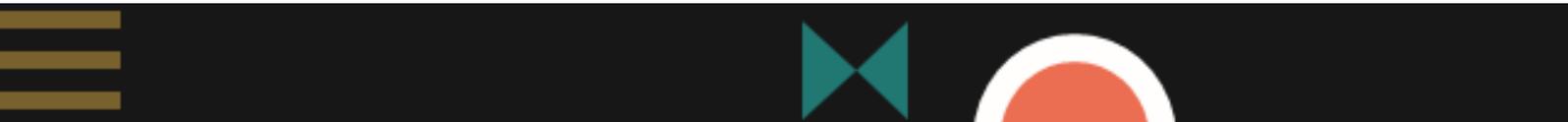


<p><b>Name:</b> Ndifreke Patrick Ferdinand-Ajakpogha</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Nigeria</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mentoring and languages tutoring services (2018 - present).</li> <li>▪ Founded Ferndie Languages and Educational Resources, committed to promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism and assisting the less privileged with information on available scholarship opportunities. We offered free basic lessons for children of 2-10 years during the COVID-19 lockdown to reduce its adverse impact on their education.</li> <li>▪ Voluntary translation and editing services (2015 - present): with Translators Without Borders and for Soulfood Devotionals.</li> <li>▪ Voluntary activities for various communities and secondary school students (2012 - 2013). As a member of the NYSC Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Community Development Service Group, I helped students secure scholarships to continue their education, sensitized people on the MDGs, and executed various projects in line with the MDGs. They include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Renovation of students/teachers' toilet in Akwakuma Girls' Secondary School.</li> <li>*Provision of typewriters, tape recorders, packets of Braille papers, packets of empty cassettes, pairs of batteries etc. to Visually Impaired (Blind) Students in Imo State, specifically 15 students in Aboh Mbaise Boys' Secondary School and 8 students in Orlu Girls' Secondary School.</li> <li>*Donation of food stuffs, detergents and rolls of tissue papers to the children of Red Cross Orphanage Owerri, etc.</li> <li>*Skills acquisition programmes in Girls' Secondary Schools, Ikenegbu and Akwakuma.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



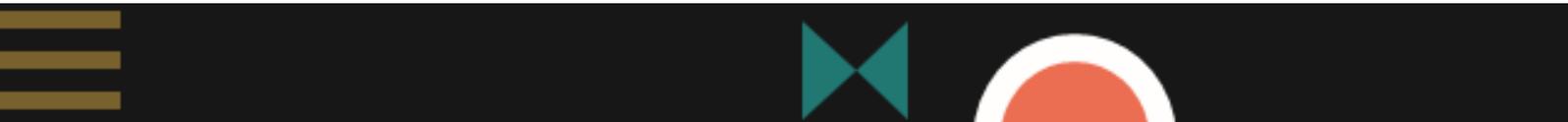
<p><b>Name:</b> Abigail Gyimah</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Nigeria</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>2020 - Present - Member, Mentoring Cluster of the African Leadership Center Alumni Network. providing support new fellows settling into the program and other younger fellows to build skills and advance their careers in thought leadership and their personal lives where necessary.</p> <p>2012 - Present - Mother and Mentor to my two girls. Mentoring my girls to become change agents among their peers - in their school, family, church and the broader society.</p>

<p><b>Name:</b> Barbara Japan</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Kenya</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>Participated in the International Arbitral Women’s Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2018 that sought to support women in conflict management for women in leadership.</p> <p>Delegate at the 2nd East African Community Conference on Women in Business and Socio-Economic Development 20th-21st August 2015 themed, ‘Advancing and expanding the participation of businesswomen in intra EAC trade.</p>



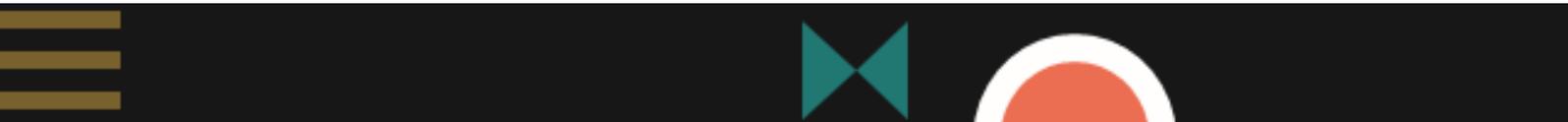
<b>Name:</b> Nkatha Kabira	
<b>Country</b>	Kenya
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	<p>I am currently leading three research projects focused on interdisciplinary approaches to the study of law and governance in Africa: "The Future of Legal Education in Eastern Africa," Edinburgh Catalyst Fellowship funded by Global Research Fund," The Future of Law in Africa," an International Research Collaborative at the Law and Society Association, USA and "The Law of Commissions: A Comparative Study of the Place of Commissions in Law and Governance in Africa.</p> <p>I lead the The Future of Law in Africa project which is now an International Research Collaborative ("IRC") at the Law and Society Association.</p>

<b>Name:</b> Muthoni Kanyugo	
<b>Country</b>	Kenya
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	<p>Currently I sponsor two needy children through primary school by buying them uniforms and paying for their school meals as they are in public school, so GOK tuition fee is free.</p> <p>I'm involved in Charity work, with an organization called LOCA (Love of the Child Association), an association focused mainly to assist needy children to access basic education as well as equip them with the school necessities.</p>



<b>Name:</b> Belinda Kiilu	
<b>Country</b>	Kenya
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	I have undertaken volunteer position with a human rights organization and a children's rehabilitation centre. I am involved in my local church especially on youth matters and community development , I am a member of aa group known as 'kawive martha" which advocates for economic empowerment of women at the grassroot level in my local village.

<b>Name:</b> Kabanda Lopa	
<b>Country</b>	Zambia
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	<p>Toastmasters International - I joined Toastmasters in March 2019 and I have since then served in the Club Officer roles of Vice President Education and Secretary. I am currently serving as Area Director for one of the areas in the Southern Africa Toastmaster District. I have as a club officer and active Toastmaster served as a mentor to a recently established club, helping them to become a quality club. I am also an accredited Toastmasters Leadership Institute Trainer and I have been a useful resource for training toastmasters club officers.</p> <p>MarriageCraft- This is a Marriage building group founded by my Husband and myself and whose primary objective to to help married couples build more purpose-filled and intentional marriages. This group has been in existence for two(2) years and within this period various events have been organised dealing with various issues that affect marriages and how these can be tackled with intention.</p>

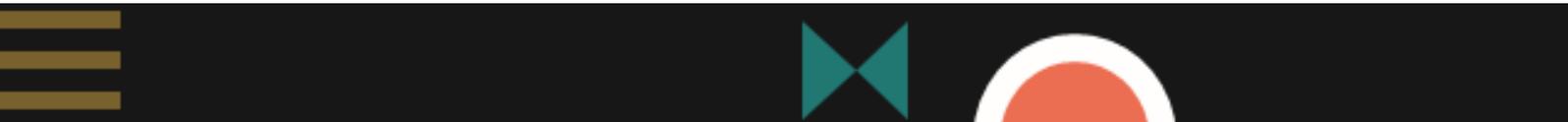


<b>Name:</b> Faith Mabera	
<b>Country</b>	South Africa
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	Volunteer at the Rock of Shelter Children's Home (2019-present)

<b>Name:</b> Pusetso Morapedi	
<b>Country</b>	Botswana
<b>Areas of Interest</b>	<p>           Youth Empowered Botswana is an Association I co-founded with one amazing woman Mrs Sizweni Carleton, who has been a mentor since the age of 14. My formal business is about selling the importance of integrity, accountability and transparency as approaches to fighting corruption and ensuring people benefit from public goods and services. In my interaction with young people, trying to understand their apathy in politics, but exuberance in party politics, I observed that empowerment was the biggest missing piece. We then established Youth Empowered Botswana to slowly work on an empowered youth, who has the confidence to engage with power and influence constructively. YEB has the following programmes in Education, Health, Social and Economic Empowerment with particular attention to enterprising and entrepreneurship.         </p> <p>           In 2018, a friend of mine and I started a program called the OBC Maruapula Reads Initiative (OMRI), which seeks to improve children literacy from one poor         </p>

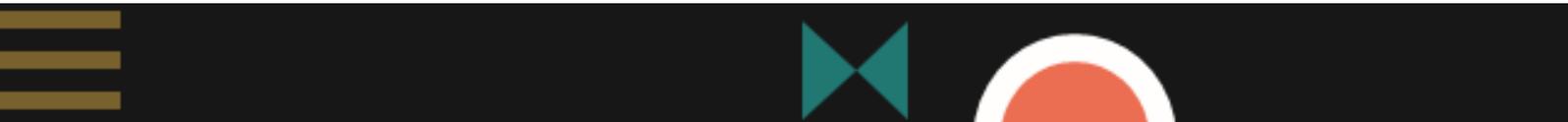
	<p>neighborhood not far from the church where we fellowship. On Saturdays, before COVID-19 closed down meetings, we would read (finger under word) with these young people in standards 1 to 7. We cook for them and share a meal with them. At the centre of this initiative is this, giving love and cultivating the pleasure of reading for improved pass rates in school. With the program we managed to be supported by a private school with books and ICASA with computers to help the young ones learn basic computer skills. This program is on a break until we get the green light to go back to meeting with pupils.</p>
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<p><b>Name:</b> Petronella Mukaindo</p>	
<p><b>Name</b></p>	Petronella Mukaindo
<p><b>Country</b></p>	Kenya
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>Believing that I am the greatest resource, I have been very keen on personal development as I fell this will enable me to be all that I can be and be a person of influence. As such, I have more recently in July just graduated from a Personal Finance Management master class- A ten-week course. I am also scheduled to complete a four-year mentorship programme under a mentorship group called Ripples which aims to raise exceptional God-centred individuals of kingdom influence. Upon completion of the programme end of this month, I will work to then see how to establish my own mentorship group.</p> <p>I like to mentor young women and girls. This I have done one on one and not in a structured manner, something I hope to be able to do in the near future.</p>



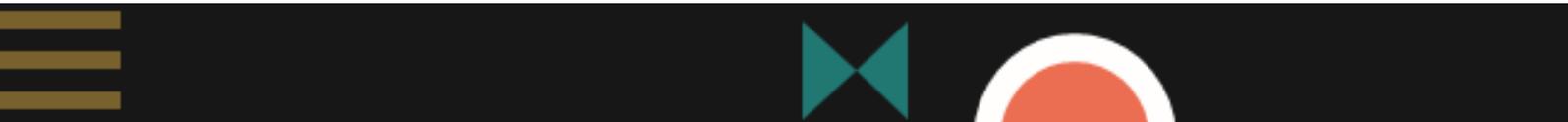
<p><b>Name:</b> Olebile Muzila</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Kenya</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>Adjudicating at Orate Africa competitions and moot court competitions-grooming young talent.</p> <p>GBV drive- under the Corporate Social Responsibility wing at Bookbinder-providing free legal advise to Gender based violence victims and survivors.</p>

<p><b>Name:</b> Lydia Mogiti Ochako</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Kenya</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>In my local community, I have organized my community in carrying out resource mobilization exercises that have aided the less privileged in society by providing for them basic needs such as food and clothing. It is worth noting that I do not do these mobilizations for publicity purposes.</p>

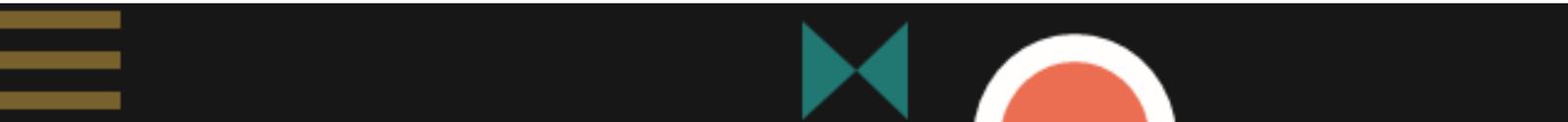


<p><b>Name:</b> Brenda Ochieng</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Kenya</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultancy - Training GBV victims on self-representation in court</li> <li>▪ I'm the Founder of Ecopads Africa - A reusable Sanitary towel with the aim of keeping girls in school under a national program called project Adapt a school.</li> <li>▪ Working with the International Peace Commission to award pre- eminent African leaders who have shown exemplary leadership - SDG Peace ambassadors</li> </ul>

<p><b>Name:</b> Jameelah Omar</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>South Africa</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>I am the founder of a legal education initiative called Right(s) From the Start. It is aimed at educating foundation phase learners (age 5 - 8) with core rights in the Bill of Rights, and to stimulate important conversations about dignity, equality and freedom as they encounter them in our diverse country.</p> <p>I have acted as an expert in various capacities for a few organisations, namely, Women's Legal Centre; Centre for Applied Legal Studies; and Tshisimani Activist Centre.</p>

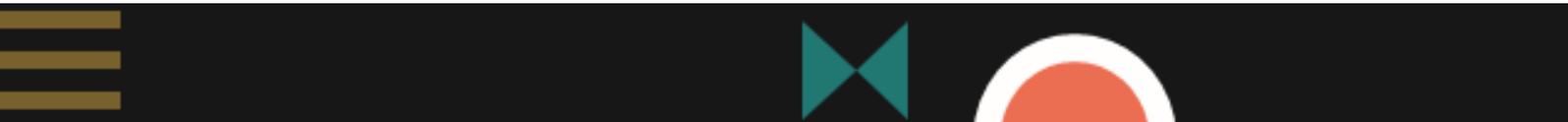


<p><b>Name:</b> Patricia Ouma</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Kenya</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>In March, 2021, I realised that there was a huge gap in legal academic research with respect to research and writing skills. I noted that several LL.M candidates were dropping out of their programmes on the final leg because they were unable to complete their theses. With that information, and having taken several courses on research and writing, I decided to begin a research consulting service to help such students complete their research courses through personalised training sessions. In this month of September 2021, my colleague and I have helped two Masters students not only complete their theses, but to pass with a strong A Grade. I am particularly proud of these students because they had given up on their LL.M programmes for two years, having been stuck on the thesis. I am happy to have created a service that is of direct benefit to students, and at the same time improves my skills in relation to my own research.</p> <p>I am also a mentor in a mentoring group called Zakike, which is a Swahili word for 'for women'. This group consists mostly of young women in diverse professions who mentor other young women in university or in early stages of their career in various areas such as job applications, networking, work-life balance, and emerging issues in the workplace.</p>

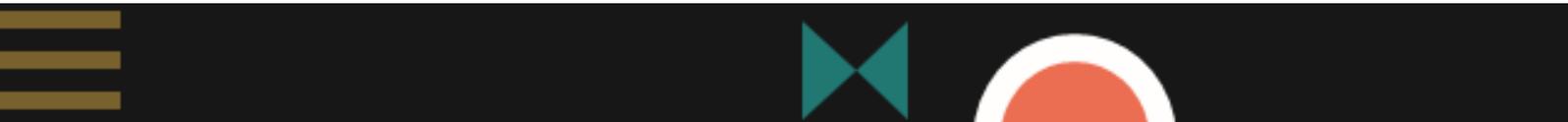


<p><b>Name:</b> Amelia Peterson</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Zimbabwe</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>Board leadership - current Board Chair for the Moon and Stars Foundation (U.S.)</p>

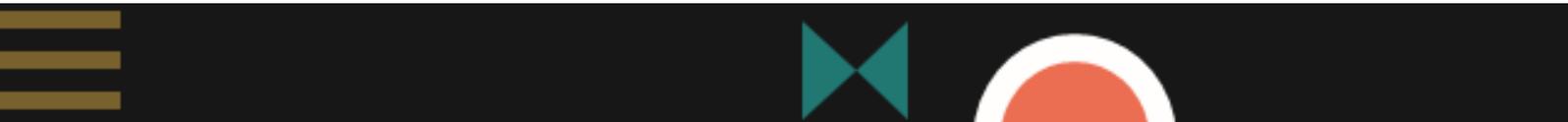
<p><b>Name:</b> Isatou Secka</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Gambia</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>Establishment and Training of Peace Committees in all 7 administrative regions in the Gambia - For conflict resolution peace mediation, Training of young women gender mainstreaming, Capacity building training on Women in Governance and decision making process, Sensitization on the role of women in peace building and conflict resolution, Intergenerational dialogue with Stakeholders on the importance of women involvement and leadership, participated in amendment of the Women bill in the Gambia, Mentored &amp; Coached young women to take leadership roles at community, regional, and national level, Co-founder of the NOT TOO YOUNG to run campaign in the Gambia during the 2017 Parliamentary election, Training of the Children National Assembly members on Public speaking, Sensitization programs on Sexual and Gender based Violence and regional and National level, Capacity building training on electoral process, Voters registration campaign were I supported young people with civic education, Radio and Tv programs on women and youths in decision making process.</p>



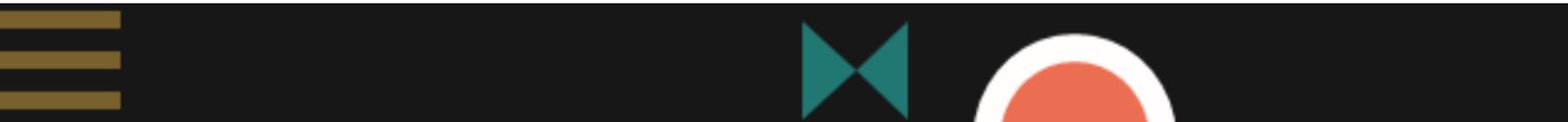
<p><b>Name:</b> Wame Danke</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Botswana</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>Mosadi Tota – partnering with young Batswana in the quest for information dissemination, protection of human rights, free legal advice and raising awareness of platforms available to the public for redress when violated. Also oriented towards business growth and talent grooming.</p> <p>Legal Ladies Botswana – I am part of an unregistered small group of lady lawyers which comprises of senior attorneys, young associates and a lady Justice of the Court of Appeal, which aims at mentoring and empowering the upcoming lady lawyers, empowering the society through pro-bono work and where possible tending to their immediate needs.</p> <p>Public Speaking – Making public speaking appearances in diverse platforms where stakeholders call in for skills impartation on diverse areas of the law merged with societal issues. Often called for media interviews with Botswana Television, Duma FM, Yarona FM, Gabs FM, Radio Botswana 1, and private companies’ information journals.</p>



<p><b>Name:</b> Lala Touray</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>The Gambia</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>I currently volunteer as the Country Coordinator of the Gender Center for Empowering Development, a non-profit organization which operates in different West African countries with the primary aim of increasing the participation and representation of women in political leadership.</p> <p>Since 2018, I have coordinated a series of activities in partnership with United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of Women's Affairs to promote the active political participation and meaningful political representation of Gambian women in politics.</p> <p>Since 2019, I have coordinated and implemented a total of 58 community dialogues in all 58 constituencies across the country to engage religious, political, traditional, and women leaders on the importance of speaking against and ending the patriarchy that defines and limits the role of women in political leadership.</p> <p>In December 2020, I lead a team of women leaders and with support from the United Nations Development Programme, we launched the country's first ever Annual Women In Politics Conference which brought together over 100 female politicians, public officials such as the country's first ever female Mayor, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, political partners and relevant stakeholders to discuss the need to collaborate efforts to promote the increased political representation of women during the country's 2021/2022/2023 electoral cycle.</p>



<p><b>Name:</b> Emmah Khisa Senge Wabuke</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Kenya</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>I have worked as a Consultant and mentor in different fora as follows. In 2021, I was part of a team commissioned by an NGO, KELIN Kenya, to develop a compendium of cases related to a human rights based approach to decriminalisation of abortion in selected jurisdictions. As part of the team, I conducted research, and met with stakeholders in developing the compendium and also proposed possible solutions to decriminalising abortion and protecting vulnerable women in Kenya which have been formally adopted by the NGO as part of its strategic goals. I am also currently working as a research mentor at Lumiere Education, an organisation dedicated to promoting research and intensive literacy skills to high school students across the world. In this position, I have been able to guide two students from South Asia in developing publishable research content on the impact of capitalism-based policies on rural women in Vietnam and the role of colonialism in criminalising sexual expression and gender identity in India respectively. I have also acted as a facilitator of a Human Rights Law Training Course, commissioned by International Justice Mission (IJM-Kenya) where I engaged with Human Rights Defenders from across Kenya on how best to conduct their work according to the existing laws and policies.</p>



<p><b>Name:</b> Emmah Njoki Wamai</p>	
<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p>Kenya</p>
<p><b>Areas of Interest</b></p>	<p>I founded the Black Cantabs Research Society in Cambridge to research and celebrate black alumni at Cambridge who are often not celebrated <a href="http://www.blackcantabs.org">www.blackcantabs.org</a>. I have also worked with community groups on social justice like the Social Justice groups in informal settlements in Kenya</p>

