



CSVR The Centre for the Study of
Violence and Reconciliation

Reg. No.: 1998/000544/08 Section 21 Reg. No.: Welfare 007-428 NPO

JOHANNESBURG OFFICE:
33 Hoofd Street, Braampark Forum 5, 3rd Floor
Johannesburg, 2001, South Africa
Tel: +27 (11) 403-5650 Fax: +27 (11) 339-6785

CAPE TOWN OFFICE:
501 Premier Centre,
451 Main Road, Observatory, 7925
Tel: +27 (21) 447 2470

14 February 2019

Press Statement on Adoption of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy:

A major milestone towards ensuring durable peace in Africa! CSV congratulates the African Union on the adoption of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP).

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) congratulates the African Union Heads of State and Government for adopting the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP) during the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on 10-11 February 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. CSV also wished to express heartfelt gratitude to the African Union Commission for leading the AUTJP development process over the last nine years.

In celebrating this momentous achievement, CSV reflects on the journey of developing this policy, the milestones and positive feedback from African Union Member States, some of whom have used various drafts of the AUTJP to implement their own national transitional justice processes. *“The nine-year-long journey of developing the policy has been a widely consultative one, bringing together, AU Member States, transitional justice experts, practitioners, the academia, AU organs and victim groups, women rights experts and youths, amongst others, to ensure that the policy reflects our lived realities and address our contextual experiences of both past and present violations”*, remarked Nomfundo Mogapi, Executive Director of CSV.

Through the developmental process of the AUTJP, the African rich experiences of addressing conflict, war and democratic deficits through transitional justice emerged, facilitating a process of taking stock of Africa’s best practices on peace, truth, reconciliation and reparations, amongst other transitional justice priorities. Furthermore, a Pan-Africanist approach to addressing consequences of Africa’s legacies of the past as root causes and manifestations of current conflicts also emerged, necessitating addressing past legacies towards achieving sustainable peace.

“By adopting the policy, the African Union is providing African Union Member States, African Transitional Justice Mechanisms, practitioners, victim groups and civil society actors, amongst other stakeholders, a guiding framework for addressing the consequences of conflict, wars, governance deficits, authoritarianism and other African crises and experiences with violence and human rights violations”, said Nomfundo Mogapi.

CSVR is a multi-disciplinary institute involved in research, policy formation, community interventions, service delivery, education and training, as well as providing consultancy services. The primary goal of CSV is to use its expertise in building reconciliation, democracy and a human rights culture and in preventing violence in South Africa and in other countries in Africa.

Board: Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu (Patron), Tefo Raditapole (Chairperson), Nomfundo Mogapi (Executive Director) Nontsikelelo Sisulu-Singapi, Judge Fayeza Kathree-Setiloane, Nokukhanya Ntuli, Prudence Malefu Madlokazi

CSVr extends its gratitude to the African Union Commission's Department of Political Affairs for the opportunity to be part of this achievement through providing technical support to the policy development process.

"The policy is a victory for the continent as whole, and its effective implementation requires that all Africans become aware of the policy and what it offers to address our diverse experiences of violence and violations", Mogapi observed.

For Further information, please contact:

- Ms Annah Moyo. amoyo@csvr.org.za 011 4035650/ +27737298860
- Ms. Sufiya Bray. sbray@csvr.org.za 011 4035650/ +27837433748