



Highlights

Weekly Highlights

April

Working towards peaceful, equal and violence free societies since 1989

#CSVR35



#UnitedAgainstTorture

Charlotte participated in the Global standards on Rehabilitation of Torture Victims training, in Kenya Nairobi. This was an amazing opportunity to learn from IRCT Members on the amazing work that is being done and share experiences of the work CSVR does in the fight against Torture.



Colombian and Turkish Embassy

During the month of April, Mary Izobo was invited by the Colombian and Turkish Embassy in South Africa, to participate in a panel discussion on “Working to Materialize African Women’s Agency” in Pretoria, South Africa. The discussions centred around gender equality, reproductive health rights, women’s empowerment, and the South-South Cooperation. The panel discussions underscored the collective commitment to advancing gender equality and amplifying the voices of African women on the global stage.



ECOWAS

On Monday, 22 April 2024, Mary visited the ECOWAS office in Abuja, Nigeria, where she engaged with Mr Serigne Ka, Head of the Election Assistance Division of ECOWAS. During the meeting, she outlined CSVR’s strategic vision and concrete plans aimed at fostering peace-building efforts and violence prevention initiatives, particularly during electoral processes.



COMESA

COMESA and the Republic of Burundi co-hosted a Regional Capacity Building Training for National Youth Councils, Youth-Based, and Youth-Focused Organizations from the East African Region in Gitega, Burundi. The training focused on implementing the Silencing the Guns Initiative, a crucial step towards peacebuilding in the East African region. Mary, representing CSVR as a partner of COMESA, attended the Capacity Building Training to contribute to conflict prevention efforts in the East African region.





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META Workshop

Tsamme, attended and engaged in a META workshop titled: “Navigating South Africa’s Election Online + Offline: Transparency in Focus.” The aim of the workshop was to delve into safety and preparedness resources, as well as shared efforts to curb the spread of misinformation and harmful content, particularly in the lead-up to the South African elections.



Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the stakeholder engagement, Tsamme attended a dialogue with HlanganiSA Community Fund for Social And Gender Justice. The purpose of the dialogue was to inform and engage on the current project called “The Sisterhood Advocates Approach to Combating GBV”. The project is aimed at capacity building and empowering either GBV Survivors in different communities.



AUTJP WORKSHOP

On the 25th April 2024, The Advocacy Team hosted an internal capacity building workshop with the CSVR Staff members on the African Union Transitional Justice Policy. The presenters were also from the ED’s office, Advocacy, MHPSS and Research team. Topics covered were as follows: Transitional Justice; Transitional Justice & Transitional governments; Traditional & Non-formal Practices; Gender & TJ; Gender &TJ and Climate Change & TJ.



30 Years of Democracy

Tsamme was invited to a “Intergenerational Dialogue and to commemorate 30 years of South African Democracy and Development”. These dialogue took place on 30th April 2024 and it was organised by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) in collaboration with the APRM, African Union, South African Ministers and Pan African Parliament. The dialogue also hosted other participants from our beautiful continent, Africa.





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Gender

Lindo participated in a stakeholder engagement organized by the Mogale City Local Municipality. The purpose of the event was to facilitate the exchange of insights and feedback from stakeholders regarding the Voluntary Local Review. The goal of the engagement was to gather stakeholder input and contributions to enrich the VLR and enhance the process going forward.



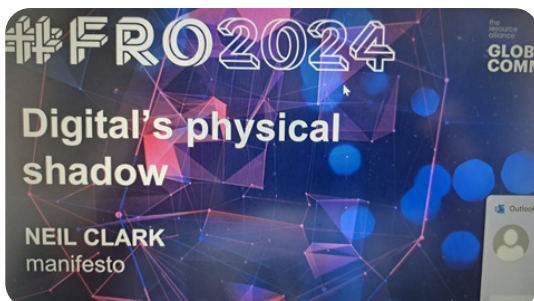
MHPSS

Elizabeth and Stacy were invited by the Ford Foundation for the First Annual General meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During the trip they met with the weaving resilience network inclusive of organizations and hubs from the global south with the objective to formally constitute the network.



Business Continuity

Karen attended the #FRO2024 conference, where cutting-edge content was delivered by fundraisers at the forefront of their field. The conference served as a platform for fundraisers to exchange insights and successes, showcasing real-world examples and offering practical ways to improve your own digital fundraising efforts.



Executive desk

CSVR and Swiss Peace and Human Rights division is embarking on a partnership to contribute towards preventing Gender-based Violence in South Africa





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Annah's trip to the states

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University of Illinois

During the month of April 2024, Annah undertook a trip to the University of Illinois and Boston College in the US where she was hosted by Prof Colleen Murphy (Illinois) and Prof Brinton Lykes (Boston)- the co-Editors in Chief for the IJTJ.



Boston College

On 10 April, she had a public talk with Boston College's graduate students on TJ and Gendered Dimensions of Harm: African Perspectives on How Far We Have Come on Incorporating Feminist Approaches to TJ, organised by the Centre for Human Rights and International Justice



IJTJ

On 11 April, she attended a meeting with Dr Hugo van Der Merwe, Prof Colleen Murphy and Prof Brinton Lykes - former and current co-Editors in Chief of the IJTJ. With the 20 years of the journal coming up in 2027, they discussed ideas for the 20th commemoration of the journal.



Discussions on TJ

On 8 March she had lunch conversations with graduate students on TJ, human rights, gender and inequality, responding to questions posed to her by the students. Later on, she had a meeting with Professor Jamelle Sharpe, the Dean for the Faculty of Law where she discussed the work of CSVSR, transitional justice more broadly, democracy and governance from practice perspectives.





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Gender

Naledi Joyi attended a 2-day workshop at the Southern Sun Hotel in Rosebank. Critical Conversations on Women Peace and Security in Africa: A Dialogue for Progress, this was a high-level dialogue hosted by International IDEA, Women in Political Participation, and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), supported by the Government of Sweden and the Embassy of Ireland in South Africa.



MHPSS

Amina conducted a session on the mental health impacts on survivors of forced and coerced sterilisation at the National Consultative meeting of HIV positive women who are victims of forced and coerced sterilisation in South Africa which was hosted by Her Rights Initiative and Heinrich Boll Foundation, supported by UN Women. The meeting took place in Durban KZN. CSVSR has held a significant role in supporting HRI through providing MHPSS support and expertise on mental health and torture in the context of obstetric violence.



Advocacy

CSVSR welcomed H.E. Ambassador Francis Oke, ECOWAS representative at the African Union. They reviewed the security situation in West Africa and explored strategies through which CSVSR can provide technical support to the current transitioning countries in the region.



CSVSR team

The CSVSR team hosted esteemed ambassadors from Denmark for an insightful discussion on the state of our democracy.





CSV

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Gender

Nonsi attended a 3-day Social Innovation Lab for GIZ's Partnerships for Prevention of GBV. The purpose of the lab is for organisations to partner in coming up with innovative ideas for GBV prevention.



Advocacy

Mary, Gugu and Bobuin conducted a capacity-building workshop for the Embassy of Guinea, covering topics such as the African Union Transitional Justice Policy, African Transitional Justice Approaches, and the integration of an early warning system into the Guinean framework. They also provided insights into the community work conducted in Guinea over the past five years.



Gender

CSV hosted a community dialogue in collaboration with partners such as Memeza Crime Prevention, Mangena Community Development, Tembisa SAPS, CPF and EMPD. The focus of the dialogue was on the use of technology in combating GBV and crime in Tembisa.



Executive Desk

Annah delivered a presentation on the gendered dimensions of violence and harm within the context of transitional justice at the Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice.

