

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW SYMPOSIUM IAFL WITH EALS AND CLA 2 September 2025

Session Resources Pack Session 1: Gender Inequality in Family Laws in Africa: An Overview Of Key Trends in 20 African Countries

*Tuesday 2 September 2025
09:15 – 09:30*

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 - Pat Moodley, IAFL (South Africa)
 - Esther Waweru, Senior Legal Adviser, Equality Now (Kenya)

PAT MOODLEY BA LLB LLM

Pat Moodley Legal Consultants Pty Ltd
PatM Mediations
+27827866339
South Africa

Email: patmoodley8@gmail.com
Website: www.pat-moodley-mediations-agbbgmwrari7g8ol.builder-preview.com/



During 35 years career in law, Pat Moodley has practised as an attorney, been a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Dean of the Law Faculty at the now University of Kwa Zulu Natal and spent 27-year term with the Department of Justice.

In these 27 years, Pat:

- was the first Black State Law Advisor appointed to the SA Law Reform Commission, responsible for drafting the Child Justice Act and helped draft the Children's Act and Sexual Offences Act
- served as a Family Court Magistrate
- was appointed Provincial Head of the Department of Justice, Kwa Zulu Natal

Pat has completed a Diplomatic Training course (Washington DC); participated in the Child Law programme (London Metropolitan University); trained Judicial Officers (Namibia and Kenya). She has presented papers on Family and Child Law at conferences and is an accredited Family Law Mediator and Arbitrator.

ESTHER WAWERU

**Equality Now
Nairobi
Kenya**

Email: ewaweru@equalitynow.org

Website: equalitynow.org



Esther Waweru is a seasoned human rights lawyer and Advocate of the High Court of Kenya with over 14 years' experience, specializing in gender equality, anti-discrimination, and the rights of women and girls. She serves as Senior Legal Advisor at Equality Now's Africa Office, where she leads regional efforts to end sex discrimination in law and advance the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

Esther also coordinates the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition, a network of over 70 organizations across 30+ African countries committed to women's rights advocacy. Her work over the years has included strategic litigation, legal reform, and transitional justice, with engagements at national, regional, and international levels—including the International Criminal Court.

She previously held key legal roles at the Centre for Reproductive Rights, the Kenya Human Rights Commission, and in private practice. Esther holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master's in International Studies.