

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW SYMPOSIUM IAFL WITH EALS AND CLA

Trademark Hotel, Village Market, Nairobi

Program as at 15 August 2025

Tuesday 2 September	
09:00 - 09:15	INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME Moderator: Patricia Mundia, IAFL Faith Odhiambo , President, Law Society of Kenya Ramadhan Abubakar , President, East Africa Law Society (Kenya) Maria Mbeneka , Treasurer, Commonwealth Lawyers Association (Kenya) Rachael Kelsey , President, International Academy of Family Lawyers (Scotland)
09:15 - 09:30	SESSION 1
	GENDER INEQUALITY IN FAMILY LAWS IN AFRICA: An Overview Of Key Trends in 20 African Countries Moderator: Pat Moodley, IAFL Esther Waweru , Senior Legal Adviser, Equality Now (Kenya)
09:30 - 10:30	SESSION 2
	CROSS BORDER AJS AND NCDR Moderator: Patricia Mundia, IAFL Speakers: Chacha Odera (Kenya)

	<p>Anthony Asiimwe (Uganda)</p> <p>Prisca Chogero (Tanzania)</p> <p>Meseret Bahiru Temesghen (Ethiopia)</p> <p>Efe Etomi (Nigeria)</p>
10:30 - 11:00	Tea and Networking
11:00 – 11:15	SESSION 3
	<p>AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)</p> <p>Moderator: Pat Moodley, IAFL</p> <p>Speaker: <i>to be confirmed</i></p>
11:15 - 13:00	SESSION 4
	<p>HAGUE CONVENTIONS IN AFRICA: Adoption, Abduction and Child Support Conventions</p> <p>Moderator: Maria Mbeneka, Commonwealth Lawyers Association</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Judge Constance Baratang Mocumie, Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal (South Africa) • Phillipe Lortie, First Secretary, Hague Conference on Private International Law HCCH (Netherlands) • Adelaide Benneh Prempeh (Ghana) • Leah Kiguatha (Kenya) • The Hon. Associate Chief Justice Gwen Hatch of the Court of King's Bench (Family Division) (Manitoba, Canada) • Joëlle Schickel-Küng (Switzerland)

13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:15	SESSION 5
	<p>CHILD RIGHTS' IMPLEMENTATION, DATA, IDENTITY AND PROTECTION</p> <p>Moderator: Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Lecturer, Kabarak University, School of Law (Kenya)</p> <p>Speakers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nankali Maksud, Child Protection Regional Advisor, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Office (Kenya) • Mia Dambach, Executive Director, Child Identity Protection (Switzerland) • Everlyne Simiju, Directorate of Strategy, Planning & Organizational Productivity, Judiciary of Kenya (Kenya) • Diahann Gordon Harrison, Children's Advocate of Jamaica (Jamaica) • Rachael Kelsey, IAFL and CLA Family Law Committee Member (Scotland)
15:15 - 16:15	SESSION 6
	<p>SURROGACY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS</p> <p>Moderator: Patricia Mundia, IAFL</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Millie Grace Akoth Odhiambo Mabona, Member of Parliament (Kenya) • Karabo Ozah, Director of the Centre for Child Law (South Africa) • Prof Jens Scherpe, Aalborg University (Denmark) • Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen, (South Africa)

16:15 - 16:45	SESSION 7
	<p>CRADLE- A Celebration</p> <p>Chaired by Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Lecturer, Kabarak University, School of Law (Kenya)</p>
16:45 - 17:00	<p>Close</p> <p>Rachael Kelsey, IAFL (Scotland)</p>
17:00 – 18:30	Drinks Reception