

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**



Conference: Religion and Inequality in Southern Africa

University of Botswana, VAPA Theatre (Block 253)

11 – 12 November 2024

Pre-Conference Event of the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, Gaborone, Botswana (10 – 13 December 2024)

Programme

IN // RCSD

International Network on Religious Communities
and Sustainable Development

Day 1 (11 November 2024)

9h00 – 10h30 Welcome Session (Chair: Dr Rosinah Gabaitse)

- Prof. David Norris, Vice-Chancellor, University of Botswana – *Welcome Remarks*
- Ms Gabriela Bennemann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany – *Words of Greeting*
- Dr Philipp Öhlmann, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana – *Overview of the Conference*
- Prof. Fidelis Nkomazana, Dean, Faculty of Humanities – *Introduction of Keynote Speaker*
- Keynote: Prof. Tabona Shoko, University of Zimbabwe
The Nexus of Religion and Gender Inequality in Landlocked Developing Countries – Exploring Post-colonial Dynamics in Southern Africa

10h30 – 11h00 Tea Break

11h00 – 13h00 Paper Presentations – 2 Parallel Sessions

Session 1A (Chair: Abel Tabalaka):

- **Fatima Selaledi:** *Complexities of Botho in the Era of HIV and AIDS and Its Implications for Gender Equality in Southern Africa*
- **Opelo Mbakile:** *Intersection of Faith and Justice: Examining the Role of Religious and Cultural Economic Ethics in Promoting Equity and Social Justice in Southern Africa*
- **Pako Beregame:** *Bridging Divides: Leveraging Religious and Cultural Values to Foster Inclusion and Empower Marginalized Communities*
- **Tshenolo Jennifer Madigele:** *Bridging the Gap: Indigenous Knowledge and Mental Health Services for Youth in Botswana*
- **Andy Chebanne:** *Christian Prosperity Ministry Churches and the Impoverishment of Poor Believers*

Session 1B Virtual (Chair: Doreen Sesiro):

- **Alfred Wonyaka:** *Religion and Indigenous knowledge on health care Practice in Uganda*
- **Macloud Sipeyiye:** *Troubling Marginality: Elderly Women and Socio-Economic Transformation among the Ndau of South-Eastern Zimbabwe*
- **Sharon Chilora Manda:** *Faithful Yet Subservient: Women's Roles and Gender Inequality in the Church of Central African Presbyterian in Malawi*
- **Andrew David Omona:** *Religion and Socio-Economic (In)-Justice in Africa*
- **Medard Rugyendo:** *The Biblical Contribution towards Caring for the Vulnerable in Society: Implications for the Church Today*
- **Moses Stephen Isabirye:** *The Contribution of Religious Communities to Social Services: A Case of African Indigenous Pentecostal Christianity of the Deliverance Church in Busoga, Uganda*
- **Simbarashe Munamati:** *Churches as Safe Spaces for the Engagement and Empowerment of Marginalised Communities: A Case Study of the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe*

13h00 – 14h00 Lunch Break

14h00 – 16h00 Drivers of Change: Youth Agency in Social Transformation and Sustainable Development

Workshop session; in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Botswana

16h00 – 16h30 Reception/Tea

Day 2 (12 November 2024)

9h00 – 10h30 Paper Presentations – Plenary (Chair: Musa Dube)

- **Gabriel Faimau:** *Religious Practice, Digital Ethics and Digital Inequality: The Case of Prophetic Churches in Southern Africa*
- **Esther Nkhukhu-Orlando:** *Contextualised Religion: Decolonizing the Southern African Christian*
- **Refilwe Raseroka:** *Incorporating Botho Values to Protect the Widow's Right to Access and Inherit Land in Botswana: can we learn anything from the daughters of Zelophad?*
- **Malebogo Kgalemag:** *Parallels and Paradoxes: Exploring the Nexus of Political Power and Religious Authority*

10h30 – 11h00 Tea Break

11h00 – 13h00 Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Healing Workshop session

13h00 – 14h00 Lunch Break

14h00 – 15h30 Paper Presentations – 2 Parallel Sessions

Session 2A (Chair: Stephen Nawa):

- **Rumbidzai Mashava:** *Justice as Highly Contested: Religion-Politics Nexus in Zimbabwe*
- **Ronaldo Katlego Lenyeletse:** *Religion, Culture, and Inequality: Exploring the Role of Religious Communities in Southern Africa*
- **Tlotlego Abram:** *"Prophets of Justice" How Religious Communities Confront Social Injustices, the case of Apartheid, South Africa*
- **Gaone Vivian Olesitse and Baamphatla Dinama:** *Botho, Class, and Power: Examining the Limits of Botho in Bridging Socio-economic Gaps in Botswana*

Session 2B (Chair: Tshenolo Madigele):

- **Abigail Nthuba:** *The right of Sex workers to access to health services in Botswana vis-à-vis health workers' right to conscientious objection*
- **Kelebogile Matolela:** *Nnang Basadi (Women Sit Down) or Emang Basadi (Women Stand Up)?*
- **Macdelyn Mosalagae and Leslie Nthoi:** *From the Collective Unconsciousness to Deliberate Consciousness: A Critique of Mythologically-based Misogyny.*
- **Ernest Mkhutshwa:** *TBC*

15h30 – 16h00 Tea Break

16h00 – 17h00 Closing Session (Chair: Philipp Öhlmann)

- **Statement by Conference Rapporteur:** Boga Manatsha, Department of History, University of Botswana
- **Statement by UN Resident Coordinator:** Zia Chowdhury
- **Final Discussion**