



Invitation | Colloquium and launch of UFS Africa Reparation Hub

The Department of Public Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of the Free State in South Africa presents a colloquium on the theme *Unifying Africa for Action to Advance Reparatory Justice and Launch of the UFS Africa Reparation Hub*

Date: 06 June 2024 | Time: 11:00–16:00

Please click on the link below to RSVP

 <https://forms.office.com/r/6T2nS1YQ4X?origin=lprLink>

 [Click here for the online event](#)

BACKGROUND

The quest for Africa's reparation for past and contemporary violations and injustices has gained momentum. Significant milestones include the adoption of the African Union resolution in favour of building a united front to advance justice and the payment of reparations to Africans.

Reparatory justice has been part of international discussions relating to people of African descent at least since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in 2001, which established the link between past tragedies and crimes, including slavery, the slave trade, colonialism and contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. The call to build a united front to advance the cause of justice and reparation to Africans was therefore preceded by other historical developments, including the Abuja Proclamation of 1993, following the first Pan-African Conference on Reparations. The UN Secretary General has recommended that states take a comprehensive approach, grounded in international human rights law, that seeks to address legacies of the past to build societies free from systemic racism and racial discrimination.

Such an approach should be participatory, gender-sensitive, inclusive, and should combine a plurality of measures. The Accra Proclamation on Reparations specifically calls for solidarity in creating and operationalising both normative and institutional structures to facilitate reparatory justice on the African continent. The challenge of our time and generation is the transformation of rhetoric to reality.

Following the University of the Free State's Vision 130, this 120-year-old institution situated in the heart of South Africa has established an institutional hub to consolidate the continent's efforts towards reparatory justice. The UFS Africa Reparation Hub, located in the Department of Public Law within the Faculty of Law, serves as the anchor for uncensored dialogue on the thorny subject of Africa's reparation. The hub hosts the database (of resources) on Africa's reparation and provides a potential home for an expert group on the subject. The Faculty of Law therefore invites academics, policymakers, human rights and justice professionals, representatives of international, regional, and national bodies to a colloquium on *Unifying Africa for Action to Advance Reparatory Justice*, scheduled to take place virtually on Thursday 6 June 2024. The colloquium will also include the launch of the UFS Africa Reparation Hub.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



PROF VERENE SHEPHERD

Director Centre for Reparations Research, University of West Indies, Jamaica.

SPEAKERS



PROF SERGES KAMGA

Dean, Faculty of Law, University of the Free State.



MR MARTIN MASIGA

Secretary General, Africa Judges and Jurists Forum.



DR AHMED BUGRI

Senior Expert and Coordinator for Reparatory Justice and Racial Healing, African Union.



PROF KULA THELESTANE

Director, Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs in SADC.

MODERATOR



DR CATHERINE NAMAKULA

Convenor: Africa Reparation Hub, Faculty of Law, University of the Free State

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