



African Ombudsman and Mediators Association
Association des Ombudsman et Médiateurs Africains
Associação dos Ombudsman e Mediadores Africanos

Office of the President

Luanda - Angola

**AOMA PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS FOR THE WEBINAR OF
AUGUST 27TH, 2024, ON THE ROLE OF THE OMBUDSMAN IN
GENDER EQUITY, IN LIGHT OF THE CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S
MONTH.**

27TH OF AUGUST 2024

HONORABLE ADV. KHOLEKA GCALEKA
PUBLIC PROTECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
AND Chairperson OF THE BOARD OF THE AORC RESEARCH CENTER,

HONORABLE NASHIELI RAMIREZ HERNANDES
PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO
AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL Ombudsman INSTITUTE (IOI),

HONORABLE JUDGE
FLORENCE MUNBA
FORMER OMBUDSMAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,

HONORABLE
PROFESSOR, LINDIWE MAQUTU
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAW FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU
NATAL,

HONORABLE COLLEAGUES, OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

First of all, I express my deep satisfaction, on behalf of the Association of African Ombudsman and Mediators Association, AOMA, for this webinar where knowledge and experiences is to be shared.

It is always a time of great expectation.

We must all welcome and support these activities for the good of the institutions we lead and represent, such activities empowers the Ombudsman to fulfill it's mandates, which consists of serving the citizen.

I particularly salute the African Ombudsman Research Center, AORC, and the International Institute of Ombudsmen, IOI, for organizing.

Today's webinar aims to debate the role of the Ombudsman in promoting and defending gender equity in our communities, seeking to raise awareness in society about the need to make the necessary efforts so that more and more women around of the world knows and understands their rights to avoid continuing to be victims of various violations, as was the case in the past and which, today, is still a reality.

The Ombudsman, as a promoter and guarantor of citizens' fundamental rights, contributes significantly to a virtuous, impartial society that respects the equal rights of all who live in it, using various mechanisms to promote these rights.

I believe it is of great importance that we talk, through webinars like this one, workshops, lectures and community events, about the different injustices faced by women around the world, as well as about the lack of equity in the workplace or in society, that we talk about economic exclusion, domestic violence, psychological and sexual violence, discrimination regarding physical integrity and autonomy to their bodies, and exclusion from education are rights that deserve special attention from institutions like ours, the Office of the Ombudsmen.

Therefore, I appeal to all Ombudsmen to have a mechanism to protect and defend the rights of women who are victims of violations of their rights,

so that women, through our institutions, can find support and protection for their rights and that their Violators are held exemplarily responsible.

We hope that this webinar will bring a reflection that we all need, as well as solutions to reduce the problem of violation of women's rights in our societies.

Thank you very much.

THE OMBUDSMAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AND PRESIDENTE OF AOMA,

ANTÓNIA FLORBELA ROCHA ARAÚJO

QUESTION TO THE PAINEL

Modern society has chosen to bring, for the most part, issues related to gender equality into debates on human rights, where men and women are human beings with equal rights. However, the emphasis in these debates falls on women.

Could this type of methodological positioning not create, in the near future, an inversion of the positions between men and women, to the point where men feel underestimated and under-valued, instead of balancing the positions? What role can the Ombudsman play in these cases?