



**THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN RESEARCH CENTRE (AORC)**  
A RESEARCH AND TRAINING ARM OF  
THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS ASSOCIATION (AOMA)  
IN COLLABORATION  
WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE (IOI)

- Cordially invite you to a webinar -

**Showcasing Specialised Ombudsman Offices:  
Children's Ombudsman**

Ombudsman institutions are essential in protecting human rights and promoting accountability. Children's Ombudsman offices focus specifically on safeguarding the rights and welfare of children. These offices ensure that policies, services, and practices affecting children are fair, just, and comply with international human rights standards. Given the unique vulnerabilities faced by children, these specialised Ombudsman offices are critical for addressing issues such as child protection, access to education, healthcare, and social services.

The objective of this webinar is to highlight the role, functions, and best practices of Children's Ombudsman offices. It will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange on how these institutions advocate for children's rights, investigate complaints, and influence policy changes to foster a safer and more equitable environment for children.

Children's Ombudsman offices play a crucial role in safeguarding children's rights and ensuring their voices are heard. While many organisations are involved in advocating for and protecting children, this webinar will explore the unique functions of these specialised offices in complementing the work of other child rights institutions. It will focus on their contributions to child protection, education, healthcare, and social services, highlighting their ability to independently investigate complaints, advocate for policy reforms, and address systemic issues that affect children. The session will also explore the challenges these offices face, such as government compliance, limited resources, and public awareness, and will encourage collaboration with other child rights actors to strengthen child protection mechanisms.

**PLEASE CLICK ON THE RSVP LINK IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THE WEBINAR.**

**DATE**

TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2025

**TIME**

10H00 – 11H30 AM SA (GMT + 2)

**SPEAKERS**

HON. ANEETA GHORAH

OMBUDSPERSON FOR CHILDREN - MAURITIUS

The Role and Mandate of Children's Ombudsman Offices – Understanding how these offices advocate for children's rights

HON. STANS GOUDSMIT

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN - ROTTERDAM

Case Studies: Effective Interventions and Advocacy Efforts – Real-life examples of how Ombudsman offices have successfully protected children.

&

HON. CHRISTINA NOMDO

WESTERN CAPE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN – SOUTH AFRICA

Collaboration between Children's Ombudsman offices, government, NGO's and international organizations in promoting child rights.

**FACILITATOR**

HON. OSWALD D REDDY MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED)

WESTERN CAPE POLICE OMBUDSMAN

SOUTH AFRICA

**CLICK HERE TO RSVP**

Please note that there will be no live question and answers due to time constraints. Participants may however submit relevant questions to Franky Lwelela ([FrankyAorc@pprotect.org](mailto:FrankyAorc@pprotect.org)) or Marion Adonis ([MarionAorc@pprotect.org](mailto:MarionAorc@pprotect.org)) by 10:00 on Monday, 24 March 2025 or use the Q & A function during the webinar. Time has been allocated for a response to questions raised before and during the session. If there is insufficient time to respond to all, the questions and answers will be posted on our website [www.aoma.ukzn.ac.za](http://www.aoma.ukzn.ac.za).

**ENQUIRIES ONLY**

**Marion Adonis**

Email : [MarionAORC@pprotect.org](mailto:MarionAORC@pprotect.org)

OR

**Franky Lwelela**

Email : [FrankyAORC@pprotect.org](mailto:FrankyAORC@pprotect.org)

# SPEAKER & FACILITATOR PROFILES



**Hon. Aneeta GHOORAH**, from Educator to Director Education, through Rectorship, Hon. Ghoorah has gradually climbed the ladder and gained experience in all facets of Administration, management, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects. A motivated and resourceful, professional with 39 years of experience. Track record supporting professional needs with well-organized precision. Highly efficient planning, problem-solving, and communication skills. Ability to work in a team and customer focused as well as solution driven. Moreover, Mrs Aneeta Ghoorah has been Assistant Secretary /Secretary General of the National Commission UNESCO from 2012 until she retired in January 2024. Accordingly, she is very

much familiar with the programmes of Education, Science as well as Information Communication and Technology under the aegis of UNESCO. Mrs Ghoorah worked in close collaboration with the office of the UN Resident Coordinator in her capacity as SG, NatCom UNESCO and with our Embassy in Paris. She has been appointed as Ombudsperson for Children as from February 2024.

**Hon. Stans Goudsmit** is the local children's Ombudsman in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Appointed by the local council in 2018, Stans just started her second term. Stans is also appointed as substitute local Ombudsman. Being a human rights lawyer, protecting children's rights is at the core of her work. Stans is a former member of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (2008 – 2017). She focused on improving the rights of people with a disability and on combating discrimination. Before that she was a lawyer at a renowned immigration law office in the Netherlands (1997 – 2007). She was on the supervisory board of Defence for Children - ECPAT Netherlands (2017-2022).



**Hon. Commissioner Christina Nomdo** was appointed as the Western Cape Commissioner for Children for a five-year term from 1 June 2020. Her mandate is to promote and protect the rights, needs, and interests of children in the Province. The Commissioner is an oversight mechanism for the Department of Education, Health, Social Development, as well as Cultural Affairs and Sport. Christina has worked professionally for over 30 years on issues affecting children's rights. Christina holds a Master's degree from the University of Cape Town. Christina is passionate about children's participation in governance.

**Hon. Major General Oswald D Reddy** is a certified leadership and life coach, trainer, and teacher with the John Maxwell Team. On 01 October 2021, he was appointed as the 3rd Western Cape Police Ombudsman since the establishment of the office in December 2014. He is a police veteran with over 39 years of experience in various facets of policing and has held the rank of Major General in the South African Police Service for 19 years. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University (USA), a Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of South Africa amongst other qualifications.

