


WEBINAR

Friday 21 August 2020 | 10:00 – 11:30

# CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Zoom link  and password will be sent to registered participants one hour before the webinar.

Kindly RSVP by 14 August 2020 to Ms. Isabel Magaya

Email  [isabel.magaya@up.ac.za](mailto:isabel.magaya@up.ac.za)

The Centre for Child Law invites you to join us for a launch of our report, '**Child Trafficking in South Africa: exploring the myths and realities**'. A presentation of the findings of the report will be followed by responses from experts in the field of children on the move, child protection, human trafficking, sex work and gender-based violence as well as a Q & A session with all participants.

## BACKGROUND

In South Africa child trafficking has become a central concern for both the State and non-State actors. However, very little reliable data exists to determine the nature and scope of the problem in the country and confusion around the definition of human trafficking also means that it is regularly conflated with human smuggling and other forms of irregular migration of both adults and children.

Based on concerns that claims of 'child trafficking' and 'child protection' are being erroneously used to justify measures and practices that violate the rights of children this study commissioned by the Centre for Child Law (University of Pretoria) explores the current child migration/trafficking context in South Africa. Drawing on empirical research the report shows that despite a progressive framework of laws and policies designed to protect the rights of children in South Africa, including non-nationals, the realities of children on the move are being regularly ignored. Furthermore, the use of unsubstantiated claims about child trafficking are being used to justify repressive policies and practices, which subsequently, places children at greater risk.








CENTRE FOR  
CHILD LAW



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## CHAIR: MRS KARABO OZAH – DIRECTOR: CENTRE FOR CHILD LAW



### 10:00–10:05 | WELCOME: MRS KARABO OZAH

Director: Centre for Child Law – University of Pretoria



### 10:05–10:10 | INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY: MS. ISABEL MAGAYA

Project Coordinator: Centre for Child Law – University of Pretoria

## 10:10–10:30 | OVERVIEW OF STUDY AND KEY FINDINGS



### DR REBECCA WALKER

Research Associate: The African Centre for Migration & Society University of the Witwatersrand

With a background in Social Anthropology Dr Rebecca Walker focuses broadly on gender, migration and health using an intersectional lens. Rebecca is a Research Associate with the [African Centre for Migration & Society \(ACMS\)](#), Wits University where she has worked since 2014 exploring a wide range of issues including xenophobia and gender-based violence, sex worker rights and vulnerabilities and human trafficking within the context of irregular migration and securitisation. Emphasising the importance of rigorous, empirical and ethical research Rebecca uses different approaches, including ethnographic fieldwork and participatory, arts-based methodologies. She has published widely, both independently and collaboratively on these areas of interest.



### DR STANFORD MAHATI

Research Associate: The African Centre for Migration & Society University of the Witwatersrand

Dr. Stanford Taonotse Mahati obtained his PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa as well as a Masters and an Undergraduate degree in Sociology and Social Anthropology from the University of Zimbabwe. A Zeit Stiftung Foundation "Settling into Motion" alumni (Germany) and Research Associate at the African Centre for Migration & Society at the University of the Witwatersrand, Stanford specialises in the sociology and social anthropology of childhood, child migration, displacement and public health. He has extensive experience in conducting research and has published (independently and collaboratively) in these areas.

## RESPONDENTS

### 10:30–10:40 | MR. NYIKA MACHENJEDZE

Nyika is the Migration and Emergencies Manager with Save the Children, South Africa. He has 12 years' experience in humanitarian and development work including in the area of child protection during emergencies. He has held several senior positions at different organisations including at the Trauma Centre and Families, South Africa. He is currently completing his 3rd Masters research on protection of migrant children in South Africa with the University of Johannesburg.

### 10:40–10:50 | DR MARCEL VAN DER WATT

Dr Marcel van der Watt is a senior lecturer at the University of South Africa (UNISA); Research Director for the Global Resource Epicenter against Human Trafficking; and Human Trafficking Case Manager for the National Freedom Network. He is an ex-member of the Hawks (DPCI) and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit. It was in his role as police official during 2002 when he first came across the trafficking (TIP) of women and girls in the sex trade. He has provided expert court testimony in a number of TIP matters, and consults on issues related to intelligence, investigations and prosecutions in TIP cases.

### 10:50–11:00 | MS. SALLY SHACKLETON

Sally Shackleton works for Frontline AIDS, as Lead HIV Technical: Key Populations. She has worked in civil society organisations for over 25 years, always with a focus on the rights and freedoms of marginalised populations, including sex workers. She was previously the director of the Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task force (SWEAT) in South Africa, an organisation that works to address stigma, improve health programming, deliver direct service, improve visibility and voice, and advocate for the decriminalisation of sex work.

## 11:00–11:30 | Q & A SESSION