



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 -

Understanding Human Rights Frameworks: Integrating International Standards into Ombudsman Practice

The true strength of an Ombudsman institution lies not only in addressing individual complaints, but in safeguarding the human rights of all citizens and ensuring systemic protections. This dynamic webinar will explore how international human rights frameworks can be effectively integrated into Ombudsman practice to enhance accountability, advocacy, and impact.

Across Africa, Ombudsman offices often operate under challenging conditions, balancing legal mandates, institutional limitations, and public expectations. Understanding and applying international standards can empower offices to strengthen human rights protection, guide investigations, and influence policy reforms.

What to Expect:

- Insight into key international and regional human rights instruments every Ombudsman should know.
- Practical strategies for promoting and defending human rights through Ombudsman advocacy.
- Tools for integrating human rights standards into casework, reporting, and systemic recommendations.
- Real-life examples and peer learning opportunities from experienced Ombudsman leaders

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

DATE

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2025

TIME

10H00 – 11H30 AM SA (GMT + 2)

SPEAKERS

SPEAKER 1 - S.E. AMBASSADEUR MAHMOUD KAREM
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, EGYPT

Key International Human Rights Instruments: What Every Ombudsman Should Know – Reviewing fundamental human rights treaties and conventions.

SPEAKER 2 - HON. MARIANA LAURO
PRISON OMBUDSMAN'S NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN OFFICE OF ARGENTINA

Defence strategies to improve the protection of human rights: Bridging Policy and Practice – Examining the Ombudsman's role in promoting and protecting human rights.

SPEAKER 3 - HON. FUNGAYI JESSIE MAJOME
CHAIRMAN, ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Practical strategies to overcome resistance to implementation and drive systemic change

FACILITATOR

MS CHRISSY EBELING
PROJECT MANAGER - INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE (IOI)

[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) or Marion Adonis (MarionAorc@pprotect.org) by 10:00 on Tuesday, 09 December 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.

ENQUIRIES ONLY

Marion Adonis

Email : MarionAORC@pprotect.org

OR

Franky Lwelela

Email : FrankyAORC@pprotect.org

SPEAKER & FACILITATOR PROFILES



H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem is the President of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) in Egypt and a distinguished diplomat and scholar specializing in international security, disarmament, and multilateral diplomacy. He previously served as Egypt's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Communities, NATO, and Japan, and held senior roles in Egypt's UN missions in New York and Geneva. He has contributed to global disarmament efforts through the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, IAEA expert groups, and multiple UN peace and security panels. Dr. Karem holds a PhD from the United States with multiple academic distinctions and has taught international relations at AUC, MIU, Takushoku University, and

the Egyptian Institute for Diplomatic Studies. His scholarship includes a book on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East and numerous publications on disarmament and regional security. Throughout his career, he has received Belgium's Order of the Crown, Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, and Egyptian national honors. He has served on the boards of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs and the NATO Defense College Foundation, and held multiple terms as Secretary-General of the NCHR. He was also Campaign Manager for President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's 2014 and 2018 campaigns, appointed rapporteur of the Arab Summit's "Committee of the Wise" on disarmament, and served as a member of Japan's Foreign Ministry Group of Eminent Persons. In June 2025, Ambassador Karem assumed responsibilities as Acting President of the NCHR, guiding the Council's efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and advance human rights protection in Egypt.

Hon. Mariana Lauro is an Argentine lawyer and specialist in human rights and penitentiary systems, with more than twenty-five years of experience in the defense and protection of people deprived of liberty. She's a Bachelor in Law, with a minor in Criminal Law, from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). She is currently completing a Diploma on Inter-American Court of Human Rights jurisprudence for National Mechanisms for the Prevention of Torture. Her professional background also includes roles in the Ministry of Justice, the Buenos Aires University Legal Department, and the Federal Judiciary. Since 2022, she has served as Deputy Director-General for Human Rights Protection, following eight years as Director for Vulnerable Groups in Prison, where she led specialized teams on gender and sexual diversity, children and young adults, foreign nationals, and people with disabilities. Mariana is an experienced academic and lecturer. At University of Buenos Aires, she teaches on human rights, prison law, and criminal law at various universities since 1991. She has lectured extensively in national and international forums, including the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the United Nations Crime Congress, UNICEF, and Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen. Mariana is the author and co-author of several publications on prison conditions, institutional violence, gender and incarceration, and national torture registries, and the PPN's annual empirical reports on torture and ill-treatment.



Hon. Fungayi Jessie Majome was appointed Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) on 20 March 2024. In the same year, she was elected as GANHRI Bureau Member representing Southern Africa and became the inaugural Chairperson of the SADC Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions in 2024. From 2008 to 2018, Ms. Majome served as a Member of Parliament representing Harare West. During this period, she was Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister for Justice, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs and later served as Deputy Minister for Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development. She also chaired the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. During Zimbabwe's 2009–2013 constitution-making process, she was a spokesperson and co-

vice chair of the Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC) that was responsible for the development of the new Constitution. She has served on several boards, including the Ndabaningi Sithole Foundation and the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers' Association. Before joining the ZHRC, she served as a Commissioner at the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission.

Ms. Chrissy Ebeling works as a project manager for the General Secretariat of the International Ombudsman Institute and the international unit of the Austrian Ombudsman Board. With her expertise in the practical implementation of human rights, she coordinates and prepares the contributions of the Austrian Ombudsman Board for the periodic state reviews under the United Nations treaty bodies as well as country visits of the Council of Europe. This work entails, for instance, attending preparation meetings, drafting shadow reports, and participating in debriefings. Most recently, she was involved in the Ombudsman Board's contribution to Austria's fourth Universal Periodic Review. She holds an LL.M. in International and European Law from Tilburg Law School in the Netherlands and previously worked at a human rights research institute, focusing on linking human rights law with practice.

