

## Public Interest Law Gathering – Women’s Legal Centre Side Event

Join us at the Public Interest Law Gathering 2017 at a Women’s Legal Centre side event that will explore the challenges faced in regard to violence against women. The panel will discuss police accountability and the victim’s constitutional rights regarding the withdrawal of sexual offences cases in the criminal justice system.

Date

**Monday, 24 July 2017**

Time:

**10:00 – 11:30**

Venue:

**School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape**

# POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

regarding policing violence  
against women

## Discussion

Police accountability and victim’s constitutional rights regarding the withdrawal of sexual offences cases in the criminal justice system. This topic will explore the legal framework which informs the decision making of the police in the investigation and withdrawal of cases, the rights of victims to reasons for withdrawals, the possible application of administrative procedures, access to information, and the police’s use of discretion in usurping prosecutorial function. The panel will consider possible interventions as well as legal reform to hold police accountable in decision making.

## Facilitator: Mandy Mudarikwa

Mandy Mudarika is currently employed as an attorney working in the areas of gender, refugee’s rights, children’s rights and civil society organisations at the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) in Cape Town. She holds a Bachelor and Master of Law in Human Rights Law from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She was admitted onto the Western Cape Town High Court Attorneys Roll in August 2011 and her work experience includes strategic litigation, general litigation, appearances in refugee internal tribunals, advocacy, training, publication and lecturing. She is currently writing on the application of the Refugees Act, regional and international conventions by the refugee status determination officers on LGBTI applications for asylum based on sexuality and gender identity. She is

also an Executive Committee Member of the South African Women’s Lawyers Association of the Western Cape, a professional association geared towards the advancement of women within and through the law.

## Panelists:

- **Advocate Bronwyn Pithey** – Bronwyn Pithey is an admitted Advocate in the High Court of South Africa, and is working for the Women’s Legal Centre as a legal practitioner in the area of violence against women.
- **Professor Dee Smythe** – Dee Smythe is a Professor of Public Law at the University of Cape Town’s Law Faculty, where she also currently serves as Deputy Dean for Research.
- **Dr Genine Josias** – Genine Josias works for the Department of Health and is has been the Medical coordinator of the Khayelitsha Thuthuzela Forensic Centre based at Khayelitsha District Hospital since 2004.
- **Mandisa Dyantyi** – Mandisa Dyantyi currently works for the Social Justice Coalition (SJC) which she has done for the past 7 years. She is a dedicated activist and holds a Masters in Political Studies from the University of the Western Cape.

The panel is convened by the Women’s Legal Centre and you can follow this discussion on **#PILG2017** and **#WLCCapeTown**

Please RSVP to Aretha Louw at [aretha@wlce.co.za](mailto:aretha@wlce.co.za)



**WOMEN’S LEGAL CENTRE**

**CAPE TOWN:**

7th Floor, Constitution House,  
124 Adderley Street, Cape Town, 8001

Tel: +27 (0) 21 424 5660

Fax: +27 (0) 21 424 5206

[www.wlce.co.za](http://www.wlce.co.za)