

## 2018 IN REVIEW

### Gender Research & Advocacy Project Legal Assistance Centre



*GR&AP celebrated 25 years of ground-breaking work in 2018.*

The role of GR&AP is to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women through legal research, law reform and related advocacy work.

# GR&AP distributed over half a million publications in 2018!



## GR&AP produced 16 new publications in 2018:

- \* 3 comics
- \* 2 booklets on specific legal topics
- \* 1 booklet on the Namibian Constitution
- \* 6 factsheets on the rule of law
- \* 1 research brief on presidential immunity
- \* 2 summaries of draft family law legislation
- \* 1 “Red Line” map



# CIVIC EDUCATION MATERIALS

## Factsheets


In 2018, GR&AP completed a set of 21 factsheets on law, government and advocacy. These factsheets are designed for use in civic education aimed at all Namibians, and will hopefully contribute to the strengthening of civil society in Namibia. They are currently being utilised in training sessions by several different Namibia NGOs, through the Civic Education Programme of the Hanns Seidel Foundation. The factsheets were formally launched in June at an event featuring a panel discussion with lively participation from an interested and enthusiastic audience.



- A. GOVERNMENT SERIES**
1. Overview of the Namibian Constitution
  2. The three branches of Government
  3. The executive branch
  4. The legislative branch
  5. The judicial branch
  6. Local and regional government
  7. Elections in Namibia
  8. Government watchdogs


- B. ADVOCACY SERIES**
1. Planning an advocacy campaign
  2. Meetings with decision-makers
  3. Petitions
  4. Marches, demonstrations & vigils
  5. Participating in public hearings
  6. Advocacy through the press
  7. Using email and social media

- C. RULE OF LAW SERIES**
1. Rule of law
  2. Human rights
  3. Understanding the law
  4. Statute law
  5. Common law
  6. Customary law



MyDemocracyTree  
Namibia

Law in Namibia  
Factsheet Series  
No. 1 of 6



Hanns Seidel  
Foundation


## Rule of Law

**What is the rule of law?**

The rule of law is the principle that all persons and institutions in a country, including the government, must follow laws which are publicly known to everyone, applied fairly to everyone, and enforced by independent courts. This principle also requires that a country's laws must be consistent with basic international human rights norms and standards.

Article 1(1) of the Namibian Constitution says:

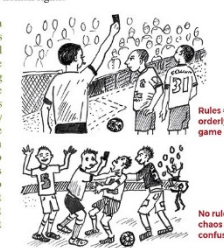
(1) The Republic of Namibia is hereby established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all.



**Key principles of the rule of law**

1. The country must be governed by law, not by force.
2. The law must apply to everyone. No one is above the law.
3. The law must treat everyone equally.
4. The processes for enacting and applying laws must be fair and transparent.
5. The law must protect basic human rights.

**Example:** Think of how the principles of the "rule of law" apply to a soccer game. Everyone knows the rules of the game. All of the players on both teams must play according to the rules. There is an impartial referee who makes sure that everyone follows the rules. This referee must treat both teams and all of the players fairly, without showing any favoritism for one side or the other. The players may not agree with the decisions of the referee, but they must respect those decisions if they want to keep playing the game. Some of the spectators may disagree with the decisions of the referee, but they realise that the referee plays an important role in keeping the game fair. The team which loses must accept the loss without a struggle if they want to be able to play again. People who play soccer in different countries follow the same basic rules and norms because they want to be able to have international cooperation around the sport, such as taking part in World Cup matches. Imagine a soccer game without these rules. It would be chaos. No one would want to play, and no one would want to watch. The outcome would not be meaningful.



**Rules = orderly game**

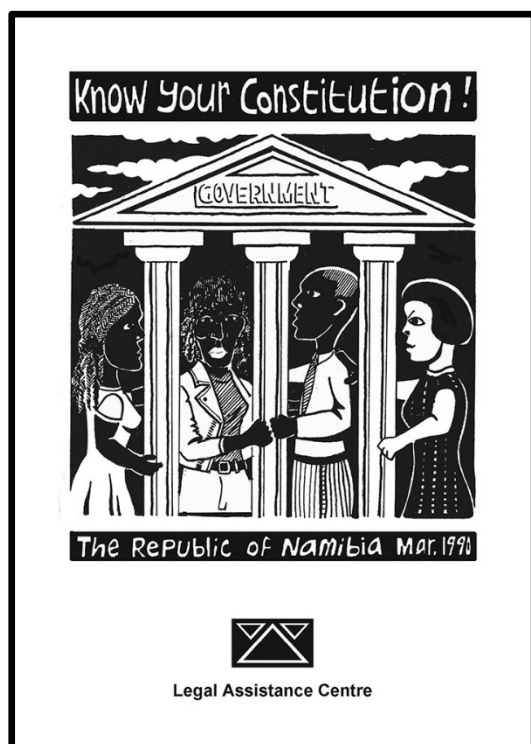
**No rules = chaos and confusion**

**1. The country must be governed by law, not by force.**

The rule of law is very important for an orderly society. Without the rule of law, people with power would be able to prevail over people with less power. The police could arrest anyone for any reason. Government officials could act as they please. Private groups and citizens could do whatever they wanted to, as long as they had enough money or power to make others do their will. It is not possible to have a stable and just society without the rule of law.

**2. The law must apply to everyone. No one is above the law.**

Everyone must follow the law. This includes high-ranking government officials and traditional leaders. For example, in Namibia, people who have been charged with crimes have included even a Supreme Court justice, a government minister and a senior headman. ►



## Know Your Constitution


GR&AP produced an updated and revised version of *Know Your Constitution*, which is a short summary of the key provision of the Namibian Constitution designed for public education. This booklet was launched in November at an event which featured a keynote speech by Namibia's Ombudsman, Adv John Walters in addition to input from GR&AP.

## RESEARCH BRIEF: PRESIDENTIAL IMMUNITY

The GR&AP team completed a research brief on Presidential immunity in late 2018. This paper examines the Namibian President's broad immunity from most civil and criminal proceedings by virtue of Article 31 of the Namibian Constitution. It looks at the notion of presidential immunity and the widely varying approaches to this issue in other countries, particularly in Africa.

This comparison shows that the degree of immunity provided by the Namibian Constitution is particularly far-reaching, and out of step with the spirit and tenor of the Constitution as a whole. The research brief concludes that the current provision on immunity violates the principles of accountability and the idea that everyone is subject to the law. It also seems inconsistent with the stated African Union commitment to ending impunity, and with regional and international trends.

Few of Namibia's African neighbours have such far-reaching immunities, not even countries with less well-entrenched democratic traditions than Namibia. Therefore, the paper suggests that Article 31 of the Namibian Constitution should be amended the next time constitutional amendments are considered.

Namibia's Perplexing Presidential Immunity	
	
Legal Assistance Centre 2018	
1. Introduction .....	2
2. The notion of presidential immunity .....	2
3. Presidential immunity in Namibia .....	4
3.1 The immunity provision in the Namibian Constitution .....	4
3.2 The origin of the immunity provision .....	8
3.3 Other official immunities in Namibia .....	11
4. Presidential immunity in the African context .....	16
4.1 Forms of presidential immunity in African constitutions .....	16
4.2 African presidents on trial .....	35
5. Examples of Presidential immunity outside Africa .....	40
5.1 United States .....	40
5.2 Canada .....	44
5.3 Israel .....	46
6. Analysis .....	48
6.1 Key arguments <i>for</i> presidential immunity .....	48
6.2 Key arguments <i>against</i> presidential immunity .....	49
6.3 Namibia's presidential immunity in context .....	51
7. Recommendations .....	55

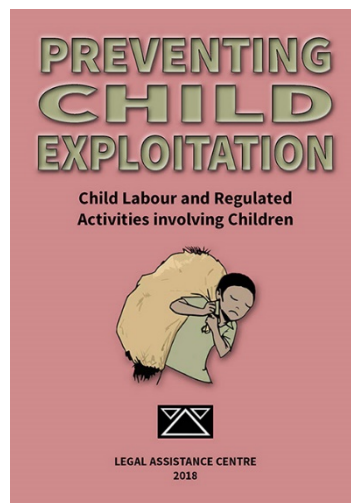
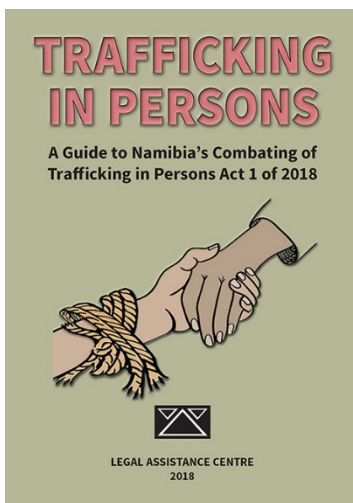
This paper was researched and written by Dianne Hubbard, Samantha Wynne, Andrea Vizsolyi, Klaus Striewe and Tania Carstens-Mueller.

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## COMICS AND BOOKLETS

We published three new comics on **trafficking in persons**, **child exploitation** and **freedom of the press** in 2018. The draft comics were pre-tested with community health workers, teachers and other community leaders from the Havana area. The completed comics were utilised at various workshops and distributed as inserts in various Namibian newspapers as a way to reach members of the public in different parts of the country. Companion booklets were prepared to go along with two of these comics. The booklets give more detailed information and are likely to be helpful to service providers.





This brings GR&AP's comic library to a total of **35 comics.**

## LAW REFORM WORK

- GR&AP participated in numerous meetings with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and Ministry of Justice representatives to discuss each clause of the lengthy **Child Care and Protection Act regulations**. We provided detailed comments on successive drafts and researched specific points which arose in the discussions.

Thank you for all your great efforts in carrying the work on the regulations forward...  
H Andjamba, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, November 2018

- At the request of the Ministry of Justice, GR&AP provided preliminary information on comparative law on **cyber harassment**, in an effort to locate examples from other countries which successfully balance the need to prevent and respond to online harassment and the need to protect freedom of speech.

- The Society of Advocates commissioned GR&AP to draft a **Designation of Senior Counsel Bill**. Drawing on 2017 research by GR&AP on this issue, we analysed the key issues and prepared a list of questions for the Society's input. Their responses were then used to guide the drafting.
- GR&AP prepared a gender analysis of the **Flexible Land Tenure Act and regulations** for GIZ, looking at ways in which the regulations could be strengthened under the current Act and also proposing ideas for future amendments to the Act to enhance gender equality.
- GR&AP was contracted by KAS to prepare input on women's property rights under the **Communal Land Reform Act**. This research resulted in a PowerPoint presentation for the Rural Women's Land Consultation attended by traditional leaders and community members at Ongwediva in August, a presentation to the Rural Women's Parliament in September, and an opinion piece for *The Namibian* published during the Second National Land Conference in October. These inputs suggested ways in which the Communal Land Reform Act could be amended to strengthen protections for women.

Some excellent suggestions in today's papers. I hope participants in Group 2 (breakaway session) will incorporate Dianne Hubbard's suggestions i.r.o. women and communal land to ensure that 'women have access to [land] and other property in their own right'.

First Lady Monica Geingos, comment on social media, October 2018



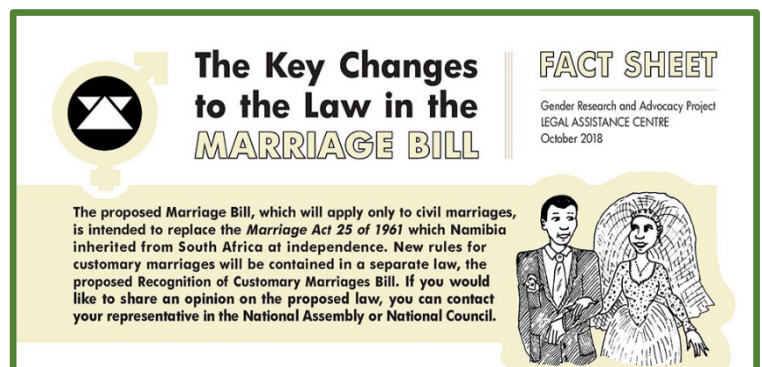
- GR&AP provided detailed input on the draft **Mental Health Bill**, circulated for comment via the Law Society of Namibia.
- GR&AP provided comments on two draft bills from MoHSS – the **Blood Transfusion Bill** and the **Human Tissue Bill**, to provide comments in particular on areas of intersection with the Child Care and Protection Act.
- At the request of the Minister of Justice, GR&AP provided an update to the draft **amendments to the Combating of Rape Act** prepared by the Law Reform and Development Commission. The original amendments were inspired by LAC research, and discussed in workshops convened by LRDC in 2008 and 2009. The amendment bill was initially drafted in 2012. The proposed changes to update the bill take into account the recent Supreme Court judgement about the impermissibility of “informal life sentences” (*Gaigob v The State*) and the intervening replacement of the Prisons Act by the Correctional Service Act.

- At the request of the Minister of Justice, GR&AP provided information on draft **amendments to the Maintenance Act and the Combating of Domestic Violence Act** which were drafted by GR&AP for the Ministry in 2016, on the basis of GR&AP research into the implementation of these two laws. The proposed amendments would fine-tune these statutes to make them more effective in practice.
- GR&AP made detailed inputs into successive drafts of **forthcoming government guidelines on public participation in the law-making process**, to inform a new administrative directive that will be gazetted in 2019. These inputs appear to have been influential in shaping the draft guidelines.

## FAMILY LAW REFORM

- GR&AP worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration (MHAI) to fine-tune the draft **Marriage Bill**, through meetings, the exchange of successive drafts and research on specific legal queries.
  - Policy issues which were debated included the question of who should be able to become a marriage officer (with options being magistrates, members of the public service, religious leaders or some combination of these groups), and mechanisms to hold marriage officers accountable.
  - After consultation with the Down Syndrome Association of Namibia, GR&AP successfully motivated improved wording for the section on inability to consent to marriage due to mental or intellectual disability.
  - GR&AP alerted MHAI to the fact that Article 6(f) of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa requires States to enact appropriate national legislative measures to guarantee that “a married woman shall have the right to retain her maiden name, to use it as she pleases, jointly or separately with her husband's surname”.
  - GR&AP provided MHAI with research on bigamy, explaining that a bigamous marriage is automatically void – which means that the innocent party should not be required to bear the burden of cost and inconvenience to obtain a High Court order confirming this fact. GR&AP suggested alternative administrative approaches for cases of bigamy, and proposed that this issue should be addressed in future regulations under the Marriage Act.

**GR&AP prepared a short summary of the Marriage Bill which will be distributed when the bill is ready for tabling in Parliament.**

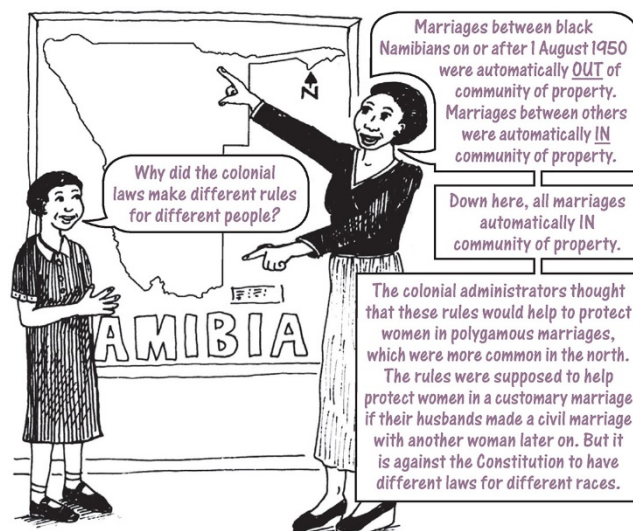


- GR&AP also made inputs on the **Uniform Matrimonial Property Bill**, which would remove the race-based differences in marital property regimes which continue to apply under the apartheid-era Native



Administration Proclamation 15 of 1928 and allow couples affected by that law an opportunity to change their marital property regimes.

- GR&AP promoted the proposal that the new unified approach should require *all* couples to make an active choice regarding their marital property regime in the future (instead of providing a default position), to ensure that all spouses understand the property consequences of their marriage.
- Another issue of debate was whether a matrimonial property regime should be capable of alteration after the death of one spouse. GR&AP's position is that changes should be allowed only where the marriage subsists at the time of the request, to avoid the possibility of undoing long-settled transactions or disadvantaging the interests of a spouse who is no longer available to provide evidence of his or her intentions.



- GR&AP submitted a memo to government stakeholders on key concerns in the **Divorce Bill** and

**GR&AP prepared a short summary of the Uniform Matrimonial Property Bill for distribution when the bill is ready for Parliament. We have also printed large copies of maps illustrating the geographical areas covered by the old law to assist with implementation of the transitional provisions which will accompany its repeal.**

engaged in ongoing advocacy with various government representatives in an effort to strengthen the provisions of the bill on division of assets and arrangements for children, within a genuine no-fault approach which can help reduce family conflict. This Bill was still in a state of flux at year end.

- GR&AP assisted MHAI with facilitating and reporting at a week-long internal workshop on the draft **Civil Registration Bill** in June. We also provided comments on specific provisions in the draft. As a result, MHAI is seeking to commission GR&AP to assist with fine-tuning of the bill in 2019, looking at privacy issues and e-birth and e-death notification systems in particular.



*Civil Registration Bill workshop, June*

- The Ministry of Justice announced a plan to consolidate all inheritance matters under a single **Succession Bill** covering intestate succession, wills and the administration of estates. GR&AP

**...Your opinion is always appreciated.  
Elsie Beukes. Master of the High Court, August  
2018**

provided preliminary input. Further consultations will be held by the Ministry of Justice as this project moves forward.

## OUTREACH ON ALTERNATIVES TO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

GR&AP continued to conduct **community outreach** on the links between corporal punishment and gender-based violence. Workshops were held with several different groups, a number of which are located in Havana, an informal settlement area in Katutura with a large number of residents. This grouping of workshops was designed to maximise community impact:

- two different community groups in Havana
- learners at Faith Secondary School, Havana
- learners at CJ Brandt High School, Havana
- third year UNAM social work students, Windhoek
- social workers from different offices, Windhoek  
(joint training exercise with the Office of the First Lady)
- community group, Otjiwarongo
- teachers at Immanuel Shifidi High School, Katutura

*“We demand respect from our children, but when has corporal punishment ever served as an explanation to them as to the reasons why they should respect elders? Corporal punishment merely causes instant pain/discomfort, restricting a child from continuing with bad behaviour.”*

parent, Otjiwarongo

Participants at one community workshop agreed that corporal punishment can escalate to serious physical abuse, and that it can negatively affect societal morals and values. The mothers in the group observed that the family member who administers corporal punishment in the household usually has a poor relationship with the child, and that such punishment can be linked to poor school results. The trainings emphasised alternative forms of discipline that can be more effective – such as taking away privileges. One group of learners noted that while they are expected to respect school authorities, the same respect is not reciprocated – a concern which highlights the importance of modelling good behaviour for children.



Faith Secondary School, Havana



Yolande presenting to UNAM students





*UNAM students with the workshop facilitators*



*Training on GBV and corporal punishment for Okuryangava community group, conducted jointly with Family of Hope Services*



*Immanuel Shifidi High School*



GR&AP staff gave presentations at the **National Integrated Early Childhood Development Conference**, outlining the Child Care and Protection Act's prohibition on corporal punishment in ECD centres and the advantages of positive discipline.

GR&AP **reprinted two comics on alternatives to corporal punishment** and distributed them as **inserts in two national newspapers**. We spoke about the links between corporal punishment and gender-based violence on one of our appearances on *Good Morning Namibia*.

GR&AP requested a meeting with key officials in the **Ministry of Education** to discuss strategies for changing the culture of acceptance of corporal punishment in Namibian schools by making a zero tolerance policy on corporal punishment part of the Ministry's campaign on Safe Schools. We drafted a circular on this issue for the Ministry, which was sent to all Namibian schools.

We shared a platform with the Minister of Education, the UNICEF Special Representative and the First Lady at the **launch of the Namibia National Safe Schools Framework** in September, where we spoke on the importance of following the law prohibiting corporal punishment in schools in order to teach children non-violent ways of problem-solving and respect for the rule of law. GR&AP was prominent on the programme and received warm praise from the First Lady during her speech.

We hope to continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education to give some new impetus to the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools, which is at present more theoretical than actual.



*Launch of Namibia National Safe Schools Framework*

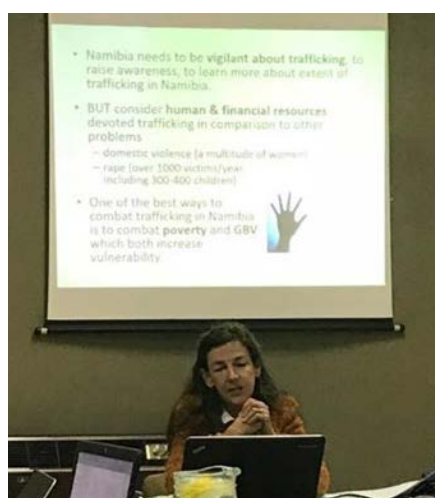
## OTHER WORKSHOPS

- GR&AP was commissioned by Positive Vibes, a local organisation involved in assisting LGBTI groups, to make several presentations at the *National Convening on the LGBTIQ+ Equality for Namibia* in February. Human Dignity Trust and Southern Africa Litigation Centre also participated, along with many local groups and activists. The purpose of this meeting was to consider possible strategies for challenging the criminalisation of consensual sodomy between adults, and improving other areas of law and social life where LGBTIQ+ people experience discrimination.
- GR&AP conducted a workshop at **NUST** on date rape in March. The main aim of the workshop was to provide information on what acts constitute rape and what steps rape victims can take (such as accessing post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV).



*Students at the NUST workshop*

- At the request of the Ministry of Justice, GR&AP conducted a half-day training session on grammar and proofreading tips for Namibia's **technical legal drafters** in May.
- At the request of Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, GR&AP conducted a workshop for the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender** on trafficking in persons and the new Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act in June. Several MPs remarked that they would like to have this kind of briefing before such bills are discussed in Parliament, and we urged them to invite LAC to do this in future.



*Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender*

- In July, GR&AP facilitated a session at the **DREAMS Mentorship workshop**, which is a US initiative. DREAMS stands for Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe women. The initiative aims to reduce the risk that adolescent girls and young women become infected with HIV, with one component of the programme being to arrange mentors for girls in the program. We introduced LAC resources on women and children, as well as discussing examples of how the support of a mentor can make a difference in dealing with issues such as rape, maintenance and domestic violence.
- At the request of Hanns Seidel Foundation, in November GR&AP made a presentation followed by a lively Q&A session at a one-day training session for young **community radio presenters who will be producing podcasts on voter education and election-related matters**.



*Training for community radio presenters*

## NAMLEX

**GR&AP continued to update and improve its three legal databases:** Namlex, the Namlex Appendix and the annotated laws. These databases are vital supports to maintaining the rule of law in Namibia, as the rule of law requires that all Namibian laws be freely accessible to everyone.

We gave a small group of young government lawyers **training on how to update Namlex**. This initiative, which began in 2017, continued during 2018 although the team suffered some attrition. In an attempt to ensure the sustainability of this project, GR&AP produced a training manual on update procedures.

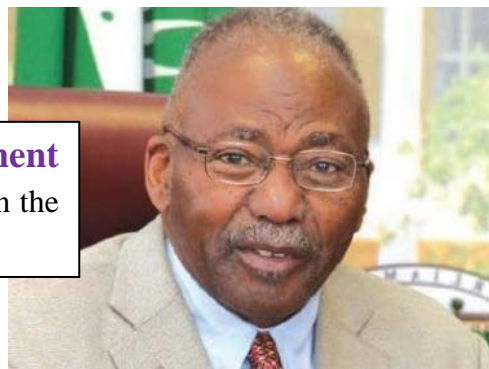
GR&AP embarked on a project to **improve the Namlex Appendix** by adding links to online sources of the authentic versions of each multilateral treaty, as well as making the citations to the Parliamentary debates more comprehensive.

In addition to updating the annotated laws, GR&AP also began **research on pre-Independence regulations** during 2018. Post-Independence regulations are covered comprehensively, but pre-Independence regulations must still be researched and compiled to make this database complete.



GR&AP also prepared a short introduction to the databases in an effort to **popularise** them. This document was circulated by the Law Society to all of its members and forwarded to the UNAM Law Faculty and to the Magistrate's Commission. We hope to do further trainings and demonstrations on the databases in 2019.

GR&AP met with the **Speaker of Parliament** in June 2018 to discuss future cooperation on the annotated laws.



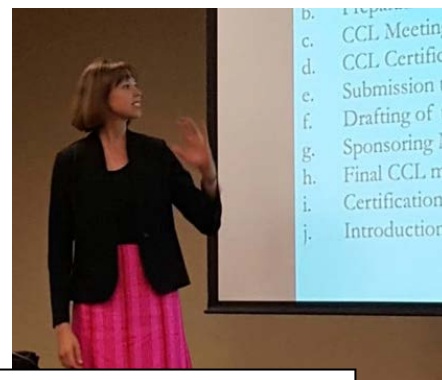
## NETWORKS

During 2018, GR&AP participated in the following **Namibian networks**:

- Permanent Task Force on Child Protection (convened by MGECW)
- Cluster Meeting on GBV & Human Rights (convened by MGECW)
- Sexual Rights Reproductive Health Committee (convened by the Ministry of Health)
- Working Committee on Code of Conduct for Learners (convened by Ministry of Education)
- Child Online Protection Taskforce
- National Coordinating Body on Trafficking
- Namibia Child Rights Network.

GR&AP participated in a round table discussion of various stakeholders on the **Implementation of Comprehensive Education in Namibian Schools**, focusing mainly on how schools respond to sexual diversity amongst children. We explained legal issues relating to sodomy, same-sex marriages, and protection orders & same-sex couples in response to questions from the group. The main facilitator, Dr Anthony Brown (University of Johannesburg), praised LAC's research on LGBT issues.

In November, GR&AP was represented at the **Commonwealth Africa High-level Regional Dialogue on Strengthening Equality and Equal Protection of the Law - Reforming Laws That Discriminate**. This meeting in Johannesburg was convened by the Equality & Justice Alliance, a consortium of four international NGOs which seek to advance equality and equal protection before the law for all Commonwealth citizens. It was attended by some 35 persons from various African countries and India.

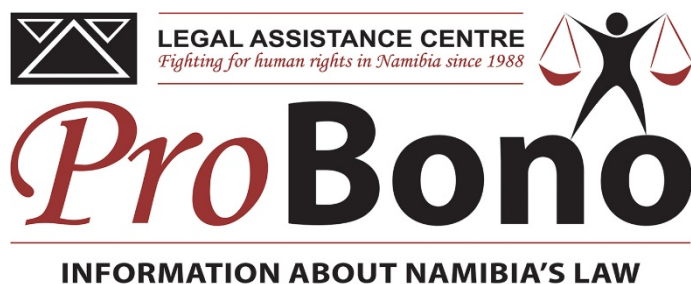


*Presentation by Anel van der Vyver, Namibian Ministry of Justice, at Commonwealth meeting*

## MEDIA

*GR&AP appeared in the media on 47 occasions during 2018, with 24 print appearances, 17 radio broadcasts and 6 television appearances.*

**Print:** Print appearances by GR&AP in 2018 covered topics such as gender-based violence, baby-dumping, abortion, women and communal land.



In 2017, the Legal Assistance Centre launched a newspaper column called **ProBono** which appears monthly in *The Namibian*. This is a project of the entire LAC, but GR&AP ensures that many of the columns cover issues on women's and children's rights and serves as the editor for the series. A total of 25 articles have appeared in the ProBono series so far during 2017-2018. The 11 topics covered in the ProBono columns produced in 2018 were:

- 1) Intestate inheritance
- 2) Father's consent to adoption
- 3) Rhino horn trading
- 4) Marriage officers
- 5) Legal framework for the LAC
- 6) Preventing convicted offenders from working with children
- 7) Standing to bring legal actions
- 8) Land expropriation with compensation
- 9) Women and communal land
- 10) Surrogacy
- 11) Paternity disputes

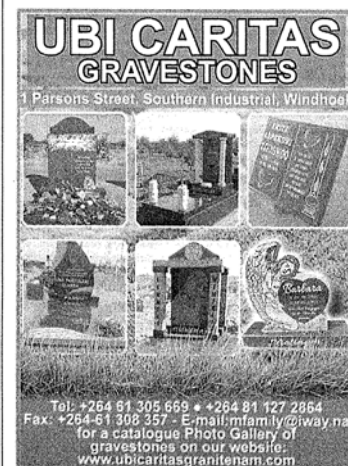
### Rape offenders target disabled persons

**Aili Ilonga**

**WINDHOEK** - Physically weaker members of society such as women, children and people with disabilities, continue to be rape statistics due to their vulnerability. Legal Assistance Centre's Yolande Engelbrecht said that the rape of especially people with mental disabilities continues to go unnoticed, adding that Namibia has a high rate of rape cases with 1 100-1 200 cases reported per

year between 2003 till 2005. "This number has significantly increased since and with that, it requires victims with disability challenges or in general to need extra care and counselling support services which is not readily available," she said. Engelbrecht noted that most rape cases reported to the LAC are usually committed by partners, family members or acquaintances. She added that police officers stationed at Gender-based Violence units are unsympathetic when receiving complaints from rape victims.

"Our study found that most of the units examined lacked proper facilities and equipment. Despite the creation of the units which is staffed by many committed police officers, some rape complainants still receive an unsympathetic response when reporting rapes," she said. She added that according to the LAC study findings, members of the public often call for stiffer sentences for rapist but that, "it makes more sense to spend energy and public resources on decreasing cases withdrawals and increasing conviction rates."



If you have suggestions for future ProBono topics, please let us know by sending an SMS to 081-600-0098. Past columns are available on the LAC website: [www.lac.org.na](http://www.lac.org.na). Look for the ProBono logo on the LAC home page.

**Radio:** GR&AP's radio broadcasts covered a range of topics. We attempted to incorporate topics from the ProBono newspaper columns on radio where possible for maximum impact.

**Television:** GR&AP appeared four times on the *Good Morning Namibia* slot and was interviewed by the NBC TV's sports division about sexual harassment in the workplace. We also participated in a panel discussion on *Tupopyeni* on the issue of freedom of speech, including a discussion of hate speech and how Namibia may benefit from broader hate speech legislation.

## CLIENTS

GR&AP assisted **116 clients** in 2018, including assistance in person, by email and by telephone. Remote communication allows us to assist clients from all over the country. Most client queries related to maintenance, children's issues (particularly custody and access), marriage, divorce and gender-based violence. Our assistance to clients fulfils the LAC's mandate to help those with the least access to the law, and also gives us insight into how Namibian laws are working on the ground.

*In September, GR&AP contacted The Namibian to ask them to provide our email address to the anonymous author of a letter to the editor which appeared in the newspaper in September. The letter-writer did follow-up by contacting us, and we were able to assist her with her queries about Namibian citizenship.*

## SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- GR&AP materials are cited in the recently-launched *Namibia National Safe Schools Framework*.

### **Rights that are affected by corporal punishment**

- ▶ right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- ▶ right to be protected from violence and abuse
- ▶ rights to development, including the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- ▶ right to dignity and bodily integrity.

**Source:** Legal Assistance Centre, "Corporal Punishment Fact Sheet", Windhoek, 2015.

- GR&AP publications feature prominently in MGEWCW's forthcoming *Namibia National Training Resource Kit on Gender Based Violence*.
- GR&AP input helped to inform the forthcoming *Prioritised National Plan of Action on GBV (2019-2023)*.
- GR&AP materials are included in the international Education for Justice (E4J) initiative launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). E4J aims to build a culture of lawfulness among children and youth by developing age-appropriate educational materials that promote peace, justice and equality and integrating them into curricula across all education levels.
- The 2017 Gender Analysis prepared by GR&AP for the European Union is quoted in several documents published during 2018, indicating its practical usefulness. For example, it is quoted several times in an IPPR dispatch on gender issues in the Afrobarometer survey, and in an article in the Sister Namibia blog.



## FEEDBACK

My name is Aidan Holmes and I am a Peace Corps Volunteer from the USA teaching in a primary school here in Namibia. I recently acquired some physical copies of your comics (Corporal Punishment, Paying Maintenance, Speaking Up) and I made them available in our school's library. The moment I put them out the learners took notice and are really drawn to the comics. They are asking to borrow them and asking questions of me and other teachers based on the issues they present. I would really like to acquire more copies of these comics or additional issues because I am excited by the conversations it has started at my school....

Aidan Holmes  
March 2018

Congratulation once again for the great work you are doing.

Michela Manna, European Union  
March 2018

LAC has done unique work which is still untouched. Please make use of LAC's research, especially their recommendations on GBV & protection orders and other relevant laws.

First Lady of Namibia, launch of the BreakFree Campaign Against GBV April 2018

Thanks for the magazines and for the great article.

Stefanie Braun,  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Project Manager  
April 2018

We appreciate your insights and will be sure to incorporate this feedback into our talking points and engagements. We remain appreciative of our strong collaboration with the LAC on advancing dialogue and informing policy.

Helena Kuzee  
Executive Assistant to the First Lady  
and Deputy Director: Education, Health and Media  
June 2018

We have read your 2017 Namibia Gender Analysis. It has been useful for a piece of work we did on cooperative opportunities in the SADC region... Best wishes

Grania Mackie, Gender  
Research Alliance  
October 2018

Excellent. Thanks for your work...

Minister of Justice  
October 2018

## STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

### Permanent staff



**Dianne Hubbard - Coordinator** ([dhubb@africaonline.com.na](mailto:dhubb@africaonline.com.na))

Dianne is a graduate of Harvard Law School. She also has degrees in English from the University of North Carolina in the USA and Stellenbosch University in South Africa. She has been the Coordinator of GR&AP since its inception in February 1993. Dianne served a 3-year term as Deputy Chairperson of the Law Reform and Development Commission from 2010-2013.



**Yolande Engelbrecht - Paralegal** ([yengelbrecht@lac.org.na](mailto:yengelbrecht@lac.org.na))

Yolande joined GR&AP at the beginning of 2009, having worked at the Ministry of Justice for a number of years. Yolande takes the main responsibility for running workshops on behalf of the department as well as developing training programmes and providing information to clients.



**Ruth Murangi - Project Assistant** ([rmurangi@lac.org.na](mailto:rmurangi@lac.org.na))

Ruth joined GR&AP in February 2017 as Project Assistant, after jobs at Wings over Africa and Franco Namibian Cultural Centre. She assists with all kinds of administrative tasks and is the person to contact for copies of our publications.

Thanks to **Oran Helu** for substituting for Ruth during her maternity leave. Oran went above and beyond the call of duty and was a great help to us!

## Consultants and volunteers



**Perri Caplan** regularly assists GR&AP with publications design and lay-out as well as formatting and processing of the annotated laws. She has worked with us for many years now, and her assistance is invaluable.

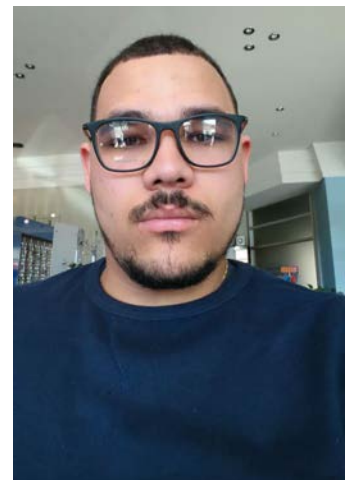


**Klaus Striewe** returned for another volunteer stint with LAC in 2018. Klaus studied law at the University of Trier in Germany. He maintains a legal practice in Germany as well as being currently enrolled for a Master of Laws at the University of Cape Town. His thesis is on the practical application of Article 144 of the Namibian Constitution. (He is also a beach volleyball star!)



**Celine Engelbrecht**, a third year student at NUST studying for a Bachelor in English, assisted with GR&AP for three months during 2018.

**Delmaine Eimann**, a third-year Namibian law student studying at UNAM, and **Alessandro Grotzinger**, a fourth-year Namibian law student studying at the University of Bloemfontein, both did holiday internships with GR&AP.







**Kate Powers**, a law student at the University of Michigan, did a three-month internship with GR&AP under an arrangement regularly organised and funded by the university.



Namibian lawyer **Tania Carstens-Mueller** assisted GR&AP with research for one month.



Canadian lawyers **Andrea Vizsolyi** and **Samantha Wynne** joined GR&AP in mid-September for six-month internships through the Young Lawyers International Program of the Canadian Bar Association. Before her stint at GR&AP, Andrea graduated from the University of New Brunswick and worked for Legal Aid, and Samantha obtained an LL.M in International Legal Studies from NYU School of Law and practised human rights law at NGOs in New York.



UNAM graduate **Kennedy Kandjii** returned for a second volunteer stint with GR&AP in November-December.



## IN MEMORIAM

*We mourn the passing of **Otillie Abrahams**, a remarkable and tireless activist for women and children. She was a friend of GR&AP and an inspiration to all!*

*We also mourn the passing of **Adv Wally Rautenbach**, who assisted LAC with research for the annotated laws. He was Namibia's foremost expert on transfer proclamations, and his death removes a reservoir of legal knowledge from Namibia.*

## GR&AP's SOCIAL CALENDAR



Ruth Murangi brought a new addition to the GR&AP extended family in 2018. Welcome to Benjamin Natangwe!



GR&APs 25<sup>th</sup> birthday party!



GR&AP discovered sporting talents we never knew we had at the LAC Christmas party!







## DONORS

### Donors to the Gender Research & Advocacy Project:



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of the Federal Republic of Germany  
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