

Ms. Yanga Malotana

As a dedicated professional with a rich background in project management, communications, and diplomatic engagements, my career is deeply rooted in advancing women's rights and human rights. Currently serving as a Project Manager at ESI Press, University of Pretoria, I lead initiatives focused on Elections and Civic Education, with a specific emphasis on empowering women and fostering a culture of democratic engagement.

In my capacity as Project Manager, I spearhead the Elections Project, where I am not only responsible for drafting concept notes and coordinating events under Project Vote but also dedicated to securing funding for projects related to women's voting rights. Managing publications and collaborating with the Independent Electoral Commission for community outreach projects, I actively contribute to initiatives that promote civic education, particularly targeting women in the community.

This commitment to women's rights is also reflected in my past role as a Project Officer at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. In this capacity, I conducted research and advocacy on democracy, civic engagement, and political affairs across Africa, with a keen focus on the unique challenges faced by women. Coordinating and managing events at regional levels and working with the Pan African Parliament, I actively championed the cause of women's rights in the broader context of human rights and democracy.

My involvement in academic research, particularly projects analysing data gaps in the Indian Ocean Region for Foreign Direct Investment and exploring the sustainability of the blue economy, is complemented by a commitment to understanding and addressing gender-specific challenges. As a Researcher at the Ford Foundation, my work delved into political systems in Southern Africa, challenging assumptions and introducing new perspectives, always with an awareness of the gender dynamics inherent in these systems.

In my role as a Communications Strategist for the Democracy Development Program, I have effectively communicated and advocated for democratic principles, always keeping women's voices at the forefront. Developing strategies for social media platforms, writing opinion pieces, and hosting a podcast channel, I strive to amplify the narratives that promote gender equality.

Currently pursuing a PhD in Political Studies, my research on the potential impact of free renewable energy on power relations in South Africa is guided by a commitment to understanding and addressing the specific challenges faced by women in accessing and benefiting from sustainable energy solutions.

In essence, my multifaceted experiences in project management, communications, academic research, and advocacy reflect not only a comprehensive skill set but also a passionate dedication to advancing women's rights within the broader framework of human rights and democracy.