

Ntombizodwa Msane

Languages: English, Isizulu, Setswana, Afrikaans and French Level 3

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Ntombizodwa Msane is a South African human rights activist, legal scholar, and founder of the African International Humanitarian Law Initiative (AIHLI LEGACY), an advocacy and educational platform dedicated to promoting human rights awareness, humanitarian law, and leadership development across Africa. She has over a decade of leadership experience spanning the private and public sectors, that includes but is not limited to contributing to the initiatives advancement on gender equality, environmental justice, youth empowerment, and the protection of vulnerable communities. Her work combines legal research, policy engagement, and community-based advocacy to strengthen a culture of human rights and constitutionalism. She is passionate about the inclusion of youth's perspectives on social ills and is committed to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting accountability, and advancing the protection and realization of human rights in South Africa.

CORE EXPERTISE

- Education in Crisis, Human Rights & Humanitarian Law
- Pan-African Campaigns and Coalition Building
- Legal Research and Advocacy
- Speaker, Moderator and Facilitator
- Digital Content Creator and Campaign Management
- Community-Led Activations and Capacity Building Workshops
- Multi-stakeholder Engagements (Local, National & International)
- Project Design and Implementation

ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING EXPERIENCE

- **eNCA - 2024** Interview by **Ms Francis Herd** as a build up to the round table discussion of **Ngunu Collective** has addressed this issue in their report titled **"Women & Girls Affected Disproportionately by Energy Crisis, Corruption & Crime."** This report highlights the top concerns of 3,377 respondents across all nine South African provinces, with 85% citing load shedding as a pressing issue.
- **G20 Social Summit - Y20 Engagements (2024-2025)**
Participated in youth-led global policy dialogues advocating for inclusive governance and social justice.
- **Channel Africa - International Radio Station (2025)**
Engaged continental audiences on socio-economic justice issues.

Speaker, Moderator & Facilitator

2026: Guest of Honour during the 2nd International Justice Conference Amity University Punjab, addressing the theme "Dimensions of Access to Justice in the Contemporary World", Dissecting the South African Perspective.

2026: Panelist during the Eugene Meck Foundation 5th Anniversary Celebration reflecting on Human Rights and Socio-Economic Challenges in South Africa

2024: Moderated Ngunu Collective Election Roundtable at Constitutional Hill (Addressing Political Leaders on mitigations needed for South Africa's Energy Crisis Impacting Women and Girls Disproportionately)

2024: Facilitator during the 2nd Annual Youth Leadership Summit for Nosipho Tshabalala, The Conversation Strategist presenting Masterclass titled Building a Niche Global Business.

2022: Delivered Commemoration Speech at the Jacobs-Abbey Global Institute for Leadership Studies

2021: Panelist & Co-Chair for the Memory Studies Africa Conference

2018: Speaker at the SALRC Legal Essay Writing Competition

Fellowships, Workshops & Certifications

2025: We The People Train The Trainer Program Participant

2024: Delegate of the Pan-African Youth Forum, African Union Women,

- **#DigitALL: Women Inclusivity on Digital Spaces International Women's Day Dialogue on Twitter Space** as invited by **Change.org Kenya** addressing how **#DigitALL** spaces have impacted gender equity and the need to foster inclusivity as moderated by Mercy Mwendu founder of QueenDom Foundation;
- **South African Youth Council National Executive Council Meeting in East London, Eastern Cape** addressing youth participation and importance of human rights education for South African Youth;

Additional advocacy, media, and public engagement activities available upon request.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

African International Humanitarian Law Initiative (AIHLI LEGACY) Johannesburg : Founder and Director

2020 - PRESENT

- Led continental advocacy and campaigns advancing transformative education, gender equality, humanitarian law, and systemic human rights across African contexts.
- Designed and delivered rights-based education and advocacy programmes influencing policy reform at national, regional, and global levels.
- Shaped strategic narratives on transformative education, youth leadership, crisis response, and social justice through publications, media engagement, and public dialogue.
- Built and managed multi-stakeholder coalitions spanning civil society, academia, youth movements, media, and global policy actors.
- Represented the organisation in high-level policy, academic, and public platforms, moderating and convening dialogues with African and global leaders.
- Mentored activists, legal scholars, and community leaders on advocacy research, policy writing, and knowledge production for public impact.
- Embedded feminist leadership, safeguarding, and anti-oppression principles across organisational practice and education initiatives, including community-based learning on human rights, civic participation, and environmental justice.

Bojanala Platinum District Municipality (BPDM) Rustenburg : Air Quality Regulatory Support

August 2017 - July 2020

- Conducted regulatory compliance and enforcement inspections, supporting accountability and adherence to environmental and public-interest legislation.
- Supported the drafting, processing, and statutory compliance

Gender and Youth Directorate through its commitment to implementing Agenda 2063 and the 1 Million Next Level Initiative

2024: Africa Women Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) Commerce Capacity Development Training

2024: International Refugee Law (35th Online Course): International Institute of Humanitarian Law

2023: We Create Change Leader (Nguvu / Change.org Southern Africa)

2022: African Human Rights System: Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

2021: Children's Rights Strategic Litigation Workshop: IHRDA and ACERw, Maseru, Lesotho

2020: ICRC All African Course on International Humanitarian Law: University of Pretoria (2020)

2019: Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), UNISA SBL Regional Leadership Programme Cohort 17

2019: Environmental Law, North West University (Centre for Environmental Management hereinafter NWU – CEM)

2019: Business and Entrepreneurship Development UNISA School of Business Leadership (SBL)

2018: Roles and Responsibilities of an Environmental Control Officer NWU – CEM

2014: Environmental Educational Awareness Training - Lungisa Consulting Engineers and Scientists

Recent Projects

AIHLI LEGACY International Human Rights Day Conference (2025):

assessment of applications submitted under the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (NEMAQA), contributing to government decision-making on the issuance of air quality licenses and permits within the Bojanala District.

- Contributed policy inputs and technical commentary on municipal and national by-laws and legislative frameworks related to air quality management.
- Liaised with communities, civil society, and government stakeholders, facilitating participatory engagement and delivering environmental education and awareness initiatives linked to public health, climate resilience, and community wellbeing.

Tholoana Consulting (Stationed at Moses Kotane Local Municipality, Mogwase) : Supervisor and Educational Campaigner

June 2013 - June 2015

- Supervised multidisciplinary team of 23 staff members across three portfolios: Educational Campaigners, Landfill Operators, and Waste Management Officers, supporting municipal waste and environmental management compliance.
- Provided administrative and operational oversight, including drafting of quarterly audit reporting, conducting compliance inspections, and representing the office in stakeholder engagement at local, district and provincial level.
- Developed work plans, managed portfolio schedules, and coordinated team leaders to ensure effective programme delivery.
- Led community education, environmental awareness campaigns, clean-up initiatives, and wellness interventions.

T&Z Mogul Entertainment (Pro-Bono) Mogwase: Community Outreach Programs Coordinator

January 2011 - May 2013

- Established and led a community-driven waste management forum across 108 villages, initiating upskilling programs, campaigns and providing inclusive leadership, through community participation, and advancing livelihoods through cross-sector partnerships and cooperative formation.
- Elected Forum Chairperson for two terms and fulfilled a liaison role and conducted research based advocacy for the municipality.

Convened a multi-partner digital conference on gender-based violence and femicide affecting vulnerable groups on the move, advancing survivor-centred, rights-based best practices and informing advocacy, public education, and policy-oriented dialogue.

AIHLI LEGACY International Human Rights Day Conference (2024):

Led a digital conference in partnership with Stirling University (UK) and international social justice organisations, amplifying lived experiences of undocumented communities and generating advocacy-driven recommendations through campaigns, dialogues, and capacity-building workshops.

EDUCATION

DIHAD Humanitarian College (UCAM - Spain)

Masters in Sustainable Humanitarian Action **(In Progress)**

University of South Africa

Bachelors of Laws (LLB), **2020**

University of Johannesburg

National Diploma in Law, **2011**

Undergraduate Academic Achievements

Delegate Representative for University of South Africa (UNISA), at

the 26th All African Human Rights Moot Court Competition in Mauritius (2017). Formed Part of the Midlands Moot Team Awarded 2nd Place in the overall regional competition and Awarded Runner-Up Oralist at the Unisa Inter-Regional Moot Court Competition (2016), demonstrating advanced skills in public speaking, legal analysis, and human rights advocacy.

- **Law Students Square Off:** This article highlights the Unisa Inter-Regional Moot Court Competition held in October 2016, where Zodwa Msane was the runner-up for best speaker.
- **UNISA Moot Court Participation:** An article highlighting Ms. Msane's role in representing UNISA at the All African Human Rights Moot Court Competition
- **Future legal eagles represent Unisa at African Competition:** This article features an interview with Zodwa Msane about her participation in the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, discussing the selection process, preparation, and the importance of moot courts.
- Msane actively participated in the launch of the **South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) Legal Essay Writing Competition** in 2018. During the event at the University of South Africa (Unisa), she encouraged fellow students to engage in the competition, emphasizing the importance of having their voices heard.
- Featured in the 2017 Women's Month YOUNISA Edition (p34)