



The Future of Independent Human Rights Institutions in South Africa

10 November 2009

- 12:10 – 12:15** Welcome: Ms. Paula Assubuji (Acting Director, Heinrich Böll Stiftung)
- 12:15 – 13:00** Opening address: Prof. Kader Asmal (Faculty of Law, UWC): Overview of the issues
- 13:00 – 13:45** *Lunch*
- 13:45 – 15:00** **Panel 1:** Protecting Independent Human Rights Institutions. Is the independence of South Africa's chapter 9 institutions under threat and, if so, what can be done about it? Who is holding these institutions to account?
- Speakers:** Dr. Yvette Abrahams (Commissioner, Commission for Gender Equality)
Ms. Janet Love (Commissioner, South African Human Rights Commission)
Ms. Judith February (Head: Political Information & Monitoring Service, Idasa)
- Chair:** Prof. Richard Calland (Director, Economic Governance Programme, Idasa)
- 15:00 – 15:30** *Coffee / tea*
- 15:30 – 17:00** **Panel 2:** Protecting Rights in The Real World: Making Independent Human Rights institutions work. What should Human Rights Institutions be and what should they do?
- Speakers:** Prof. Pumla Gqola (School of Literature and Language Studies, University of the Witwatersrand)
Mr. Mazibuko Jara (Executive Member, Amandla)
Adv. Tseliso Thipanyane (CEO, South African Human Rights Commission)
- Chair:** Prof. Steven Friedman (Director, Centre for the Study of Democracy, Rhodes University/University of Johannesburg)
- 17:00 - 18:00** A view from the chair: Closing Q&A with Adv. Lawrence Mushwana (Chairperson, South African Human Rights Commission)