

# 4<sup>Th</sup> All Africa Religious Liberty Congress



ALL AFRICA RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

**17-19** SEPT  
2024  
**ARUSHA, TANZANIA**



*Liberty of Conscience for All*



## WELCOME NOTE

### Secretary General Remarks



Joel Okindoh  
Secretary General

The first of all freedoms is Liberty of conscience. Liberty of conscience means the right to arrive at one's private beliefs without being coerced into an artificial unity by those who wield power over us.

It is a natural right given to man by the divine. The most primary of all human duties is the right to say Yes or No to the gift of existence and all that it entails. All other liberties originate from this primordial right. When this right is denied, it immediately places man in conflict

AARLA recognizes any form of denial of this right by families, communities, governments of faiths as the number one reason for conflicts of all forms in Africa. For Africans to coexist in peace, the value of liberty of conscience cannot be overemphasized. AARLA upholds prevention of conflicts to resolving conflicts as key to peaceful coexistence

The theme of the 4th All Africa Liberty of Conscience Congress is:

***"Peaceful coexistence in Africa: The Undeniable Value of Liberty of Conscience"***

This congress has attracted speakers of experience on matters of peace and conflict resolution, at the global, Continental, regional, community and family levels

It offers short presentations from invited speakers both at the plenary and break-out sessions and accords participants sufficient time for questions and answers and enriching comments in a very interactive atmosphere

The right to freedom of conscience is recognized by several international conventions, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul Charter).

Welcome to the 4th All Africa Religious Liberty Congress, lawyer's symposium and Religious Liberty Festival. Welcome to the city of Arusha at the foot of mt Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and its small sister mt. Meru. Welcome to the United republic of Tanzania a nation which has co-existed peacefully since independence.

This year, AARLA is hosting 250 delegates which includes top leaders of faith-based organizations, government officials, top academicians, legal experts, human rights organizations and NGOs at the 4th quinquennial All Africa Religious Liberty Congress and the lawyer's symposium. The festival of religious freedom on the 21st will host over 10,000 people to celebrate freedom of Religion in Tanzania and many countries in Africa

Through this Continental Congress, symposium and festival, we hope to generate further regional meetings, National and Local meetings among various communities in Africa to enhance tolerance and peaceful co-existence in line with African Union Vision 2063: ***"An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Continent"; Aspiration 3: "An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and rule of law"***

AARLA believes these engagements will lead to peaceful co-existence in societies. It will reduce unnecessary conflicts and will build bridges for peaceful resolutions whenever conflicts happen because those involved have already known and interacted with each other during times of peace.

We commit our vision and mission in the hands of the almighty God through whom alone this dream is possible

**Dr Joel Okindoh**  
Secretary General

## Board Chairman's Remarks



**Dr Blasious Ruguri**  
Chairman

The guest of honor madam Veronica Nduva, Secretary General East African Community, Religious leaders of various religions, The African Union representative, Government leaders, Ambassadors, legal experts, Academicians, human rights organizations ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to the 4th All Africa Religious Liberty Congress here in the city of Arusha, in the united republic of Tanzania. Welcome to the Arusha International conference Center. Arusha is close to the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.

AARLA is an independent association historically associated with International religious liberty association which is the oldest religious liberty association in the world. For 130 years the International Religious Liberty Association has worked to promote freedom of conscience for every person, no matter who they are or where they live in the world. Currently, we are actively or partially present in all countries in Africa.

We promote the freedom to believe, or not to believe, as defined by Article 18 of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

***"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."***

And Article 8 of the African charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul Charter).

"Freedom of Conscience, the profession and free practice of religion shall be guaranteed. No one may, subject to law and order, be submitted to measures restricting the exercise of these freedoms".

We believe religious freedom is a foundational human right, which is intimately connected with all other human rights.

We believe that the freedom to believe, or not to believe, is not a favor that governments can bestow. It is a universal, God-given freedom that flows from the innate dignity of every human being.

We hold symposiums, conferences, and events around the continent focused on the scholarly community, the religious freedom advocacy community, religious leaders of many different faiths, and those who hold public office.

Every five years AARLA organizes a continental Congress on Religious Freedom to bring together academics, practitioners and activists in the religious liberty cause from all over the continent. This is the 4th edition of the All Africa Congress on Religious Liberty

We also sponsor large-scale popular events around the continent , such as Religious Freedom Festivals and other rallies. Through these, we aim to raise public awareness of religious freedom issues.

Our team is invited every year to give lectures at universities and churches, to write articles, and to give interviews on radio and television.

The AARLA does not identify with any political party, nor does it endorse any candidates for political office. The IRLA is overseen by a Board of Directors.

It has no paid staff; officers and directors serve voluntarily. Funding for IRLA operations comes from organizations supportive of the association's purpose.

The IRLA is incorporated as not-for-profit organization in the Republic of Kenya. Originally organized by the

Seventh-day Adventist Church, the AARLA's purpose is the continental and non-sectarian promotion of religious freedom for all people, everywhere. Membership is open to all religions and organizations, individuals of similar vision and mission

Welcome to engage in the congress theme:

***Peaceful Coexistence in Africa: The Undeniable Value of Liberty of Conscience.***

At AARLA, we believe in prevention of conflicts through respect for liberty of Conscience of persons, communities, faiths and nations. Resolving conflicts through peace keeping forces and conflict resolution mechanisms is very expensive and time consuming. It also affects development plans. Conflicts can be reduced considerably if we encouraged the practice of community engagement at all levels of society during times of peace leading to a better understanding of existing worldviews and bridge building initiatives among all existing groups in the society

It is our hope that the impact of this congress will be cascaded to all levels of the society across the entire continent with similar engagements

I encourage each of you to value every attendee's liberty of conscience

In order for us to coexist peacefully throughout the period of the congress and beyond

**Dr Blasious Ruguri**  
Chairman



# AGENDA



17th SEPTEMBER 2024

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
	Opening Exercise	

08:00 - 08:10  
 08:10 - 08:20  
 08:20 - 09:00

Secretary General Remarks  
 Chairman's Remarks  
 Guest of Honor

## PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

9:10 - 10:30

### Session 1

#### Introduction of Presenters Presentations

1. Liberty of Conscience: *The primordial human right*
2. Peaceful co-existence in Africa: *The African Union perspective*

**Dr Ganoune Diop**

Commissioner AU  
political Affairs, peace &  
Security Dept (PAPS)

10:35 - 12:00

### Session 2

#### Introduction of Presenters Presentations

1. Current conflicts and issues of transitional justice in Africa
2. Religious Liberty for me and - sometimes for you - Minorities, majorities and an age-old challenge

**Judge Palan Mulonda**

**Dr Nicta Luballe**

#### Responses

12:05 - 13:25

### Session 3

#### Introduction of presenters

#### Presentations

1. Liberty of conscience and current major threats
2. Freedom of Religion and its role in enhancing human dignity and peaceful coexistence in Africa

**Dr Francis Kuria**

**Amb Tom Amollo EBS**

#### Responses

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
13:25 – 14:40	LUNCH	
14:40 – 15:10	PRAYERS FOR PEACIFUL CO-EXISTENCE	Islam
15:10 – 16:20	<b>BREAK OUT SESSIONS</b>  Introduction of Presenter  Presentations: <i>Peaceful Coexistence in Africa</i>  1. Liberty of conscience: The voice of an African Woman  2. A Youth perspective of the value of liberty of conscience: The experience of Southern Africa Region  3. Relating to human trafficking, Refugees and internally displaced people  Responses	Flora Fiona Akoth LLM  Othusitse Mbeha  Ms Emma Nyerere
16:20 – 17:00	Closing Presentation	

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TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
13:00 – 14:20	LUNCH	
14:20 – 14:50	PRAYERS FOR PEACE	Hindus
14:50 – 15:30	AARLA LAUNCH	
	Relationship between the SDA Church and All Africa Religious Liberty Association	Audrey Andersen
	Relationship between IRLA and AARLA	John Nay
15:30 – 16:20	PRESENTATION OF AFRICA RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AWARDS	
16:20 – 17:00	CLOSING EXERCISE	



## KEY NOTE SPEAKERS & RESOURCE PERSONS

**Dr. Blasious M. Ruguri**  
President  
**East-Central Africa Division**



Dr. Blasious M. Ruguri was born and raised in the beautiful country of Kenya. He is married to Elizabeth Ruguri and together they have three adult children. As a young person he enjoyed spending time in church and preaching the good news of the Adventist message. He was called to Pastoral Ministry in 1982 and was ordained to the Gospel Ministry August 16, 1986.

Dr. Ruguri is internationally recognized for his bold initiatives and dynamic leadership which continues to lead the East-Central Africa Division to achieve unprecedented growth and stay focused on mission.

Dr. Ruguri has earned several professional degrees. He graduated with a Bachelor of Theology degree from Bugema University in Kampala, Uganda in 1981. He earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University, Michigan, USA, in 1991. In 2014, he was awarded an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Church Leadership (honoris causa), by the Adventist University of Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya. In March 2015, he graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree in Global Mission Leadership also of Andrews University, Michigan, USA.

Dr. Ruguri served as the Chancellor of Adventist University of Africa (Kenya), from the year 2012 until April 2023. Currently, he serves at the Adventist University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (Kenya), Adventist University of Central Africa (Rwanda), and University of Lukanga (D R Congo).

**Amb John Nay**  
**United States**



Ambassador (ret.) John R. Nay served in the United States Foreign Service for 36 years. During his career, John served tours of duty in Taiwan, Singapore, India, South Africa, Canada, and in Washington, D.C. His final overseas assignment was as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Suriname in South America. Ambassador Nay particularly emphasized the importance of human rights, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and the value of environmental awareness. After retiring from the Foreign Service, Ambassador Nay was invited to become President of the International Religious Liberty Association in 2017, and in that role he has actively sought to advance religious liberty for all.

Ambassador Nay holds a B.A. and M.A. from Andrews University, a Masters in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University, and an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Andrews University. He is language qualified in Chinese (Mandarin) and also has studied Dutch, Spanish, French, and German. During his career he received three Superior Honor Awards and four Senior Performance Awards.

After retirement, Ambassador Nay and his wife, Judy Ashdon Nay, returned to Southwest Michigan, where he currently teaches part-time at Andrews University. The Nays have three children and two grandchildren.



**Amb William Azumah  
Awinador-Kanyirige**  
**Ghana**

Ambassador William Azumah Awinador-Kanyirige, assumed the role of Senior Adviser on Governance and Peacebuilding to the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (seconded by UNDP on contract) , effective February, 2022. From 2021 to date, he has also been an adjunct lecturer at the Graduate School ( MA International Relations Course) of the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA), teaching the module: Diplomacy in Security and Intelligence.

He is a retired career diplomat with 31 years of experience. Before this current appointment, he was a private consultant, with a focus on research and capacity building in the areas of governance, strategic planning, diplomacy, peacebuilding, youth mentorship, regional integration and development.

He was Ghana's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Permanent Representative to the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa (July 2017/May 2018); High Commissioner of Ghana to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and concurrently accredited to the Republic of Cameroon, as well as Permanent Representative to ECOWAS (September 2014 to June 2017).

Ambassador Awinador-Kanyirige had earlier served in various capacities at both the Foreign Ministry (notably as Chief of Protocol, Director Africa & AU, Chef de Cabinet on two occasions to two different Ministers) and posted to several diplomatic missions abroad (Harare, Paris, New York), including, a secondment to ECOWAS Commission, Abuja, as Chief of Staff (2002-2008), and a prior secondment as District Secretary (District Chief Executive) in Bolgatanga, Ghana (1987-89).

Prior to that, he had worked in the Africa Regional Office of the International Young Christian Students, IYCS, (1982-85) as a member of the Five-Member Regional Coordination Team in Nairobi, Kenya; Programmes and Research Officer at the National Commission on Children (1985-87), Accra, Ghana.

He is a Fellow of the Society for Peace Studies and Practitioners

(SPSP), Nigeria and Executive Council Member, Council for Foreign Relations, Ghana (CFR, Ghana). He also serves as a Member of various Boards of Directors including the Pan-African World Heritage Museum, Winneba; Bisa Aberwa Museum Takoradi. He had earlier served as a Member of the Executive Board of the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) 2009 to 2014, the Bureau of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development in 2011/12 (as a Vice-Chairman, representing Africa); and FERAM, Paris (2019/2020).

Amb. Awinador-Kanyirige holds a BA Combined Honours Degree in French and Spanish (1981) and an MA in International Affairs, 1990, Legon Centre for International Affairs, both at the University of Ghana; MA (Diplome) in International Relations (1992) at the Institut International de l'Administration Publique/Ecole National d'Administration (IIAP/ENA), Paris.

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**Dr. Francis Kuria Kagama**  
Secretary General Religions for Peace  
**Kenya**



Dr. Francis Kuria Kagama, assumed the position of the Secretary General Religions for Peace (RfP) in 2024.

He has also served as the Secretary General, African Council for Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace (ACRL-RfP) and Executive Director of Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK). Dr. Kuria had also served as Programs Director and head of the IRCK secretariat for a period of six years. Before joining IRCK, Dr. Kuria worked as the National Coordinator for the Small Business Network, an organisation advocating for small and medium enterprises. He also worked as a Financial Analyst at the Nairobi Stock Exchange and as a volunteer with St. John Ambulance Brigade where he served for 16 years, retiring as Assistant Commissioner, Training and Operations in 1998. Dr. Kuria holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.



**Audrey Andersson**  
**Ireland**

Born in Ireland, Audrey Andersson grew up in a pastor's family, moving approximately every three years and learning to serve the church from a very young age. She graduated from Newbold College, England, with BA in Theology.

Following graduation, she worked at the prestigious English real estate journal, *Estates Gazette*, eventually becoming Legal Editor. She helped develop an award-winning daily online news service from the High Court. Upon marrying her late husband, Lars Eric Andersson, she moved to Sweden and established a communication consultancy company. She worked for diverse clients such as Ericsson, Örebro University, and IT startups. During this time, Andersson was also involved in the development, writing, and editing of the Gracelink Sabbath School Curriculum. In 2003, the Swedish Union of Churches Conference called her to serve as Executive Secretary, and has been serving as a commissioned pastor since 2007. She transitioned to serve as Executive Secretary of the Trans-European Division (TED) in 2010. It was also in 2010 that Andersson earned her master's degree in Pastoral Ministry. During her tenure as Executive Secretary, Andersson strove for a distinctively Adventist identity and a balanced, culturally relevant perspective on mission. She developed and managed summer festivals and other missional outreaches.

In 2016, Andersson received the General Conference Woman of Excellence Award, followed in 2020 by the British Union Conference Women in Leadership Award. Throughout her various tenures, she was always keen to find new and better methods and to grow and develop new programs. Her interest in people and her knowledge of different cultures make her a caring and valuable member of the teams with which she works.

Audrey Andersson was elected as a General Vice President for the Seventh-day Adventist World Church at the 2022 General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri. She is the second woman to serve as a general vice president and the first European woman to do so.

**Justice Palan Mulonda**  
Constitutional Court Judge  
**Republic of Zambia**



Justice Palan Mulonda is currently serving as a Judge on the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Zambia. Before his appointment to the bench in March 2016, Justice Mulonda served as Zambia's Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary to the United States of America with residence in Washington DC and Ambassador and High Commissioner on a non-residential basis to several Central American nations which included Belize, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras and Mexico. Before taking up his diplomatic assignment, he served as Director of the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education, a statutory body mandated to train and examine law graduates for admission to the Zambian Legal Bar. In 2007, the third Republican President appointed him to serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Zambia, a mandate which was renewed by the then fourth Republican President in 2010.

Justice Mulonda, has lectured and tutored law in the School of Law at the University of Zambia in addition to his involvement in human rights work and training within the United Nations Human Rights system and the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights within the African Union on behalf of the Zambian Government.

He holds a bachelor of laws degree (LLB) from the University of Zambia (UNZA) a masters degree in International Law (MIL) from the University of Lund in Sweden and was a member of the Zambian Bar since 1995 before ascending to the bench in 2016. He holds other postgraduate professional qualifications in mediation, human rights and legislative drafting obtained from the United States of America, France and Zambia.

Justice Mulonda, is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Zambia and currently serves as one of the trustees of the Church in Zambia.

Born in Lusaka, Zambia he and his wife Valerie Mutinta have three daughters. He enjoys reading, farming and supporting infrastructure development for Adventist education.



**Chief Justice (Emeritus)  
David K. Maraga, FCI Arb, EGH  
Kenya**

Chief Justice (Rtd) David Kenani Maraga was the Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya from 2016 to 2021 during which he also served as the Chairman of the Kenyan Judicial Service Commission; Chairman of the National Council on Administration of Justice; and Chairman of the Council for Law Reporting. Prior to joining the Judiciary, Justice Maraga was in private practice for over 25 years.

In retirement, Chief Justice Maraga continues to offer his leadership and experience to the country and the region. Most recently, he chaired a Presidential Taskforce that reviewed and proposed reforms to the Police, Prisons, and the National Youth Service in Kenya. In 2022/22, he led eminent jurists and experts in developing a governance and peacebuilding strategy for the Africa UNDP Office.

Chief Justice Maraga is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb) London, a Certified Mediator and holds a Master of Laws degree (LLM) in democracy and governance. He is a recipient of honorary doctoral degrees from Daystar University, Adventist University of Africa and Kabarak University in Kenya, as well as Andrews University in Michigan, USA, all in recognition of his distinguished service and courageous leadership.

Chief Justice Maraga is a Christian and an Elder of the Seventh day Adventist Church. He is married with three adult children and two grandchildren.



**Geoffrey Gabriel Mbwana**  
**Tanzania**

Geoffrey Gabriel Mbwana was elected as a general vice president for the Seventh-day Adventist world church in 2010.

Born on October 20, 1955 in Tanzania, Mbwana spent time in high school and college working as a literature evangelist in India and Sweden. Mbwana graduated from Spicer Memorial College in 1982 with bachelor's degrees in religion and psychology.

He earned a master's degree in education from Andrews University in 1984 and completed a master's in educational psychology at Poona University in 1986. He is married to Nakku Mbwana and they have two daughters: Orupa and Upendo.

**Effie Joan Atieno**  
Advocate of the High Court of Kenya  
**Kenya**



Effie Joan Atieno is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and currently works as the Access to Justice Specialist at Terre des Hommes Foundation responsible for child protection and child justice in the refugee camps and other at risk regions. She describes herself as an active citizen who enjoys using her legal expertise to educate others on basic legal principles and human/child rights issues. She is an adventist and serves as the asst. childrenministry leader and a deaconess at Advent Hope Community Church.

As part of her ministry, she is involved in high school ministry, music ministry where she sings with Testify Kenya and volunteering at Cancer Friends of Hope. She is the founder of sahani mtaani, a street feeding program in Nairobi which she is passionate about.

### **Dr. Winfrida Mitekaro**

Director of Adventist Family Ministries  
and Coordinator for Revival and  
Reformation/Prayer Ministries  
**ECD**



Winfrida holds a BA and MA in Social Work from Friedensau Adventist University in Germany and a PhD in Organizational Leadership from Adventist University of Africa.

Prior to her current responsibilities, Winfrida has served as a faculty at the University of Arusha and as a director for Sabbath School, Women and Children Ministries for the Northern Tanzania Union Conference. She has also served as Ministerial spouses, Pastors Kids and Prayer Ministries coordinator for East-Central Africa Division.

Winfrida is married to Dr. Musa Gidion Mitekaro and together they have three young adult sons. She is committed, dedicate and passionate about her ministries for the Lord. She cherishes innovations for ministries and is zealous about service to God and humanity wherever God sends her.

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### **Othusitse Mbeha**

Managing Partner  
**Othusitse Mbeha Lawyers**



Othusitse Mbeha is a passionate reader, diving deep into the world of literature. As a devout Seventh-day Adventist Christian, he not only finds solace in his faith but has also embraced his role as a religious author, crafting a captivating book titled "Before God Says Yes." Beyond his literary prowess, Othusitse is a rising star on the public speaking circuit, captivating audiences with his profound insights. Juggling multiple hats, he thrives as both a seasoned legal practitioner and a visionary entrepreneur, serving as the Managing Partner of Othusitse Mbeha Lawyers. With unwavering conviction, he firmly believes that the road to both heavenly and earthly success is paved with dedication, hard work, and integrity.

**Emma Lwaitama Nyerere**  
**Tanzania**



Emma Lwaitama Nyerere is a mother, a women's right activist, a Pan African movement activist, a writer, social worker, motivational speaker, geologist; once worked in a clerical support role in the oil and gas industry in Tanzania but currently devotes most of her time to volunteer work for women's rights organizations on the African continent including the Afro Usawa Women for Public Leadership , African Women in Energy Network (AWEN), Africa Rising Organization, Young Women of Africa (YWOA), African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), ILITHA LABANTU People who care about people, CHATT AFRICA INITIATIVE and many more. She also does volunteer work for the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Tanzania in the field of promoting Pan Africanism and African philosophy in general as reflected in the two main ideological positions that our founding fathers and mothers promoted on the African Continent, which are UJAMAA or OBUNTU and PANAAFRICANISM. Emma believes that for humanity to survive and thrive the privileged must have a social responsibility to make a difference for the better in the lives of the less privileged.

Emma is an experienced and results driven person with strong communications skills in Kiswahili and English. She has more than 8 years of experience in organizing advocacy work and contributing to various training workshops and conferences as well as panel discussions and symposia on issues of women rights and African liberation. She has significant experience in working with people of different cultural and political backgrounds in Tanzania, East Africa, and Southern Africa as well as the USA and Europe to lesser extent. 2

Emma was born in Ruvuma Region, in southern Tanzania on April 12th, 1979. She gained her informal education that built her self-confidence as a woman and a Pan African person as she was being raised and groomed by her parents, who are educators. She gained further informal education by being brought up on the residential premises of the University of Dar es Salaam Mwalimu Nyerere Campus in Tanzania that fostered her wide exposure to various cultures both Tanzanian, African, and of the wider world beyond the African continent.

Emma gained formal basic education as follows: from 1985 to 1991 received primary education at Mlimani Primary School, that is located on the premises of the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; received secondary education, initially, she joined Shaaban Robert Secondary School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 1992 and then went to Jitegemee Secondary School, which is run by the Tanzania Peoples Defense Forces, in 1996. Thereafter, she gained her formal tertiary education first at Melbourne Language Centre, in Australia from 1997 to 1999, and then went on to the University of Melbourne St Hilda College, also in Australia, where she studied Geology from 2000 to 2002. She then chose to study Fashion Design and Broadcasting at Evelyn College in Kenya in 2003.

After gaining all the various informal and formal education, Emma, now a mother of two male children, has been working with various government and non-governmental organizations doing women rights advocacy work in Tanzania and Africa including the Graca Marchel Trust Network for Africa business women as well been working as an administrative and advocacy lead for a Tanzanian country-wide Human affairs related non-governmental organization (NGO) called WAMATA (Walio katika Mapambano na HIVAIDS Tanzania), which is a service delivery and advocacy NGO dealing with fundraising and undertaking humanitarian programs catering for the basic needs of HIVAIDS pandemic related orphans. Also, Emma has also been working as an administrative and advocacy lead for an African continent-wide women affairs related international non governmental organization (INGO) called Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO, which is an Agency of the African Union (AU) that does fundraising and programs work on African women emancipation. From time to time Emma has also served on task forces set up by the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and on a Government Ministerial Committee dealing with archival and advocacy work 3 relating to the promotion of our forefather's and foremother's ideas on Women's Rights and Pan African Unity including the use of Kiswahili as a lingua franca in Africa.

Emma has also gained some professional experience in offering administrative lead services in the private business sector through being one of the CEOs of a private Company called KABOD Investments.

Furthermore she is the President of the Women Mobilization Commission of the Pan African Federalist Movement (PAFM), which is an INGO working on the African continent and in the African Diaspora, advocating for African Unity..

**Eric Hanziba**  
Legal Counsel at CEC PLC  
**Zambia**



Eric is Legal Counsel at CEC PLC and Company Secretary for CEC Renewables Limited. Prior to his current roles, he worked in private practice as an Associate Advocate at SLM Legal Practitioners, Associate & Team Leader of Litigation and Corporate Advisory at John Kaite Legal Practitioners, and the water sector as the first ever in-house Legal Counsel & Company Secretary of Kafubu Water and Sanitation Company Limited. He was instrumental in the set up and management of a functional legal department in the 20-year history of the company.

Eric is an emerging corporate lawyer with 10 years diversified experience in the legal profession, over 7 of that is post bar. He has experience in corporate advisory, commercial arbitration, commercial transactions, company secretarial and corporate governance, compliance and risk management, contract administration and trial advocacy with a bias in civil matters. He also has progressive experience in pension, energy, construction, capital markets and securities law, and project financing/management. He has handled complex and high-profile transactions.

Eric is a reliable, detail oriented and eloquent Corporate Governance Specialist. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Zambia and is an Advocate of the High Court for Zambia and Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK and Zambia Branch. Eric is a member of the Law Association of Zambia and the International Bar Association.

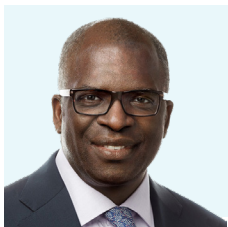
He currently sits on the boards of Adventist Health International (AHI)-Zambia, the Adventist Retirement Board and chairs the Legal and Compliance Committee of the CEC Pension Trust Scheme

Eric is Legal Counsel at CEC PLC and Company Secretary for CEC Renewables Limited. Prior to his current roles, he worked in private practice as an Associate Advocate at SLM Legal Practitioners, Associate & Team Leader of Litigation and Corporate Advisory at John Kaite Legal Practitioners, and the water sector as the first ever in-house Legal Counsel & Company Secretary of Kafubu Water and Sanitation Company Limited. He was instrumental in the set up and management of a functional legal department in the 20-year history of the company.

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### **Ganoune Diop**

Director of the Public Affairs and  
Religious Liberty Department (PARL)  
**USA**

Ganoune Diop, PhD, is the Director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL) at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. He is the Secretary General of the International Religious Liberty Association. He is also the Secretary of the Conference of General Secretaries of the Christian World Communions.

Dr. Ganoune Diop was the director of the United Nations Relations of the General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists.

Previous to his current functions, he was the Director of the Five World Religions and Philosophies Study Centers (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Secularism and Postmodernism).

He regularly trains leaders in capacity building in reference to peace, justice, and human rights: the pillars of the United Nations. In the ecumenical world and interfaith partnerships, Dr. Diop participated as advisor to the Public Issues Committee at the WCC General Assembly in Busan, Korea. He was also invited as advisor to the work of the reference Policy Committee of the Central Committee of the WCC.

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### **Flora Fiona Okoth**

Secretary General Religions for Peace  
**Kenya**



Member of The Law Society of Kenya, The Institute of Certified Secretaries and Kenya Adventist University of Africa Council.

She has a vast legal and corporate experience of over 30 years in both private and public sector.

Started her career as a young lawyer in private practice, mainly in civil litigation. After a few years, joined the corporate world and has held senior positions over the years in diverse industries including the insurance sector and agriculture and oil & gas industry.

Served in Community Aid International Board (NGO), as Chairperson for 5 years and in two other boards as a Company Secretary. She is a trainer in corporate governance.

Her interests include choir singing, cooking, physical fitness, mentorship and gospel outreach missions



**Lilian Orieko**

The US EMBASSY'S legal department  
**Kenya**

Lilian Orieko holds Bachelors degree in Law, L.L.B from the University of Nairobi, Kenya; holds an LLM from Loyola University Chicago, PROLaw; Certificate Course in Legislative Drafting, TCA Nairobi; Diploma in Legal studies from the Kenya School of Law; Diploma in International Baccalaureate from the St. Mary's School Nairobi.

She has great experience in Private legal practice in various law firms in Nairobi. She has worked as the Program Manager for legal aid programs at The CRADLE – The Children Foundation. She has managed Public Interest and Advocacy Program at the Law Society of Kenya. She was the Regional Manager for Strengthening Access to Justice for Children and Youth in East Africa. She has worked as the Legal Officer at the National Bank of Kenya. Currently she works in The US EMBASSY'S legal department.

Irene Ndegwa was admitted to read Law at the University of Nairobi from 1996 to 2000 and undertook her pupillage at Shapley Barret & Company Advocates before admission to The Bar in 2002. Ms. Ndegwa was employed by Mugambi Manyara & Company before obtaining a Masters of Law degree from the University of Nairobi in 2007. Ms. Ndegwa who is also a law lecturer at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa set up her private practice firm in 2011, Wambui Ndegwa & Associates Advocates and says that her joy is to offer free legal services which has led her to be recognized as the Economic and Social Rights Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year (2014).

**Karnik Doukmetzia**  
General Counsel  
**Canada**

Practice areas: General corporate matters, Commercial transactions and Non-profit law. Areas of emphasis include Corporate governance, General Conference institutions, Legal reviews, Litigation management, counsel to General Conference and Division officers and institutions, and Immigration.

Mr. Doukmetzian was born in Athens, Greece and raised in Toronto, Ontario. He graduated from York University in Toronto, Ontario with an honors bachelor's degree in Strategic Studies. In 1982 he earned his law degree from the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada. He is licensed to practice law in both the United States and Canada. He is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada and the State Bars of the District of Columbia and the State of Tennessee. He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He is also a member of the American Bar Association, Association of Corporate Counsel, Canadian Bar Association and the Defense Research Institute.

Mr. Doukmetzian was appointed General Counsel in 2009. Before joining the Office of General Counsel, he worked for Adventist Risk Management for 12 years. Before joining ARM, he was General Counsel, and Trust Services and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

### **Prof. Ademola S. Tayo**

President/Vice Chancellor, Babcock  
University  
**Nigeria**



He is a Professor of Development Education. He holds a BSc in Agricultural Economics (1985) from the prestigious University of Ibadan. Having obtained a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Religion, he proceeded and earned a Master of Arts Degree in Religion (New Testament) from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Manila, Philippines (AIAS) in 1993. He had a short stint as a student at the prestigious Pontifical Gregorian University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines between 1993 and 1994 and eventually completed a PhD in Development Education (Religious Education Emphasis) at the Central Luzon State University, Philippines in 1999.

His academic working career started in Babcock University as Lecturer II where he rose through the ranks to become a Professor of Development Education.

Professor Tayo's academic work experience has been both within and outside Nigeria. He was a member of the study group of the Federal Government of Nigeria on Education Sector Analysis (2005). At Babcock University, he was Pioneer Director of Academic Planning. He was Head of the Department of Education and General Studies. He was appointed as the first Special Assistant to the Pioneer President/Vice-Chancellor of Babcock University. Between 2006 and 2007, he was a visiting Professor to the University of Eastern Africa Baraton, Kenya.

Professor Ademola Tayo belongs to many professional and learned societies. He holds a membership of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) as well as a Fellowship of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (FSPSP). He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Administrators of Nigeria (FCIA). He has served the church educational system as a member of the International Board for Education (IBE) in various accrediting teams to Adventist University of West Africa in Liberia, Valley View University Ghana, Middle East University Beirut-Lebanon, Sahmyook University South Korea, and many others. He is widely travelled and has to his credit scores of publications in peer reviewed national and international journals.

Professor Tayo is an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who has served as a local Church Pastor in West Nigeria Conference of Seventh-day Adventist.

He is married to Professor Oluwatoyin Tayo and they are blessed with two adult daughters.



**Prof. Paul C. Ananaba, SAN, Ph.d**  
Senior Advocate, Notary Public,  
Arbitrator, Mediator, Conciliator  
**Nigeria**

He obtained his Bachelor of Laws(LL.B Hons) at imo State University Okigwe (now Abia State University. Uturu) in 1990. He attended the Nigerian Law School, Lagos, and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1991. He acquired an LL.M specializing in Legislative Drafting in 2003 and obtained a Ph.d in Law and Diplomacy from Babcock University in 2016 and a second .Ph.d in Law in Babcock University in 2022.

He is a Notary Public, Arbitrator, Mediator, and Conciliator. He is a Licenced Capital Market Consultant with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Former Director of Legal Services, West Central Africa Division Abidjan, and Western Nigeria Union Conference, and Currently its Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, PARL. Legal Consultant and member Governing Council of both Babcock University and Clifford Universities. Former Chair, Nigeria Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law (SPIDEL). Currently member, Claims Review Panel, Nigeria Stock Exchange.

Authored over 7 books and 40+research papers, including the notable work "The Fundamental Right to Religion."  
·Regular contributor to discussions on religious rights and has presented papers at several IRLA events.

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Institute of Management,Chartered Institute of Administration, Chartered Institute of Chartered Conciliators and Mediators, among others. Chiarman of the African Steering Committee on Religious Liberty in 2007.

Married to Dr. Amarachi Ananaba, who holds a Bachelor of Laws LL.B. Hons. In law, and is also an academic. They are blessed with three children.  
Active involvement in church and community legal services,reflecting his dedication to both professional and personal growth.

**Rene Lake**  
Managing Editor of SenePlus.com  
**USA**



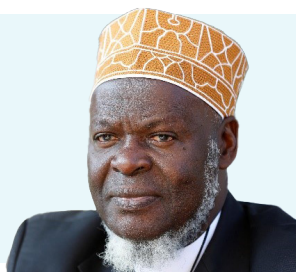
René Lake is a seasoned international development expert, media thought leader, and prolific author with over 35 years of experience shaping programs and policies across Africa, the Caribbean, and beyond. Currently, he serves as the managing editor of SenePlus.com, a digital media outlet, and a political analyst for Voice of America (VOA), based in Washington, DC. He is also the founder and CEO of RSL Strategies, an international development consulting firm.

René has a vast array of expertise, from leading US government-funded projects to fostering economic growth, natural resource management, and governance initiatives. He has held key roles in Washington as Director for Africa at the National Summit on Africa and Senior Policy Advisor at WorldSpace. His commitment to development in Africa and the Caribbean is reflected in his travels to over 50 countries, where he has made a tangible impact on communities.

An influential figure in journalism, René has served as Bureau Chief for France and Western Europe at PANA and hosted an environmental show on RFI. He is also the author and co-author of several works, including *Silence du temps*, *Sous la chape Covid 19* (2023) and *Enjeux 2019-2024, Sénégal* (2020).

René holds advanced degrees in Philosophy of Language, Information, and Communication Sciences, and has lectured at Northwestern University, Rutgers University, and American University. His forward-thinking approach continues to guide his work as he contributes to development and media discourse worldwide.

**Sheikh Shaban Mubaje**  
Grand Mufti  
**Uganda**



Sheikh Shaban Mubaje is Grand Mufti of Uganda and was instrumental in the founding of Religions for Peace's Interreligious Council of Uganda.

Mubaje was born in Bungokho in Mbale district. He became familiar with Islamic affairs early in his life, thanks to the years spent in a Madras Islamic Primary School in Natete Kayunga district and Namatembe Islamic Institute in Namutumba. Mubaje later joined Bugembe Islamic Institute in Jinja, where he completed senior six in 1976 in Islamic studies. In 1977, he went to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia for a bachelor's degree in Sharia (Islamic law). In 1981, he became the Imam of Madinah Mosque, Mbale and founded Mahdi Noor Islamic Institute.

Months later, he became the Mbale district khadi, while pursuing a post-graduate diploma in philosophy at Mbale Islamic University. Mubaje later enrolled at Makerere University for a master's degree in religious studies. After graduation, he returned to Mbale University as a lecturer in religious studies.

In 2000, Dr. William Vendley and Sheikh Shaban Mubaje met and formed the Interreligious Council of Uganda-RfP. Sheikh Shaban Mubaje used the platform of *Religions for Peace* International to begin to speak out and address rebel groups in Uganda by preaching the message of love and coming together despite different religious beliefs. In the same year, he was unanimously elected Grand Mufti, of Uganda.

Since the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda was formed, Sheikh Shaban Mubaje has continued his relentless work with Religions for Peace. In 2001, he helped form the *Religions for Peace*-African Council of Religious Leaders, where he has facilitated the involvement of Muslim communities in Pan-African development initiatives. He continues to hold the position of Co-Chair of the Council.

In 2015, he became a member of the Supreme Council of Muslim Leaders, a global assembly of Muslim scholars.

**Zwonaka Netshifulani**  
Lawyer and Researcher  
**South Africa**



Lawyer and researcher living in Johannesburg. She obtained her LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

She completed her articles at a public interest and human rights law clinic and research centre: The Socio-economic Rights Institute of South Africa. Prior to joining SERI-SA she worked as a Legal Consultant to the COO of the South African Human Rights Commission. Following SERI she was a Law Researcher to the then Deputy Chief Justice of South Africa, Justice RMM Zondo for a year before a short stint as an investigations officer at the Gender Equity Office at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In January of 2019 she joined the State Capture Commission Judicial of Inquiry as Registrar before accepting a post as Deputy Director: Content and Relationship Management in the Private Office of the DCJ in July. She split her time between her work in that capacity and as a researcher working on the SCC's reports from commencement until the submission of the last volume to the Presidency in 2022. She's currently a Research Specialist: Business Conduct and Ethics for one of the major four banks in South Africa.

Her current research focus is on ethics, business conduct and corporate governance in the private sector. Zwonaka has a combined ten years of experience in human rights, research, law and ethics.

On the personal front, she is the first born of four children and daughter to Pr and Mrs Netshifulani who pastor in the Trans-orange Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She loves reading, sleeping, vintage clothes shopping and cooking. She has been a lay preacher since she was 19 preaching in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.

**Abraham Bakari**  
Director of Public Affairs and  
Religious Liberty for the SDA  
**West and Central Africa Region**



Abraham Bakari currently serves as the Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the West and Central Africa region. He holds a Master's degree in Communication and has completed several advanced courses in Semiotics and Strategies. His commitment to advocating for religious freedom began in the early 2000s, and since then, he has made significant contributions to promoting religious liberty and regional integration through his involvement with various NGOs.

Bakari has been frequently consulted by the government of Cameroon on matters concerning religious freedom. One of his notable achievements was his key role in organizing the 3rd African Congress on Religious Freedom in 2013, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The event, which attracted over 1,500 participants from across the continent, was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Cameroon, further highlighting its importance in advancing the cause of religious liberty in Africa.

**Thomas Boniface Amolo**  
Political and Diplomatic Secretary  
**Kenya**



Ambassador Thomas Amolo holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Post-Graduate Diploma – Diplomacy and International Relations from the University of Nairobi. He also holds a Diploma in International Economics/Diplomacy from Deutsche Stiftung fur International Entwicklung, Berlin. He possesses a Master's degree from the School of International and Public Affairs at the Columbia University New York.

A career diplomat, Ambassador Amolo has served, among other capacities, as Kenya's High Commissioner to South Africa and Nigeria.

**Major General George  
Aggrey Owinow, CBS**  
Kenya



Major General George Aggrey Owinow is a highly experienced military leader with over 39 years of distinguished service in the Kenya Defense Forces. His career spans a wide range of roles, including command, operations, logistics, and international diplomacy. He has held top positions such as Deputy Force Commander for AMISOM-Somalia, Commandant of the Kenya Military Academy, and Director of the Centre for Security and Strategic Studies at the National Defence University in Kenya.

Expert in leadership, security, and logistical planning. Skilled in diplomatic relations and international affairs. Adept in community development, sustainable governance, and social entrepreneurship. Served as a UN Military Observer in Liberia and as a military adviser to the Kenya Mission to the UN. Appointed Kenya's High Commissioner to Uganda in 2024. Held senior roles in various peacekeeping and international missions, including the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Authored papers and articles on peace and security mechanisms, conflict resolution, and international relations.



# LAWYER'S SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

## Justice and Faith in Contemporary Africa: *Integrating Biblical Values in Legal Practice*

20th SEPTEMBER 2024

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
08:00 - 08:30	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks-</b>	Joel Okindo Hopeson Bonya Abraham Bakari Adejoke Oyewunmi Japeth Rachuonyo Karnik Doukmetzian
08:30 - 09:00	<b>Devotional Thoughts:</b>	Pr. Blasious. Ruguri
09:00 - 09:45	<b>OPENING PLENARY-</b> Uganda Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs- Introduced by Joel Okindo	
09:45 - 10:00	<b>Break</b>	
10:00 - 10:45	<b>Judicial Panel- Interviews</b>	Justices Mulonda, Maraga, LTC Eruba
10:45 - 11:00	<b>Discussion and Questions</b>	
11:00 - 11:45	<b>Contemporary Religious Liberty Issues affecting the Church</b>	Todd McFarland
11:45 - 12:00	<b>Discussion and Questions</b>	
12:00 - 01:00	<b>LUNCH</b>	

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
01:00 – 01:45	<b>Models of Peaceful Coexistence</b> <i>The Case of Nigeria and Current Developments in the Ecowas Region</i>	<b>Paul Ananaba</b>
01:45 – 02:00	<b>Questions and Discussion</b>	
02:00 – 02:45	<b>The Place of Conscience and Integrity of an Adventist Lawyer</b>	<b>Lilian Orieko</b>
02:45 – 03:00	<b>Questions and Discussion</b>	
03:00 – 03:45	<b>Integrity: An Elusive Trait In the 21st Century Lawyer</b>	<b>Eric Hanziba</b>
03:45 – 04:00	<b>Questions and Discussion</b>	
04:00 – 04:45	<b>“On being a lawyer, It’s all about the Associations</b>	<b>Karnik Doukmetzian</b>
04:45 – 05:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Division legal Counsel</b>
05:00	<b>End of Program</b>	



# RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FESTIVAL PROGRAM

## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, TANZANIA RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FESTIVAL 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 Theme: *Religious Freedom for All*

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON IN CHARGE
08:00-08:45	Sabbath School	<b>Meshack Mahende</b> (NTUC)
08:45-09:00	Music Concert	<b>Paschal Gissa</b> , (TRVF)
09:00-09:05	Opening Hymn <i>"Umtetee Mungu Duniani,"</i> NZK # 68	<b>Mathias Mavanza</b> (Treasurer, NTUC)
09:05-09:10	Opening Prayer	<b>Jeremiah Izungo</b> (Executive Secretary, STUM)
09:10-09:20	Welcome Remarks and Introduction	<b>Onesto Ilomo</b> (NTUC)/ <b>Joel Okindo</b> (ECD)
09:20-09:40	Religion Liberty Music Concert	<b>Pascal Gissa</b> , (TRVF)
09:40-10:00	Thanksgiving Prayers	<b>MC</b>
10:00-10:30	Offertory <i>while 2 choirs are singing</i>	<b>Yohannes Olana</b> (Treasurer ECD) & <b>Dennis Wairaha</b> (Treasurer, STUM)
10:30-11:20	Religious Liberty Message	<b>Ganoune Diop</b> (General Conference PARL Director)
11:20-12:00	Music Concert	<b>Paschal Gissa</b> , (TRVF)
12:00-12:20	Reception of the Guest of Honor <i>(National Anthem, EAC Anthem)</i>	<b>MC</b>

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON IN CHARGE
12:20-12:30	Religious Liberty Parade	<b>Stephen Manema,</b> (NTUC)
12:30-12:45	Short Speeches (5 Minutes Each)	<b>Chief Justice Emeritus</b> Kenya African Union Regional Commissioner (Arusha)
12:45-12:55	Presentation of Peace Award	<b>Joel Okindo</b> (ECD PARL Director)
12:55-01:10	Division Presidents Greetings	<b>Harrington Akombwa</b> (Southern Africa Indian Ocean-SID); & <b>Blasious Ruguri</b> (East-Central Africa-ECD)
01:10-01:15	General Conference (GC) Greetings	<b>Geoffrey Mbwana</b> (GC Vice President)
01:15-01:25	Risala	<b>Devotha Shimbe,</b> (STUM)
01:25-01:30	Presentation of Guest of Honor	<b>Mark Malekana</b> (President, NTUC)
01:30-02:00	Guest of Honor Speech	<b>HON, Dr. PHILIP MPANGO</b> The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania
02:00-02:15	Vote of Thanks	<b>Godwin Lekundayo</b> (President, STUM)
02:15-02:20	Closing Hymn "Piga Panda na ya Makekele" NZK #161	<b>Magulilo Mwakalonge</b> (Executive Secretary, NTUC)
02:20-02:25	Closing Prayer	<b>Musa Mitekaro</b> (Executive Secretary, ECD)
02:25-02:30	Closing Session	<b>MC</b>

Organized by **NTUC & STUM** and supported by **AARLA**

Translators: **Shukrani Mutaki** and **Victor Kabangutse**;  
MC's: **Michael Kuyenga** and **Karen Kiboko**



# AARLA SECRETARIAT



**Joel Okindoh**  
Secretary General



**Hopeson Bonya**  
Southern Africa



**Abraham Bakari**  
Western Africa



## AWARDS

1. United Republic of Tanzania
2. Dr. Ganoune Diop
3. Hon. David Maraga



ALL AFRICA RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

*Liberty of Conscience for All*