



**Issued on 24 March 2026**

## **Call for Papers: Women and Law Reform in South Africa: Progress, Challenges, and Pathways Forward**

Women's voices have been pivotal in shaping law reform in South Africa, challenging gender discrimination, bridging social divides, and aligning legal frameworks with principles of social justice. As ongoing debates confront systemic inequality and pursue inclusive governance, the active participation of women in legal and civic spheres remains fundamental to meaningful transformation.

Despite the continued predominance of men in courts, academia, government, and the broader legal sector, women are making remarkable strides. Through advocacy and leadership, women are advancing human rights and contributing to transformative legal reforms. Their growing presence in the judiciary, government, academia, and social movements is strengthening the movement for gender equality and driving progressive change.

This call for contributions aims to bridge the gap between law and society by highlighting the achievements of women in law reform and reaffirming the commitment to gender transformation and inclusive participation. We invite submissions that highlight how women have transformed, reformed, and modernised laws and policies to advance social justice in South Africa.

Authors are invited to contribute to one of the following key areas:

- Law reform, gender, constitutionalism, and human rights
- Law reform, social justice, activism, and civic organisations
- Law reform and the decolonisation of South African law
- Law reform in public law, private law, commercial law, and procedural law

- Reclaiming Justice: Decolonising Private, Public, Mercantile, and Procedural Legal Frameworks
- Indigenising Legal Systems: Decolonising Private, Public, Mercantile, and Procedural Law Sectors
- The importance of comparative research and international perspectives on law reform

Abstract Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts should be between 300 and 500 words.
- Clearly state the research focus, methodology, and anticipated contribution.

Important Dates:

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30 April 2026
- Notification of abstract outcomes: 14 May 2026
- Full chapters due: 31 October 2026

Submissions will undergo double-blind peer review and then proceed to the production phase. Abstracts are to be addressed to Ms Aifheli Dzebu ([Adzebu@justice.gov.za](mailto:Adzebu@justice.gov.za) and [Reform@justice.gov.za](mailto:Reform@justice.gov.za)).