1. Introduction

1.1. The Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA)

ISLA’s triple objectives are to create a pool of domestic lawyers who have expertise on litigating gender, sexuality and women’s human rights cases, strengthening partner institutions’ capacity to conduct strategic litigation and to develop jurisprudence on women’s human rights issues. In order to achieve its objectives, ISLA has established the Women’s Human Rights Network (WHRN) and the Sexual Rights (SXR) Network.

Key to the Networks is communication that supports strategic litigation, and one of the ways to achieve this, is through a quarterly newsletter.

2. Rationale for the Newsletter

- Recognition that the use of strategic litigation is growing in many parts of the continent;
- Litigators in different countries often face similar challenges when seeking to use the law as a tool for social change;
- There is a paucity of cross-country conversations about how rules of procedure and substantive norms are being advanced or hindered in litigation; and
- There is a need to introduce conversations on what is working and what is not.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the publication are:

- To reflect on those opportunities and constraints that either impede or enable social change through strategic litigation via domestic, regional and international courts;
- To generate conversations around the meaning of public interest litigation when the law is used as a meaning – making institution;
- To ask strategic litigation lawyers and activists to develop their contributions based on a pre-decided and agreed-to theme or topic that explores and is analytical about what enables or hinders strategic litigation in their various contexts;
- To enable women’s human rights and sexual rights strategic litigation lawyers and activists to reflect on how the law can be defective or effective as a social change tool;
- To develop a culture of writing so as to generate and sustain discourse on issues that relate to strategic litigation, and
- To utilise the platform to highlight to an external audience the nature of the challenges and opportunities presented by the continuing work on strategic litigation.

4. Title of the newsletter

“Litigation Conversations in Africa”
5. Guidelines for writers

5.1. Topics

5.1.1. Women’s’ Human Rights Network

5.1.1.1. Amicus Curiae
The topic seeks to explore the ways in which the role of an Amicus in human rights litigation has served to protect and promote human rights.

5.1.1.2. Remedies
The topic seeks to determine whether there are adequate and effective remedies for human rights violations. In addition, to provide guidance on how to craft and articulate meaningful remedies that can lead to the actual change we want to see through strategic litigation.

5.1.1.3. Costs orders
This topic seeks to explore whether the risk of an adverse costs order is a critical consideration in a decision to proceed on a matter for public interest litigation.

5.1.1.4. Legal standing / locus standi
This topic seeks to consider how the interpretation of legal standing has limited or enhanced the role of public interest litigators in enforcing human rights through the courts.

5.1.2. Sexual Rights Network

5.1.2.1. Case development
This topic covers the SXR Network partners’ experiences in developing cases for litigation. We envision that this section will document and highlight the process of case development under the network, with a particular focus on lawyers and movements’ participation and contributions to particular cases.

5.1.2.2. Network development
This topic covers the SXR network partners’ experiences in the development of the network; these experiences vary from the local and regional coordination of the network, building a movement for sexual rights, exploring collaborations between social movements and lawyers, fundraising for strategic litigation for sexual rights, among others.

5.1.2.3. Theme based jurisprudence
This topic will explore the various thematic issues linked to sexual rights in the context of sexual orientation and gender identity. Some of the themes to be discussed under this section include litigating violence based on actual or imputed sexual orientation and/or gender identity, the failure of states to protect against violence (due diligence considerations), discrimination, police harassment, freedom of expression and association etc.

5.2. Writing Structure
Below is the proposed format for contributions to the newsletter:
1. Identify the topic
2. Background
3. Provide a legislative framework
4. Provide specific domestic and regional case law related to the topic
5. Description of how the topic has supported and/or hindered strategic litigation in your context.
7. Conclusion
5.3. Formatting

**File type:** word doc  
**Font:** Arial  
**Size:** 11  
**Line Spacing:** 1.5  
**Justification:** Justified  
**Referencing:** House style *(see attached guide)*  
**Number of words:** 1500-2000 words

6. Editorial Team  
ISLA Researchers

7. Distribution  
Newsletters will be distributed on the following platforms:  
- ISLA Website  
- Litigation Conversations mailing list  
- Various Law Associations