

(ONLINE) URBAN LAW DAY 2020

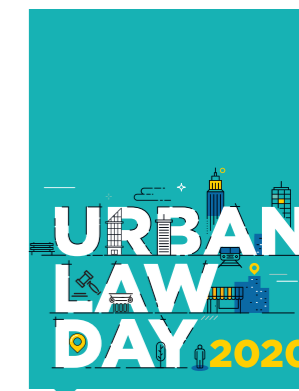
10 July 2020

12.00-14.00 (GMT); 14.00 - 16.00 (Nairobi time)

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

IALS INSTITUTE OF
ADVANCED
LEGAL STUDIES

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON



SPEAKERS

Prof. Marius Pieterse,
University of Witwatersrand

Prof. Geeta Tewari,
Director, Urban Law Center,
Fordham University School
of Law

Robert Lewis-Lettington,
Chief, Land, Housing and
Shelter Section, UN-Habitat

**Dr. Ana Paula Pimentel
Walker**, Assistant Professor
of Urban and Regional
Planning, University of
Michigan



Concept note

URBAN LAW DAY 2020

The post-COVID City : lessons for the future in law and development

The **Urban Law Day** is a specialised forum aiming to bring together a multidisciplinary circle of academics and practitioners interested in urban legislation, including planners, architects, policy makers, economists, urbanists, and lawyers.

The purpose of the Urban Law Day is to facilitate discussion, the exchange of views, networking, and the presentation of new research findings and emerging issues. The 7th Urban Law Day will take place on 10 July 2020 online. It will be hosted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London) and will address forward looking lessons for cities after COVID-19.

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE URBAN LAW DAY

The world is living through an unprecedented crisis as COVID-19 continues to spread, with hundreds of thousands of lives lost and over two hundred countries affected. In just a few months, the pandemic has transformed the way we live, work, travel and socialize.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of strong institutions including the leading role of national governments and the equally crucial place of subnational and local governments in navigating appropriate responses and addressing issues on the ground and their role for developing future recovery strategies for the socio-economic impacts of the crisis.

The importance of coordination and cooperation among different levels of government and sectoral institutions has become crucial.

This pandemic also threatens to destabilize governance institutions by undermining democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as manifested through the inability of governmental bodies (such as parliaments and courts) to physically convene for deliberations and the introduction of emergency measures some of which have been deemed to be autocratic and used to infringe fundamental rights and freedoms. In some cases, it also reduces the trust in governments (their ability to act, to inform, but also e.g. by increasing mistrust due to corruption or misuse of received funding and increases discrimination e.g. of certain population groups (being seen as "origin", transmitters or spreading the sickness).

The Urban Law Day looks at law as an important forward looking tool for policy implementation ordering behaviour, mediation of interests, building of legitimacy and protection of human rights. The Urban Law Day will try to identify lessons arising from the COVID-19 crisis for cities, decision makers and citizens and the conference attempts to address the following questions: what have cities learnt from this emergency? What kind of legal measures have been put to place- what has worked? How can we prepare our cities for the future pandemics?

PROGRAMME

14:00-14:15 - Introduction & Welcome address

- » Welcome address, *Dr. Remy Sietchiping*, UN-Habitat
- » Dr. Constantin Stefanou, Director, Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies, IALS, University of London
- » Overview of the Urban Law Initiative, *Dr. Maria Mousmouti*, IALS

14:15- 15:15 – Presentations

- » "Rights-clashes, legal fault-lines and Covid19 in South Africa's informal settlements" - *Prof. Marius Pieterse*
- » "Equal Pay as a Human Right: A Closer Look at New York City Human Rights Law after COVID-19." – *Prof. Geeta Tewari*
- » "Post COVID prospects for the right to adequate housing"- *Robert Lewis-Lettington*
- » "Access to Justice after COVID-19: The Limits of the Administrative Law Model to Enforce Socio-Economic Rights in Brazilian Informal Settlements"- *Dr. Ana Paula Pimentel Walker*, Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Michigan

15:15–16:00 - Q & A – Discussion

ORGANISERS

IALS INSTITUTE OF
ADVANCED
LEGAL STUDIES

The **Institute of Advanced Legal Studies** is part of the School of Advanced Study of the University of London with the mandate to promote research facilitation, advance innovation, and bridge research between academy and the professions. The Institute produces its own high impact research, and contributes to the generation and development of high impact research by others. The Institute brings together academic researchers, students, judges and legal practitioners from diverse backgrounds, enabling important opportunities for cross-fertilisation and has leadership involvement in strong networks both discipline-based and spanning geographical and jurisdictional differences.

Through its research projects and programmes the IALS leads and shapes research agendas, facilitates the identification of new research horizons and facilitates debate by providing opportunities and resources for cutting-edge research.

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN-Habitat is the coordinating agency within the United Nations System for human settlement activities and, in collaboration with governments, is responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including local authorities, private and non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 11 of "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", as well as the task manager of the human settlements chapter of Agenda 21 and focal point for the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted during the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016.