



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Collaborating for a
peaceful and just future for Africa

Abbreviations and acronyms

AB	Afrobarometer	ISS	Institute for Security Studies
AI	artificial intelligence	LOPECO	Lady of Peace Community Foundation
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism	LPI	Life and Peace Institute
AU	African Union	NAP	National Action Plan
AUTJP	African Union Transitional Justice Policy	OSPC	Open Society Policy Center
AWLN	African Women Leaders Network	PIP	Peacebuilding Interventions Programme
CairoPeaceKeep	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding	PMEL	planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning
CDD-GHANA	Center for Democratic Development	PVE	preventing violent extremism
CEPA	Centre for Poverty Analysis	SACTJ	South African Coalition for Transitional Justice
CONTRALESA	Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa	SADC	Southern African Development Community
CPAs	community property associations	SANDEF	South African National Defence Force
CSO	civil society organisations	SARB	South African Reconciliation Barometer
CSV	Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation	SAWID	South African Women in Dialogue
D4GA	Data for Governance in Africa	SCOPE	Strengthening Social Cohesion and Peace
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation	SETA	Sector Education and Training Authority
DPME	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Sida	Swiss International Development Cooperation Agency
DWB	Democracy Without Borders	SLB	Sri Lanka Barometer
EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa	SONA	State of the Nation Address
EU	European Union	SWP	Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
FES	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung	TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
GBV	gender-based violence	UN	United Nations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UNOSAA	United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa
H&W SETA	Health and Wellness SETA	UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
IDEA	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	VFP	Violence Prevention Forum
IDS	Institute for Development Studies	WEMP	Women's Election Mechanism for Peace
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission	WPS	Women, Peace and Security
IFC	International Fundraising Conference		
IJR	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation		
IPI	International Peace Institute		

Contents

Message from the Acting Board Chair	02
Message from the Executive Director	03
Tribute to Dr Webster Zambara	05
Organisational overview	06
2024 in review: Overview	07
2024 in review: Outcome highlights	08
Empowering policy actors to integrate evidence-based peacebuilding and governance research into policy formulation processes	08
Encouraging communities to assert their agency in transforming relations within divided societies	14
Supporting stakeholders in the implementation of peacebuilding and transitional justice policies, programmes and processes	16
Operations	27
Human resources	27
Fundraising and resource mobilisation	28
Communications	29
Financial statements	30
Partners	32

Message from the Acting Board Chair

As the Acting Chair of the IJR Board, it is with great pride and sincere reflection that I share this report on a year that has been both impactful and transformative for the Institute.

The IJR has continued to embody its mission of building fair, inclusive, democratic and peaceful societies. This vision has driven us to help build empowered communities and impactful policy-makers who are able to assert their agency in shaping more equitable and cohesive futures for their communities and countries. From pioneering peacebuilding interventions to facilitating dialogues that bridge divides, our work has been a testament to the strength of collaboration and the power of evidence-based action.

Key highlights of the past year include the significant strides made by our programmes, such as the Peacebuilding Interventions Programme work on preventing violent extremism and providing implementation support for transitional justice. Similarly, our Research and Policy Programme has delivered vital insights about perceptions of democracy in Southern Africa through the Afrobarometer surveys and the South African Reconciliation Barometer. These programmes have not only informed policy but also inspired hope and action among those we serve.

The Sustained Dialogues Programme has fostered critical conversations on identity, inclusion, and youth engagement, while the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Project has championed the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and South Africa's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. These efforts are a testament to the IJR's holistic and inclusive approach to addressing complex societal challenges.

This year has also seen significant advancements in our operations. From strengthening our human resources capacity to enhancing our communications strategies, we have laid the groundwork for sustained growth and greater impact. Our achievements would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our partners and funders, whose trust and collaboration have been invaluable.

As we look forward, the IJR remains committed to deepening its impact. We envision a future where our work continues to inspire innovation in peacebuilding, amplify marginalised voices, and support the establishment of just and sustainable societies across Africa. Together with our dedicated team, partners and stakeholders, we shall strive to meet emerging challenges with courage and determination.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Board, Executive Director, staff, and all who have contributed to the IJR's journey this past year.

With appreciation and resolve,

Mr Lorenzo Angus Davids
Acting Chairperson



Message from the Executive Director

It is with a profound sense of responsibility and reflection that I write this message, summarising a year of achievements and collective commitment to the ideals of justice, reconciliation and peace. While the year brought its share of successes, it was also marked by a significant loss to our community, with the passing of Dr Webster Zambara.

Dr Zambara was a pillar of the IJR family and a visionary in the field of peacebuilding. His contributions to peacebuilding across the Southern Africa region exemplified his unwavering dedication to fostering unity and to promoting healing and reconciliation. He has trained many young leaders on transitional justice and his legacy will continue through their work. His absence is deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing and collaborating with him.

In 2024, the IJR remained steadfast in advancing its mission of building fair, inclusive, democratic and peaceful societies in Africa. We have expanded the reach of our work with a range of different partners and stakeholders, as well as the depth and breadth of our engagements. We started off the year by reviewing our theory of change and our results framework so that our work could be more impactful. We brought in expertise to improve our communications and human resource management, and we spent much more time focusing on wellness initiatives for staff.

Over the past year the key initiatives in our programmatic work included the following:

- **The Peacebuilding Interventions Programme** collaborated with the International Peace Institute (IPI) in New York to conduct an expert survey on African perspectives of the emerging global order; conducted training for women on transitional

justice with the Life and Peace Institute (LPI); and collaborated with the Ukrainian Association of South Africa and the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation on pathways to peace.

- **The Research and Policy Programme** successfully conducted South African pre- and post-election surveys; the Data4Governance in Africa (D4GA) Project was able to leave its mark on closing the gap between policy formulation at the African Union (AU) level and its awareness, understanding and promotion by civil society; as well as providing the AU with data to inform policy decision-making.
- **The Sustained Dialogues Programme** continued the efforts to amplify community voices in addressing anti-racism, social cohesion and inclusion and to collaborate with the South African Coalition for Transitional Justice (SACTJ).
- **The Women, Peace and Security Project** launched the National Peace Charter and deployed the Women's Election Mechanism for Peace (WEMP) during South Africa's elections. The Project also held a Women's Pre-National Dialogue to capture what women believed were important areas for intervention in reimagining South Africa and to ensure that their voices are present in the National Dialogue.

IJR received an award from Good Governance Africa for its continued leadership and dedication to peacebuilding. We also became a member of the Strategy Group for NETT4Peace which seeks to support the Department of Politics, Peace and Security at the AU with thought leadership and policy implementation.

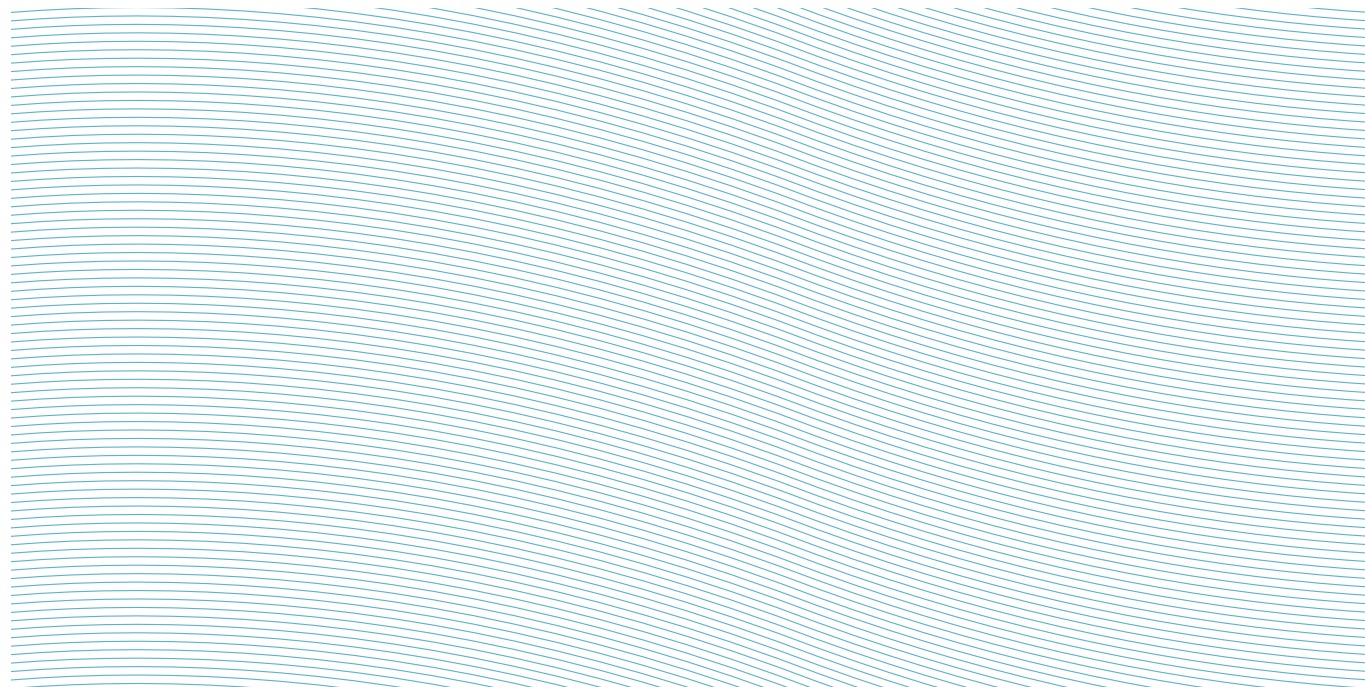
As we move forward, we are guided by the lessons of the past year and inspired by the promise of what lies ahead. Our focus remains on fostering inclusive spaces for dialogue, advancing evidence-based research and equipping communities with the tools needed to build resilience and agency.

In 2025, we celebrate 25 years of our contribution to transitional justice and broader peacebuilding globally, continentally and nationally. We look forward to welcoming you to our planned events and to your continued support for our endeavours.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to the IJR's journey in 2024. To our partners, funders and stakeholders, thank you for walking this path with us. To the IJR team, your dedication and innovation are the driving force behind our impact.



Prof. Cheryl Hendricks
Executive Director



Tribute to Dr Webster Zambara

It is with deep sadness that the IJR saw the passing of Dr Webster Zambara, Senior Project Leader of Peacebuilding Interventions Programme, in September 2024. Dr Zambara was a dedicated and esteemed member of our team, whose contributions to peacebuilding and conflict resolution for more than a decade have left a lasting impact on communities across Africa.

Dr Zambara was a towering figure in the peacebuilding community, instrumental in shaping key institutions and initiatives that have become beacons of hope for many. His thought leadership and active involvement in civil society efforts were crucial in advancing the campaign for transitional justice in Zimbabwe and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Through his mentorship and grassroots initiatives, Dr Zambara empowered countless individuals and communities to become advocates for peace.

In his honour, the Dr Webster Zambara Peace Lecture was launched by ZimRights and the IJR, for the visionary leader and advocate for peace whose contributions to peacebuilding, transitional justice and conflict transformation made a significant impact in Zimbabwe, South Africa and across the African continent.



Organisational overview

Vision

The IJR is a Pan-African organisation that seeks to build fair, inclusive, democratic and peaceful societies in Africa.

Strategic focus

Our three outcome areas are:

- Empowering policy actors to integrate peacebuilding and governance research into policy processes.
- Encouraging communities to assert their agency in transforming relations in divided societies.
- Supporting stakeholders in implementing peacebuilding and transitional justice policies, programmes and processes.

Our focus

Our work is context-specific, demand-driven, people-centred and has a long-term outlook. We work at all levels: intergovernmental – United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – and with think tanks, civil society and local communities. Our work is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063, the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP), the AU Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Plan, the

South African National Development Plan, the Women and Youth, Peace and Security Agendas, and the Just Energy Transition.

Our added value

We produce cutting edge quantitative and qualitative applied research and innovative practices, and we bring diverse stakeholders together for courageous conversations on peacebuilding, transitional justice and reconciliation. As thought leaders, we provide discreet policy input, driving significant shifts in policy and practice. By amplifying voices from diverse African communities, we foster identity, belonging and inclusivity. Our innovative methodologies enable reconciliation and re-humanisation of communities. Through carefully crafted and inclusive interventions, we seek to enable marginalised, wounded and divided societies to transform relations. We leverage our institutional knowledge, networks and expertise to complement the capacity of African governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society to implement their own transitional justice and peacebuilding frameworks and processes.

Why we do what we do

Africa can be a better place for all. We are doing our small part to make this a reality.

Values



Innovation



Accountability



Ethics



Trust



Excellence



Employee Wellness



Respect

2024 in review: Overview

In 2024, the IJR made significant strides in delivering on its organisational outcomes. At the heart of our mission was a commitment to producing evidence-based quantitative and qualitative research that illuminated the pathways to justice, reconciliation, social cohesion and peacebuilding. Our research deepened the understanding of these issues, providing crucial insights for government and civil society alike. We produced the South African Reconciliation Barometer (SARB) Report on Reimagining Apartheid Reparations, six country studies for the Afrobarometer survey, five policy briefs, one book and many opinion pieces, as well as collaborating with the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) on producing a series of papers on South Africa's 2024 national and provincial elections.

We contributed to the implementation of frameworks that lay the groundwork for more peaceful and just societies, namely, the AUTJP, UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, South Africa's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), and the National Action Plan to Combat Racism,

Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as the SDG's and Agenda 2063 more broadly. Our collaboration with local, regional, national and international partners was instrumental in strengthening partnerships and ensuring that our initiatives were both relevant and impactful. The UN, AU, Afrobarometer, LPI, South African Coalition for Transitional Justice (SACTJ) and South African Women in Dialogue remain our key partners. In 2024, we renewed longstanding partnerships as well as created new ones. With the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), for example, we convened critical conversations on WPS in Africa.

Moreover, we dedicated ourselves to strengthening the conflict-management and peacebuilding capacity of communities, civil society organisations, governments and inter-governmental bodies.

The IJR has therefore continued to contribute to advancing social cohesion, reconciliation and peace on the continent.

2024 in review: Outcome highlights

Empowering policy actors to integrate evidence-based peacebuilding and governance research into policy formulation processes

Afrobarometer

We continued our partnership with Afrobarometer (AB), a continental African time series survey that has been a critical tool for assessing public opinion since its inception in 1999. As a regional core partner since 2012, the IJR has played a pivotal role in the survey's execution and dissemination, ensuring that reliable, independent data informs governance, civic engagement and policy formulation across Southern Africa.

In 2024, we concentrated on the implementation of Round 10 surveys in Southern Africa and conducted AB's first panel telephone survey in South Africa. These efforts aimed to gather comprehensive data that reflects the voices and concerns of citizens.

Key achievements

- We successfully completed the South African pre-election survey as part of a two-round panel study, garnering substantial international media coverage. This survey provided valuable insights into the electorate's views ahead of the elections.
- All Round 9 surveys were concluded, allowing us to draw comparisons and assess trends over time.
- We completed all six planned Round 10 surveys, ensuring a robust dataset for analysis.
- Additionally, we finalised Policy User Surveys for Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa, enhancing our understanding of how these countries can better engage with and implement policy informed by public opinion.

Highlights

The South African pre- and post-election survey was a major achievement for the IJR and marked the first AB panel telephone survey to be conducted within the network. This survey not only captured critical data on public opinion regarding governance, socio-economic issues and voter intentions but also played a pivotal role in sparking widespread public and political dialogue. The findings, which highlighted citizens' pressing concerns such as unemployment, corruption and trust in political institutions, gained significant media traction and were featured in national outlets like News24 and eNCA. This coverage amplified the survey's reach, enabling policy-makers, civil society organisations and the public to engage in informed discussions about electoral choices and policy priorities.

The survey's impact extended beyond media coverage: it influenced political debates and discussions in the lead-up to the elections. Political analysts and party representatives referenced AB data in public forums and debates to address voter sentiments and challenge or defend policy positions. This use of evidence-based dialogue underscored the value of AB as a non-partisan source of reliable data, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone for democratic discourse and policy formulation.



The IJR hosted a briefing session with the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria on South Africa's 2024 pre-election telephonic survey results, conducted with Afrobarometer in May.



The Swedish Ambassador to South Africa, Håkan Juholt.

Strengthening democratic engagement through data

In 2024, our commitment to deepening democratic participation and accountability was exemplified through ground-breaking survey work. As mentioned above, we led the implementation of Round 10 surveys across Southern Africa and pioneered AB's first-ever panel telephone survey in South Africa. These efforts were not merely data-gathering exercises; they were instrumental in influencing national conversations and policy priorities.

Why this matters

AB's work is more than a survey – it is a tool for accountability, civic empowerment and evidence-based decision-making. In an era where misinformation and political polarisation can distort public discourse, our commitment to delivering credible, representative data ensures that policies and democratic processes remain rooted in the realities of African citizens.

Impact highlights

- **Enhancing policy responsiveness:** The completion of policy user surveys in Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa provided vital feedback on how governments and institutions can better engage with public opinion in policy-making. These surveys bridge the gap between data collection and actionable policy, equipping policy-makers with the evidence they need to design programmes that align with citizens' needs and expectations.
- **Tracking trends and informing strategy:** The successful completion of Round 9 surveys enabled valuable trend analysis, helping governments, development partners and civil society organisations to identify shifts in public attitudes over time. This longitudinal data is crucial for assessing the impact of policy interventions and ensuring strategic alignment with citizen priorities.

Data for Governance Alliance

The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA), a consortium involving the IJR, Afrobarometer (AB), the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and Laws Africa, continued to thrive. Initiated in 2021, it has been funded by the European Union (EU).

In 2024, our focus included regional convenings in Accra, Nairobi and Cape Town, tracking impact stories from civil society organisations (CSOs), and ongoing engagement with AU organs. We also hosted four webinars aimed at fostering dialogue around governance issues, including a webinar on education, which provided a platform for discussing pressing educational challenges and solutions across the continent.

Highlight 100 youth empowered through APRM E-learning

Through a partnership with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), D4GA co-created a free online course to teach young people about democracy and good governance. The course, designed to be simple and engaging, attracted 100 youth from across the continent. It helps them understand how countries are assessed on governance and equips them to advocate for better leadership and accountability. This initiative gives young people the tools to play a bigger role in shaping Africa's future.

Highlight The 3rd D4GA Stakeholders' Convening on Governance, Democracy, and Human Rights

The 3rd Stakeholders' Convening on Governance, Democracy, and Human Rights in Africa was held in September in Cape Town, where leaders, civil society organisations and regional bodies came together to tackle the continent's most pressing challenges. The Southern Africa edition of this landmark event underscored the urgent need for action on issues such as education, climate resilience, transitional justice and the power of data in driving policy reform. Participants from across the region laid out ambitious strategies to turn data insights into action, with the shared goal of creating a more inclusive, accountable and resilient Africa. The convening also took a hard look at the progress of transitional justice in African countries, with many participants acknowledging the unfulfilled promises of truth-telling and reparations.

“The Data for Governance Alliance convening was impactful. I enjoyed the session on the state of education in Africa that emphasised the need for *quality* education for *all* – a basic human right!

Dorcas Dube



Measuring progress in reconciliation

The **South African Reconciliation Barometer (SARB)** is Africa's longest-running public opinion survey on post-conflict transitional justice and social change. It has inspired peer reconciliation barometers in other countries and remains a unique and critical source of robust public opinion data, used widely by stakeholders in civil society, academia, media, international organisations and the South African government.

Accessible, reliable data for the public good

Amid a global surge in misinformation, the IJR is committed to the principles of producing relevant, high-quality survey data that is as accessible as possible to diverse audiences. Public opinion data is crucial for democratic decision-making, yet is often restricted behind paywalls.

In 2024, the SARB expanded its accessibility footprint through updating and growing the IJR online data analysis portal, as well as our archives at the University of Cape Town's Data First Centre. Through a new partnership agreement, in 2025 SARB data will also be archived at the Roper Centre for Public Opinion Research at Cornell University.

The IJR receives regular requests to share and present SARB data, and in 2024 these included engagements with the Embassy of Sweden, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and the Violence Prevention Forum (VPF). The SARB, alongside Afrobarometer, was also an important data source for media coverage and analysis of the South African general elections, and was cited in leading national and international publications, including *The Economist* and *Foreign Policy*.

Highlight

The IJR's Research and Policy Programme was invited to participate in consultations with the national Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), which was mandated to prepare the 30-Year Review Report of South Africa's Democracy between 1994–2024. Data from both the SARB and Afrobarometer surveys were cited in this seminal report.

Reimagining reparations

In 2024, the global reparations movement continued to grow in profile and support, focusing on recognition and accountability for past injustices including colonialism and the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The AU has declared 2025 the 'Year of Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations.' The 2024 SARB analyses public perceptions about the country's past and poses critical questions about whether post-apartheid reparations adequately contributed to economic justice in democratic South Africa.

Collaborative learning and technical skills transfer

The Sri Lanka Barometer (SLB) was borne out of a collaboration between the IJR, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Peace in Sri Lanka (SCOPE) initiative, and the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), starting in 2018.

The SLB has been developed through a deeply collaborative multi-partner consortium that has brought together civil society organisations from two continents, technical experts, emerging researchers and a leading global funder. In 2024, SLB consortium members worked jointly on analysing the 2023 survey results through both online and in-person engagements, as well as conceptualising and developing the survey report. Initial work also began on the 2024 survey round, including reviewing and updating the research instrument and conducting a pilot study prior to data

collection, which commenced early in 2025. Consortium members also participated in ongoing training and skills transfer, including for postgraduate students and young researchers in Sri Lanka.

Leading national dialogue in a transitional context

The results of the 2023 SLB survey were released in October 2024 in the lead-up to Sri Lanka's November parliamentary elections. Once again, the results prompted national and international dialogue and interest, including requests for information, analysis and presentations from the government, media and diplomatic community. In addition to these high-profile engagements, the SLB has always prioritised accessibility for citizens through active outreach and sharing. The 2023 SLB Survey Report is available in English as well as Sinhala and Tamil, and regular discussion forums are convened in communities across the country and online.

Among the most impactful innovations of the project is the SLB Travelling Exhibit, which is curated in a repurposed shipping container and has been on display at a variety of sites and events. Members of the public are invited to experience the exhibit, engage with the research findings and share their own stories and insights on reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

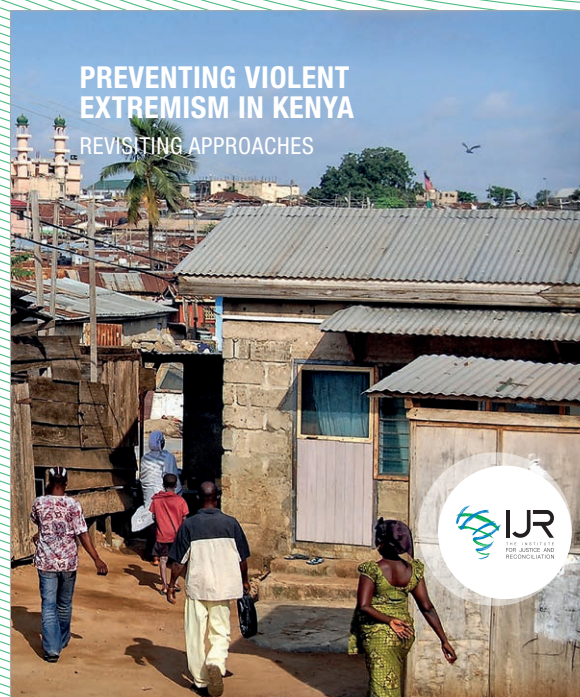
Highlight

Following the release of the 2023 SLB Survey Report, consortium members were invited to present the research findings to high-level national government delegations including the Foreign Ministry – the custodian of Sri Lanka reconciliation policy. The SLB was also presented to the EU mission as well as those of a number of EU member countries. South African High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, HE Sandile Schalk, commended the work of the project, and noted that he and a number of his diplomatic counterparts are guided by the SLB results in matters pertaining to reconciliation and social cohesion in Sri Lanka.

Evidence-based research on preventing violent extremism through transitional justice in African communities

The scourge of violent extremism continues to scar communities across Africa. Given the devastating effects of violent extremism, it is incumbent upon Africans to deepen their understanding of the phenomenon and to identify locally relevant approaches to prevent and reduce its prevalence.

The IJR convened an expert roundtable that brought together researchers from Africa to present their findings on local challenges to prevent violent extremism and to assess how transitional justice strategies can contribute to prevention. Following the expert roundtable, the IJR published a policy brief assessing preventing violent extremism (PVE) in Kenya, and is editing a book on PVE in Africa.



Surveying African perceptions on the emerging global order and the restitution for historical exclusion

In 1945, when the UN was established, only three independent African countries were present at the signing of the UN Charter, which laid the foundations for the majority of multilateral institutions that were designed to maintain global order. Thirty years after the end of the Cold War, a new multipolar world has emerged. The perspectives of African policy-makers and experts have not been sought or gathered in any systematic manner in terms of the restitution for Africa's historical exclusion from global institution-building.

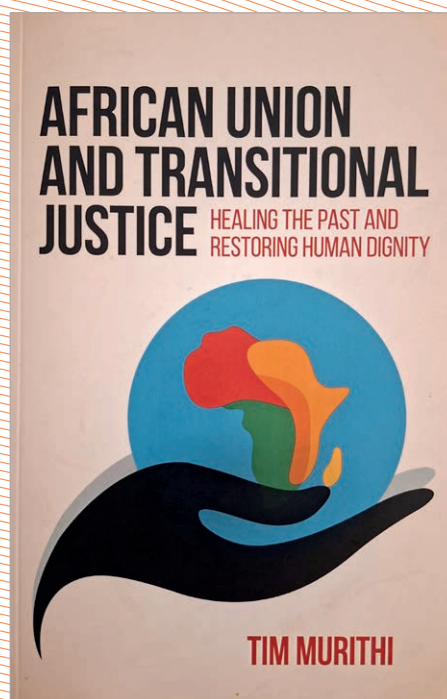
Consequently, the IJR, partnering with the International Peace Institute (IPI) based in New York, conducted expert surveys of diplomatic actors, policy research analysts and practitioners from South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria to document perspectives on the emerging global order. This evidence-based data will be utilised to engage global and continental policy actors on the strong case for restitution for Africa's past exclusion from global institution-building, and for its inclusion in the formation of the emerging multilateral system.

The IJR has convened thought leaders on discussions of this topic. It partnered with the Life and Peace Institute in Addis Ababa for a diplomatic briefing on transforming the multilateral system through transitional justice. It also participated in a high-level panel of African experts on the reform of the multilateral system and contributed technical inputs to the compiling of the panel's report. The IJR also partnered with Democracy Without Borders (DWB) to convene a seminar entitled 'Global Democracy and the UN Pact for the Future', which transferred knowledge and insights of the UN Summit of the Future to policy-makers and societal actors.

A first-of-its-kind book on the African Union and transitional justice

There is limited research and writing on how the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP) is being utilised by governments and societies across the continent. The IJR published the first book-length publication, compiled by researchers from across Africa, on the implementation of the AUTJP based on the experiences drawn from AU member states. Consequently, there is now a public access record of evidence of experiences drawn from across the continent on how local, regional and national actors are utilising and engaging with the AUTJP.

The book was launched during a diplomatic briefing on transitional justice in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18 April 2024.



Encouraging communities to assert their agency in transforming relations within divided societies

One of the barriers to reconciliation is not dealing properly with the lasting effects of past injustices. While the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was a foundation for the work that needs to be done, there is a long way to go. The **Anti-Racism, Social Cohesion and Inclusion Project** addressed the issue through the production of a documentary 'Justice before healing', which explores the contemporary experiences of South Africans. A series of ten dialogues was then held in six communities in the Western Cape: Montagu, Zoar, Calitzdorp, Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Bishop Lavis. The audience was varied in race, age and gender. As a result of the screening and dialogues, participants gained new knowledge about South Africa's history, racial justice and social issues as well as a better understanding of the experiences of people from different groups. Those in attendance shared that there had been a shift in their understanding, which they would be bringing into their lives and future actions.

A variety of activities were supported by the **Memory, Arts and Culture Project**. These activities were initiated by the participants based on their attendance at IJR workshops. Activities included discussions on mental health; a celebration of National Women's Day; the promotion of heritage through dance; tackling bullying in communities; addressing self-esteem and peer pressure; examining what 'inclusivity' means in different contexts; and addressing issues of dignity and consent among the youth. These activities are increasing dialogue, while promoting social cohesion and taking action to create better communities.

The **Youth Project** embarked on a series of discussions with young people around elections and democracy. The discussions highlighted the way in which the youth have been sidelined from both the national conversation and the electoral process itself. Far from being apathetic, youth are engaged and involved in politics. The lack of youth registration and



The IJR Memory, Arts and Culture Project supports efforts toward dialogue, understanding and community-level reconciliation. Our team was in uMzimkhulu in December, working with learners from Zwelinzima High School and Ngunjini Junior Secondary school.



Youth Identity workshops in Kokstad, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

participation is not the result of lethargy, but an indication of the porosity of a system that fails to include them in important aspects of democracy.

The project engaged in electoral education, and encouraged young people to see the power of their votes. Many who were initially disengaged expressed their intention to vote after participating in the workshops.

In 2024, the Youth Identity Project also made meaningful contributions towards encouraging communities to assert their agency by fostering dialogue, empowering youth-led initiatives and supporting community-building efforts. Through partnerships, interventions and creative content production, the project encouraged young people to practise democracy, inclusivity and fairness, while building resilience and social cohesion in their communities.



The **Agriculture Project** took place from May 2016 to March 2024. It made significant strides in empowering communities to take ownership of transformative processes in divided societies. In preparation for an exit from the Amalienstein and Waaikraal community projects, the IJR facilitated critical capacity-building initiatives, risk management planning and strategic engagements. These efforts included panel meetings focused on social cohesion, stakeholder engagement and planning for post-IJR sustainability, ensuring readiness for farm transfers to community property associations (CPAs). The IJR convened key meetings with state actors, government departments and local stakeholders to align strategies and timelines, and enabled communities to lead sustainable, inclusive development beyond its involvement.



Amalienstein community meeting: the IJR handing over the process to the panel in March 2024.



Waaikraal community meeting: the IJR handing over the process to the panel in March 2024.

Supporting stakeholders in the implementation of peacebuilding and transitional justice policies, programmes and processes

Empowering women leaders to drive their own transitional justice processes

Women constitute more than half of the African adult population, yet they continue to be systematically marginalised from policy and decision-making processes and institutions across the continent. The IJR and its partners, LPI and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), jointly trained 23 women leaders drawn from across the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region.

The women leaders have indicated that they have utilised the insights, knowledge and skills of transitional justice and peacebuilding to strengthen the work of their own organisations in implementing programmes, projects and interventions to address communal grievances and promote peacebuilding.

Diplomatic engagements on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and prospects for peace with justice

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, in 2022, signified a departure from established international law against the violation of the territorial integrity of member states of the UN. The IJR partnered with the Ukrainian Association of South Africa to convene a diplomatic briefing on the insights generated by the African Peace Mission to Kyiv and St Petersburg in 2024, at the margins of the AU Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Accra, Ghana. This mission engaged a number of AU and international diplomats as well as academics and civil society actors from the University of Ghana, at Legon.

The IJR also partnered with a number of Ukrainian academics in highlighting the threat to global and regional security at a series of seminars convened at the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University.

A policy brief was generated from these interventions which enabled a wide range of diplomatic, governmental, academic and societal actors to increase their knowledge about the challenges and prospects for securing peace based on justice for the victims and survivors of the Russia–Ukraine conflict.



LPI-CSVR-IJR Joint Capacity Building training for African women leaders on transitional justice and reconciliation for lasting peace with special focus on the African Union Transitional Justice Policy, 21–25 October 2024, Nairobi, Kenya.

More peacebuilding engagements

Highlight

The IJR, represented by Prof. Tim Murithi, Head of the Peacebuilding Interventions Programme, participated in the Africa–Europe Forum hosted by the European Council on Foreign Relations on 27–28 June in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Africa–Europe Forum convened a select group of African and European global order thinkers and policy-makers for an intensive deep-dive into how both continents can approach the changes in global order in a way that defends their interests. For its part, Africa would need to move beyond critiques of the current system to spell out its vision of a new world order and its demands for getting there.

Consensus reached was that rather than making global order with Africa a binary choice (rules-based order or nothing), Europe should approach shaping a new approach to global order as a negotiation. That entails openness to negotiating the existing distribution of power in the global governance architecture, and also preparedness to entertain ideas that extend beyond it.



At the 'Ethnicity and Genocide: Policy Guidance for Prevention' conference hosted by Aegis Trust in November, in Rwanda.

Highlight

At the Ethnicity and Genocide: Policy Guidance for Prevention conference hosted by Aegis Trust in November in Rwanda, the IJR was also represented by Prof. Tim Murithi. The conference brought together experts and practitioners to unpack the complex links between ethnicity and genocide. Deliberations focused on shaping practical policy frameworks to prevent ethnic-based incitement to violence and to promote peaceful coexistence as a cornerstone of long-term, sustainable prevention efforts.

Highlight

In September, Prof. Tim Murithi made a presentation during a panel discussion entitled 'Transitional Justice and Peace in the Horn of Africa: Comparative Perspectives', in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The discussions centred on two main areas: the current transitional justice process in Ethiopia, and the potential role of transitional justice in resolving the conflict in Sudan. The Expert Group on Transitional Justice and Peace in Sudan, in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Ethiopia, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Sudan and Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, examined Ethiopia's multi-faceted approach to transitional justice, which includes criminal accountability, truth-seeking and reparations, while also considering the unique challenges of the Sudanese context.



The Expert Group on Transitional Justice and Peace in Sudan, in collaboration with FES Ethiopia/FES Sudan & Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP): represented by Prof. Tim Murithi in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The IJR post-SONA discussion on national politics and South Africa's role as a global peacemaker: The dynamics of the 2024 elections

The IJR actively engaged in analysing South Africa's State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2024 and its impact on the country's ongoing challenges. The organisation convened a post-SONA discussion entitled 'National politics and South Africa's role as a global peacemaker'. The event, held in Cape Town in February, brought together experts and stakeholders and also explored the dynamics of the 2024 South African general elections.

Testimonial

In attendance were several dignitaries, including Prof. Thuli Madonsela (South Africa's former Public Protector), who gave thanks to the IJR for her participation in the conversation on the state of our nation and South Africa's global peace efforts. 'It was a very enlightening conversation with many take-aways that will enrich our lens at the Centre for Social Justice'.



IJR's Prof. Tim Murithi and Prof. Cheryl Hendricks with Prof. Thuli Madonsela at the post-SONA discussion.



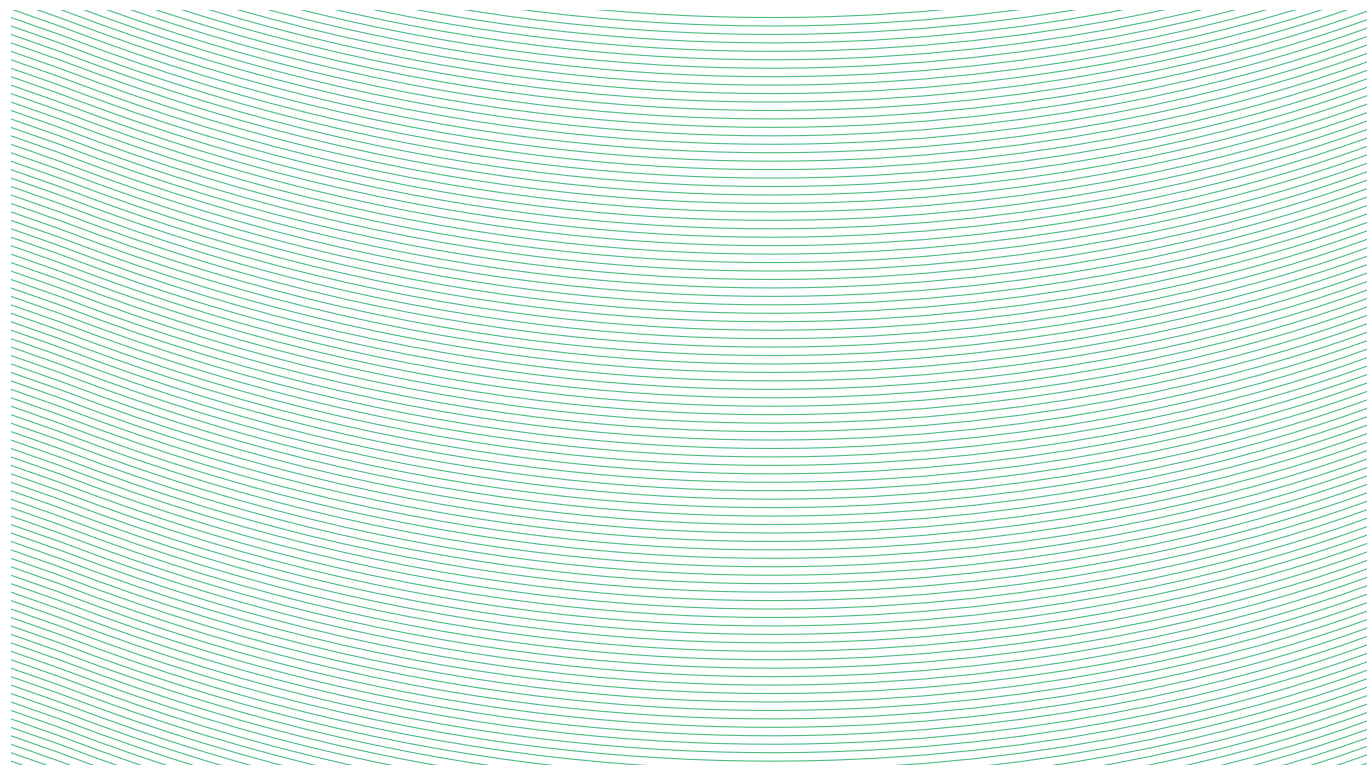
Prof. Cheryl Hendricks giving an address at the post-SONA discussion.

Experts explore lessons from the Russia–Ukraine conflict for African peace mission

In recognising the importance of addressing the gaps and characteristics of the war in Ukraine, a group of experts put together some practical steps that were presented during seminars in 2024, conducted at the University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University, University of Pretoria and at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria.

The platform for expert collaborations was initiated by the IJR, the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, the Democratic Institute Foundation, and the Ukrainian Association of South Africa.

The experts highlighted the urgent need to address gaps in global security systems, particularly in the context of powerful states exerting dominance over less powerful ones. They emphasised the significant repercussions of the conflict on global energy, financial and food systems, underscoring the importance of finding practical solutions for long-lasting peace in Ukraine and beyond. They also stressed the unprecedented nature of military aggression aimed at redrawing internationally recognised borders.



National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

Our Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Project continued to focus on raising awareness of the National Action Plan (NAP) among all stakeholders and to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to provide oversight on its implementation. In 2024, the IJR targeted traditional leaders for awareness raising in rural areas and were able to engage local women in Cape Town and Durban.

In 2024, the IJR hosted an engagement with 37 traditional leaders from all nine provinces in South Africa. This engagement was possible through partnering with the Institute of African Royalty (IAR) and the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (CONTRALESA). The partners signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate until August 2026 on issues of governance, peace, security and traditional leadership in South Africa. The agreement outlines joint efforts in research, capacity building, policy engagement and advocacy. It aims to empower traditional leaders, promote inclusive governance, enhance public awareness, and strengthen collaboration between civil society and traditional authorities to contribute to peacebuilding and informed policy-making. The IJR held intergenerational public awareness workshops in Cape Town and Durban. These activities emphasised



IJR signed an MoU with CONTRALESA and the Institute of African Royalty to strengthen collaboration.

the NAP's pillars – participation, prevention, protection and recovery – and empowered stakeholders to take actionable steps in their communities.

Testimonial

There are many more women who know the NAP and who are taking it upon themselves to implement aspects of it. Patsy Daniels, for example, has gone on to further popularise the NAP in her community, Manenberg, and to undertake further training with members of her community on the WPS agenda. Caroline Peters, who works with disadvantaged communities on the Cape Flats, has also indicated a much deeper appreciation for aspects of the NAP and the linkages with her own work. On the whole, Cape Town, prior to this project, was not centred in the discussion on the WPS agenda. Women in Cape Town now have a much more in-depth orientation to the WPS NAP and how it connects with their work.

The WPS Project also fostered networking between local and migrant women to address shared human security concerns and leveraged social media platforms to further raise awareness about the NAP, extending its reach to broader audiences.

National Peace Charter

An important milestone this year was the finalisation and popularisation of the South African National Peace Charter, a foundational document promoting collective responsibility for peace across the country.

The IJR's efforts in 2024 centred on consultative processes and public engagements to introduce the Peace Charter. This included three key consultations in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Durban, alongside robust social media promotion and the distribution of hundreds of copies of the Charter. In partnership with the Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA), the IJR popularised the Peace Charter at the Human Rights Festival in Johannesburg. In partnership with the Institute for Afrikology, the IJR held a peace walk involving

135 participants, enhancing the visibility of peacebuilding efforts to address post-election tensions in KwaZulu-Natal.

Highlight

Over 170 individuals and organisations, including prominent human rights defenders and community leaders and young people, visited the IJR–HURISA information desk during the Human Rights Festival in March 2024, where the South African National Peace Charter was introduced and discussed. A special dialogue session, which focused on the Charter's role in promoting peace and democracy, drew in particular youth participants who actively engaged in the conversation. The dialogue was titled 'WPS, Human Rights, 30 Years of Democracy: The need for a Peace Charter'. Inspired by the discussions, young people pledged their commitment to upholding the Charter's principles in their communities. The event demonstrated the significant impact the Peace Charter has in inspiring and empowering young people to take an active role in advancing peace and human rights.

Dialogues and peace tables

Significant achievements were made in 2024 in relation to hosting dialogues. The IJR successfully facilitated two provincial intergenerational dialogues co-hosted with our partners South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) and the Institute for Afrikology (Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal), as well as a high-level regional dialogue co-hosted with IDEA on implementing UNSCR 1325 involving key African stakeholders from the security sector, regional parliaments, civil society and a South African women's pre-national dialogue, co-hosted with SAWID and African Women Leaders Network (AWLN). Since the hosting of these dialogues, the IJR has significantly expanded its continental reach on WPS and on bridging the divides between policy-making, research and practice.

The IJR was also able to recognise and honour African women pioneers in the WPS space, namely Ms Emma

Kaliya, Executive Director of Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre and Commissioner at Malawi Peace and Unity Commission; Hon. Betty Bigombe, Special Envoy of the Republic of Uganda to the South Sudan Peace Process; and Hon. Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Director at Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva.

The Critical Conversations on Women Peace and Security in Africa symposium took place in April in Johannesburg, with participants from various sectors extending their support for the Dialogue. They emphasised its crucial role in advancing gender-inclusive peace processes across the continent.

Highlight

The Women's Pre-National Dialogue proved to be a transformative experience for most delegates, exceeding the expectations of participants, with many describing it as engaging, inclusive and solution-oriented. Discussions effectively addressed pressing issues facing women, while presenters delivered high-energy, insightful content that fostered unity and collaborative problem-solving. Delegates particularly appreciated the structure, methodology and innovative activities like the Tree of Life exercise, as well as Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi's impactful presentation on the format and accountability measures of the planned National Dialogue. Key takeaways included a unified vision for action, strategies for collaboration and a commitment to mobilise women across all sectors and levels. Delegates called for sustained dialogue, strengthened networks, and expanded efforts to address issues like gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection, ensuring that all proposals advance into the National Dialogue.

Guided by the UNSCR 1325, this Dialogue, hosted by International IDEA, Women in Political Participation, and the IJR, supported by the Government of Sweden and the Embassy of Ireland in South Africa, sought to scrutinise the journey, progress and challenges faced in the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa.

Women's Election Mechanism for Peace (WEMP)

A ground-breaking initiative was the successful implementation of the WEMP, an initiative designed to increase women's participation in election observation and conflict prevention. The IJR partnered with the EISA and Media Monitoring Africa to create a platform for women to actively contribute to peaceful electoral processes across South Africa.

In 2024, through the WEMP initiative, the IJR trained and deployed 300 peace monitors – 250 women and 50 participants from Blind SA – across five provinces: Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Western Cape. Five special envoys and nine coordinators were also trained, as well as at least five advocates for each of the five peace rooms established. Through this initiative, and working with organisations such as SAWID, HURISA and the Lady of Peace Community Foundation (LOPECO), we established peace rooms to track incidents and engage stakeholders during the election period, leveraging EISA's Popola system and collaborating with Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) conflict-prevention officers to address election-related violence promptly. This initiative contributed towards women playing meaningful roles in conflict prevention during the elections.



WEMP Peace Monitors.

Testimonial

Caroline Thema, a 46-year-old peace monitor from Limpopo Province, holds several leadership roles, including being a ward committee member, chairperson of the school governing body, secretary of the Polokwane municipality gender forum, deputy chairperson of the Capricorn district municipality, member of the Limpopo civil society GBV forum and a development worker. She shared that the community 'welcomes WEMP for the 2026 local government elections', appreciating that the responsibility of maintaining peace will not rest solely with the IEC or political parties, but also with peace monitors from WEMP, a women-led initiative they have come to value. Caroline also emphasised the importance of the WEMP training manual, describing it as 'not only useful for the election but also a lifetime resource for community work and leadership'.

Peace rooms: Deploying the Women's Election Mechanism for Peace

As part of a project contributing to strengthening peaceful, inclusive and participatory electoral processes in South Africa, members of the WEMP network were deployed, along with members of Blind SA, as peace and inclusion election monitors in five provinces in South Africa – Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Western Cape. The monitors constituted peace rooms that were established in the respective provinces. These peace rooms were headed by special envoys that could refer and/or respond to incidents of violence during the elections, working collaboratively with the IEC conflict prevention mechanism by enhancing its capacity, from a civil society vantage point, and providing it with real-time information and support.



The UN Resident Coordinator, Nelson Muffah, visited the Gauteng peace room.



Visit of the Dutch Consulate to the peace room in Western Cape.



Former President of Nigeria HE Goodluck Jonathan, and the Ambassador of Ireland, visited the Gauteng peace room.

Highlights

Three hundred peace and inclusion monitors were deployed across the five provinces to monitor peace and inclusion. They reported incidents related to violence and conflicts in their communities, and also observed aspects of inclusion of marginalised groups, such as women, youth and persons living with disabilities in various processes related to the elections.

During the period 8–16 May, 167 weekly reports were received. A total of 24 incidents were reported, largely in Limpopo, the Eastern Cape and Western Cape. These were incidences of intimidation, substance and drug abuse among the youth (a trigger for violence), political intolerance and the defacing of political party campaign posters.

Government and intergovernmental outreach

Through consistent engagement with the South African Defence Force (SANDF), the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), the AU and the UN, the IJR has played a pivotal role in advancing the WPS agenda. Prof. Hendricks, representing the IJR, actively participated in key events such as the SANDF Gender Conference, DIRCO's Gertrude Shope Women's Mediation Network, the AU's Peace and Security Council Retreat on Women and Mediation and the subsequent development of a framework policy in this regard. She also represented FEMWISE at UN Women's engagement for Mediation Networks in New York. This sustained collaboration has reinforced the IJR's role as a trusted partner in furthering the WPS agenda across all constituencies.

Strengthening continental collaboration on peacebuilding: The IJR at the NeTT4Peace annual meeting

From 25–27 November 2024, the IJR participated in the AU's NeTT4Peace Strategy Group Annual Meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, and hosted by Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CairoPeaceKeep) as Co-chair of the Network. The meeting served as a critical platform for reviewing the Network's activities and advancing its collective mission. As a member of the NeTT4Peace group of think tanks, IJR continues to contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts across the continent.

The IJR at the Academic Conference on Africa 2024

The IJR, represented by Prof. Cheryl Hendricks, participated in the Academic Conference on Africa 2024 Programme, convened by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA). The conference provided a valuable platform for engaging with scholars, policy-makers and practitioners on key issues shaping Africa's development, peace and governance agenda.



Participants at the NeTT4Peace annual meeting in Cairo, Egypt.



Africa Day Commemoration

In May, the IJR marked Africa Day under the theme 'Influence and Intersection of African Cultures and Modern Justice Systems'. The celebration provided a reflective platform to examine how African cultures have been shaped by, and continue to interact with, modern justice systems. The event highlighted both

challenges and opportunities in advancing equity, fairness and human rights across the continent. It also served as a space to confront the enduring legacies of transatlantic enslavement, colonialism and apartheid, while exploring pathways for healing and justice for people of African descent.



Africa Day celebration at the IJR in Cape Town.

Operations

Human resources

Highlights

In the area of Learning and Development, the IJR made significant progress by streamlining the Skills Planning process. This included successfully registering with the Health and Wellness Sector Education and Training Authority (H&W SETA), submitting both the Annual Training Plan and Workplace Skills Plan, and applying for training grants with H&W SETA to enhance our capacity-building efforts.

To foster personal and leadership growth, the IJR introduced the Insights Discovery Methodology, which was instrumental in driving key initiatives. Leadership Team Development and Team Effectiveness workshops were held to enhance collaboration and strategic alignment, while Personal Leadership workshops, based on Insights Discovery, were rolled out across the business, promoting individual growth and self-awareness.

The IJR also prioritised compliance training, upskilling our first aiders and firefighters to ensure workplace safety and readiness.

In performance management, focus was given to strengthening systems and processes. Key achievements included updating the performance management elements within the performance management system and introducing the performance management calibration process to ensure consistency and fairness. Additionally, human resources commenced a comprehensive review of the entire performance management process, which is set for implementation in 2025.

Staff Appreciation Awards

In December, the IJR held its staff appreciation awards, a moment dedicated to celebrating the commitment, excellence and collaborative spirit that drive the organisation's impact. The event recognised individuals across various categories who went above and beyond in their roles throughout the year.

The **Research-Practitioner Excellence Award** was presented to staff members who demonstrated exceptional performance in achieving project goals and delivering meaningful outcomes through their research and practical application.

The **Leadership Award** honoured individuals who displayed outstanding leadership and innovation in their work, playing a key role in advancing the IJR's mission and vision. Their ability to inspire, guide and deliver results set a standard for excellence across the organisation.

The **Support Excellence Award** acknowledged colleagues within the organisation's support functions who consistently ensured efficiency, effectiveness and proactive problem-solving in day-to-day operations.

Finally, the **Team Spirit Award** celebrated staff members who exemplified collaboration, enthusiasm and a strong sense of camaraderie across programmes and departments.

Fundraising and resource mobilisation

The IJR began 2024 with a compelling donor review of its 2023 activities, held in Pretoria. The event brought together donors, stakeholders and prospective partners, reaffirming the IJR's commitment to advancing justice, reconciliation and peacebuilding across Africa.

Throughout the year, the IJR undertook a comprehensive environmental scan of its fundraising and resource mobilisation strategies. Building on these insights, the IJR laid the foundation for a 2025 fundraising strategy prioritising financial sustainability through income diversification, capacity building and innovation. Key actions include: expanding partnerships with bilateral and multilateral funders; increasing trust and foundation applications; and developing consultancy services. The organisation also plans to strengthen internal systems and integrate digital tools to enhance donor engagement and reporting.

Early in 2024, the fundraising team focused on capacity development, particularly in planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning (PMEL). Supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and facilitated by NIRAS International consultants, this initiative included staff training, diagnostic assessments and the introduction of tools to improve project monitoring and evaluation. As a result, the IJR revised its theory of change and results framework to better align with strategic goals and enhance impact measurement. These developments provide a robust foundation for embedding PMEL into daily operations and recruiting skilled personnel to drive resource mobilisation forward.

In 2024, the IJR stewarded a diverse portfolio of existing funding partnerships, including key supporters such as Afrobarometer, Bread for the World, the Embassy of Ireland, Sida, GIZ, Open Society Policy Centre (OSPC), UN Women, Carnegie Corporation (in partnership with the Life and Peace Institute), and the EISA.

The IJR also pursued innovative funding opportunities, submitting proposals for regional programmes, governance and democracy initiatives, youth empowerment and climate-related challenges through just energy transitions. These efforts aimed to diversify funding sources by engaging governmental bodies, international organisations, corporate foundations, and venture philanthropists.

Notable business development collaborations in 2024 included a partnership with EduAfrica, delivering experiential learning sessions to universities such as Princeton, Duke and Notre Dame, and a discretionary skills programme funded by the H&W SETA, which trained over 150 participants in anti-racism and anti-bias practices. The IJR also strengthened its relationship with H&M South Africa, laying the groundwork to advance their diversity and inclusion agenda through workshops and awareness campaigns for 2025, and collaborated with the British High Commission to facilitate courageous conversations with staff.

In 2024, the IJR team participated in the Fundraising for Impact's Fundraising Masterclass and the International Fundraising Conference (IFC), gaining valuable insights into evolving fundraising trends, impact measurement and strategic donor engagement. The masterclass emphasised articulating social justice impacts to donors and applying practical tools to enhance organisational outreach. The IFC focused on innovative fundraising techniques, including digital strategies and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in donor relations. These learnings will strengthen the IJR's fundraising strategies and improve resource mobilisation for its mission across Africa.

Communications

In 2024, the IJR made significant strides in enhancing our communication efforts and refining our brand identity. These initiatives were guided by our newly finalised Communications Strategy, which focuses on five key objectives: increasing visibility; building and maintaining a positive public image; enhancing stakeholder engagement; promoting advocacy and policy change; and strengthening internal communication.

IJR Connect: In April, we launched IJR Connect, a monthly newsletter aimed at keeping our stakeholders informed and engaged. With a fresh, modern design, this newsletter serves as a vital communication tool, offering insights into our initiatives, upcoming events and opportunities for collaboration. The positive feedback received indicates that IJR Connect is effectively bridging the gap between our organisation and our diverse stakeholder community.

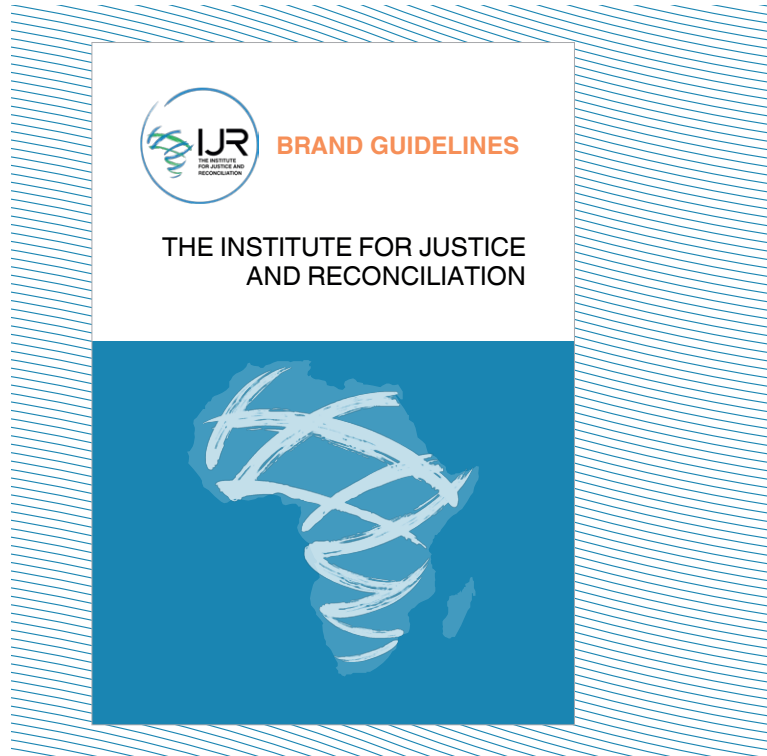
IJR logo refresh: Recognising the need for a contemporary visual identity, we undertook a brand refresh that subtly modernises our logo while preserving its foundational elements. The updated logo incorporates design trends that enhance visibility across various platforms and materials. A new ring element symbolises unity, reinforcing our commitment to collaboration and inclusivity. This evolution not only aids in instant recognition but also reflects our organisation's growth and adaptability.

Brand manual: To complement our visual refresh, we developed a comprehensive brand manual that articulates IJR's identity, visual style and core values. This manual serves as a crucial resource for staff and stakeholders alike, ensuring consistency in messaging and visual representation. By clearly defining our brand, we aim to strengthen our overall communication strategy and enhance our engagement with audiences.

New website launch: On 16 May, the IJR proudly launched a newly designed website that reflects our enhanced brand image. This platform not only

showcases our initiatives and resources but also provides a user-friendly experience for visitors. The revamped site is integral to promoting our mission and values, offering a centralised space for stakeholders to access information and engage with our work.

Increased visibility: As part of our commitment to increasing visibility, the IJR initiated the Pathways to Peace podcast series (now available on YouTube). This innovative series aims to engage a broader audience through visual storytelling and dialogue on critical issues related to justice and reconciliation. Since inception, we have received enthusiastic feedback and are already expanding our reach across the continent.



Financial statements

Statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	R	R
Grants and donations	45 417 680	28 418 383
Earned income	2 150 937	3 321 845
Other income	–	63 643
Total revenue	47 568 617	31 803 871
Management and administrative costs	(8 169 105)	(8 825 342)
Programme and project costs	(36 955 454)	(26 214 647)
Net operating surplus / (deficit)	2 444 058	(3 236 118)
Net investment income	608 958	594 521
Net gain / (loss) on investments	496 102	673 606
Gain on exchange	53 432	–
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year	3 602 550	(1 967 991)

Statement of financial position

as at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	R	R
ASSETS		
Non-current assets	7 982 843	6 994 721
Property, plant and equipment	643 573	477 822
Investments	7 339 270	6 516 899
Current assets	18 456 793	11 032 360
Cash and cash equivalents	16 005 634	10 780 268
Accounts receivable	2 451 159	252 092
Total assets	26 439 636	18 027 081
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Funds	10 389 621	6 787 071
Current liabilities	16 050 015	11 240 010
Accounts payable	768 520	351 340
Provision for leave pay	365 330	731 966
Operating lease liability	194 753	67 878
Deferred income	14 721 412	10 088 826
Total funds and liabilities	26 439 636	18 027 081

Partners

Afrobarometer

Brot für die Welt

Foreign Common Wealth Development Office

Embassy of Ireland, Pretoria

German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

Carnegie Foundation with the International Peace Institute

Open Society Policy Centre (OSISA)

Oppenheimer Memorial Trust

South African Women in Dialogue Trust (SAWID)

Embassy of Switzerland

The Government of Sweden

Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDA)

Edu Africa

Health and Welfare SETA

H&M



The IJR was launched in 2000 in the wake of the public hearings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Our stated aim at the time of our founding was to become a civil society voice, campaigning for the adoption of the TRC's recommendations through government policy and citizen action. In light of the central role that we played in one of the most observed transitional justice processes in recent memory, our expertise and guidance has been sought in similar transitional justice processes across the African continent. The IJR continues to work towards its broadened vision of building fair, inclusive, democratic and peaceful societies in Africa, and increasingly further abroad, by designing relevant and carefully crafted interventions that combine research, dialogue, capacity-building, advocacy, policy advice and implementation support. We pursue this vision at the global, continental, regional and national levels.

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