

CHI ADANNA MGBAKO

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ACADEMIC BIOGRAPHY

Chi Adanna Mgbako is clinical professor of law and director of the Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic at Fordham Law School in New York City. In partnership with grassroots and international organizations, she and her students work on human rights projects focusing primarily on women's rights and gender justice, sex worker rights, and criminal justice reform. She has conducted human rights fieldwork in many countries, among them Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and the United States. She has published widely in academic journals and the popular press, including the Harvard Human Rights Journal, Yale Journal of International Affairs, Georgetown Journal of International Law, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History (forthcoming), The New York Times (International Edition), The Guardian and HuffPost. She is the author of *To Live Freely in This World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa* (New York University Press 2016), which was profiled by BBC News Focus on Africa and The Washington Post's Monkey Cage political blog. Professor Mgbako is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Columbia University, a former fellow with the International Crisis Group, and has been honored as a New York Law Journal Rising Star, National Law Journal Top 40 Lawyer of Color Under 40, Fordham Law School's Public Interest Professor of the Year, and a recipient of the Police Reform Organizing Project's Citizen of the City Award. In 2017, she received the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Clinical Legal Education's M. Shanara Gilbert Award, one of the highest honors in clinical legal education.

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., 2005

HLS Advocates for Human Rights, Co-Founder and President
International Human Rights Clinic
Immigration and Refugee Clinic
Harvard Human Rights Journal, Editor

Columbia University, B.A. in History, *magna cum laude*, 2001

HONORS AND AWARDS

M. Shanara Gilbert "Emerging Clinician" Award, AALS Clinical Section | 2017
Rising Star Award, New York Law Journal | 2015
Citizen of the City Award, Police Reform Organizing Project | 2013
Public Interest Professor of the Year, Fordham Law School | 2012
Top 40 Minority Lawyers Under 40, National Law Journal | 2011
Crowley Fellowship in International Human Rights, Fordham Law School | 2006
Gary Bellow Public Service Award, Harvard Law School | 2005
Dean's Award for Community Leadership, Harvard Law School | 2005
Henigson Human Rights Fellowship, Harvard Law School | 2005
Kaufman Public Service Fellowship, Harvard Law School | 2005
Reginald F. Lewis Human Rights Grant, Harvard Law School | 2004
Human Rights Program Grants, Harvard Law School | 2003–2004
King Crown's Leadership Award, Columbia University | 2001
John F. Kluge Scholar, Columbia University | 1997–2001

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Fordham University School of Law | New York, NY

Clinical Professor of Law

2014–Present

Clinical Associate Professor of Law

2007–2014

Founding Director, Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic

2007–Present

Research, Teaching and Clinical Casework Areas: Sex Worker Rights, Women's Rights and Gender Justice, International Human Rights Advocacy, Human Rights and the Carceral State

PUBLICATIONS

Books

TO LIVE FREELY IN THIS WORLD: SEX WORKER ACTIVISM IN AFRICA (New York University Press, January 2016). Reviewed in *African Affairs*, *Feminist Collections*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Feminist Review*, *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*, *DiGeST*, *Human Rights Review*, *Tits and Sass*, *Make/Shift Magazine*, and *Feministing*. Forthcoming reviews in *Perspectives on Politics* and *Journal of Diversity and Gender Studies*.

Law Review and Research Articles, Book Chapters and Reviews, Policy Reports

Sex Work/Prostitution in Africa, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History (forthcoming 2019)

The Case for Decriminalization of Sex Work in South Africa, 44 *Georgetown Journal of International Law* 1423 (with Bass et al) (October 2013)

Book Review, *Out in Africa: LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa* by Ashley Currier 2012, *Human Rights Quarterly* (May 2013)

Witchcraft Accusations and Human Rights: Case Studies from Malawi, 43 *George Washington International Law Review* 389 (with Katherine Glenn) (2012)

Engaging Legal Dualism: Paralegal Organizations and Customary Law in Sierra Leone and Liberia in *THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN CUSTOMARY LAW*, Cambridge University Press, Fenrich et al, eds. (with Kristina Scurry Baehr) (2011)

Sex Work and Human Rights in Africa, 33 *Fordham International Law Journal* 1178 (with Laura A. Smith) (2010)

Penetrating the Silence in Sierra Leone: A Blueprint for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation, 23 *Harvard Human Rights Journal* 11 (with Cave et al) (2010)

Forced Eviction and Resettlement in Cambodia: Case Studies from Phnom Penh, 9 *Washington University Global Studies Law Review* 39 (with Cave et al) (2010)

Exporting Confusion: U.S. Foreign Policy as an Obstacle to the Implementation of Ethiopia's Liberalized Abortion Law, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice (with Degol et al) (2010)

Silencing the Ethiopian Courts: Non-Judicial Constitutional Review and its Impact on Human Rights, 32 *Fordham International Law Journal* 259 (with Degol et al) (2008)

We Will Still Live: Confronting Stigma and Discrimination against Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi, 31 Fordham International Law Journal 528 (with Fenrich and Higgins) (2008)

Rights-Based Sex Worker Empowerment Guidelines: An Alternative HIV/AIDS Intervention Approach To The 100% Condom Use Programme, Sampada Gramin Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM) (with Smith et al) (2008)

Nigeria's Faltering Federal Experiment, International Crisis Group (2006)

Liberia: Resurrecting the Justice System, International Crisis Group (2006)

Frontline Rwanda: Disappearances, Arrests, Threats, Intimidation and Co-opting of Human Rights Defenders 2001-2004, Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (with Toy-Cronin and Waldorf) (2005)

"Ingando" Solidarity Camps: Reconciliation and Political Indoctrination in Post-Genocide Rwanda, 18 Harvard Human Rights Journal 201 (2005)

Opinion/Commentary

Sex worker activism has exploded throughout Africa, The Washington Post's Monkey Cage (with Kim Yi Dionne) (July 8, 2016)

The Global Labor Rights Movement You've Likely Never Heard Of, HuffPost (May 26, 2016)

U.S. Global AIDS Funding and Its Discontents: Why the Supreme Court Must Strike Down the Anti-Prostitution Pledge, Yale Journal of International Affairs (June 2013)

Overturn US anti-prostitution pledge to support sex workers and combat HIV, The Guardian (April 22, 2013)

African Voices of Legal Empowerment, HuffPost (January 10, 2013)

There Are No 'Perfect Victims', HuffPost (August 14, 2012)

New York Lawmakers Compromise Public Health by Failing to Pass "No Condoms as Evidence" Bill, Rewire (July 3, 2012)

Greek Sex Workers Face Forced HIV Tests; Malawi Workers Fight Back, Ms. Magazine Blog (June 11, 2012)

Why the Women's Rights Movement Must Listen to Sex Workers, Rewire (May 22, 2012)

Why Economic Justice Is Central to LGBT Rights, HuffPost (May 7, 2012)

Criminalization of prostitution as a violation of sex workers' right to health, IntlLawGrrls (December 17, 2011)

Police Abuse of Sex Workers: A Global Reality, Widely Ignored, Rewire (December 15, 2011)

Africa's LGBT Rights Movement, HuffPost (May 3, 2011)

The Architecture of Maternal Death, Rewire (with Tarek Meguid) (April 4, 2011)

Aiding Children Accused of Witchcraft, HuffPost (March 14, 2011)

Witchcraft Legal Aid in Africa, The New York Times (International) (February 17, 2011)

Honoring the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, HuffPost (December 14, 2010)

Sierra Leone Youth Call for an End to Female Genital Mutilation, HuffPost (November 26, 2010)

International Donors Must Fund Female-Controlled HIV Prevention Gel, HuffPost (October 7, 2010)

Three African Vignettes: Nigeria, Benin, Rwanda, Afrik-News (September 15, 2010)

Africa's Women Turn 50, HuffPost (August 20, 2010)

Rwanda: Media Censorship Will Breed Resentment, allAfrica.com (August 11, 2010)

Ethiopia: U.S. foreign policy and unsafe abortion in Africa, openDemocracy (August 3, 2010)

Rwanda: Gov't 'Manipulates' Genocide Memory, allAfrica.com (July 21, 2010)

A call for sex workers' rights in Africa, Pambazuka News (June 24, 2010)

SELECTED CLINICAL CASEWORK

Gender Justice

- Global Gender Equality and Human Rights Education Campaign (in partnership with Amnesty International Japan and Center for Rights Education Awareness): Designed, drafted, and conducted gender equality and human rights workshops for high school students, university students, and early-career activists in Japan and Kenya. (2017-2018)
- U.S. Foreign Policy and Access to Safe Abortions (in partnership with CHANGE): Research support to legal working group against the Trump administration's Global Gag Rule (2017)
- South Africa: LGBT Refugee Rights (in partnership with PASSOP): Report documenting employment and housing discrimination against LGBT refugees in South Africa. Human rights workshop for LGBT refugee rights activists on the use of national, regional, and international human rights mechanisms. (2013–2014)
- U.S. Foreign Policy and Access to Safe Abortions in Ethiopia (in partnership with Addis Ababa Law School): Report on effect of U.S. foreign policy on Ethiopian women's access to safe abortion services since liberalization of Ethiopia's abortion law in 2005 and temporary repeal of Global Gag Rule in 2009. (2010)
- Sierra Leone: Female Genital Cutting (in partnership with Centre for Safe Motherhood Youth and Child Outreach): Human rights anti-FGC/M workshops in seven schools in northern Sierra Leone with thousands of students participating. Drafted potential community by-laws regulating FGC based on town hall meetings with FGC initiators and human rights advocates in three chiefdoms in Kambia District, Sierra Leone. (2010)
- Lebanon: Transgender Rights (in partnership with Helem): Needs assessment report outlining employment discrimination faced by Lebanese transgender community. (2010)
- South Dakota: Native American Women's Reproductive Health Rights (in partnership with ACLU of South Dakota): On-site surveys assessing level of reproductive healthcare being provided to American Indian women through government-run Indian Health Services in South Dakota. (2009)
- Malawi: Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (in partnership with Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS): Human rights workshops for 200 HIV-positive women in four towns/cities in Malawi. Workshop topics

included reproductive rights, HIV treatment and legal literacy, stigma and discrimination, and advocacy methods. (2007)

Sex Worker Rights

- Africa-wide (in partnership with WONETHA, Crested Crane Lighters, Voices of Hope Trust): Submissions to international human rights bodies (Human Rights Committee, Universal Periodic Review, Committee Against Torture) documenting abuses against Namibian and Ugandan sex workers. (2016)
- Africa-wide (in partnership with African Sex Worker Alliance): Human rights workshop in Mauritius for activists from Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda on the use of national, regional, and international human rights mechanisms to advance sex workers' rights in Africa. (2015)
- Zimbabwe (in partnership with Sexual Rights Centre): Policy paper on decriminalization of sex work in Zimbabwe. Comparative memo on models of sex worker legal empowerment. (2013)
- United States (in partnership with Sex Workers Project): Co-drafted letter to Association of Attorneys General critiquing "end demand" approaches to sex work. (2012)
- South Africa (in partnership with Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Taskforce and Sisonke): Policy papers on behalf of sex worker-led national campaign to decriminalize sex work in South Africa. (2011)
- Malawi (in partnership with Center for Development of People): International and comparative constitutional law research for public interest lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of forced HIV testing of sex workers. (2011)
- India (in partnership with SANGRAM and VAMP): Policy document crafting alternative guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions targeting sex workers rooted in rights-based and justice-based approach. (2008)

Criminal Justice Reform

- Washington DC: Drug Decriminalization (in partnership with HIPS): Public health and human rights-based policy statement for HIPS calling for the decriminalization of all drugs for personal use in Washington D.C. (2017)
- Japan: Death Penalty Reform (in partnership with Amnesty International Japan): White paper presented in testimony to Japan Ministry of Justice representatives at the House of Councilors calling for procedural reforms to the death penalty in Japan. (2017)
- New York City: Police Abuse of Vulnerable Communities (in partnership with Police Reform Organizing Project): Policy reports on NYPD broken windows policing and NYPD abuse and harassment of black and Latino communities, Muslim-American communities, sex workers, LGBT youth of color, street vendors, and homeless people. (2012–2017)
- New York City: Submission to Office of the Inspector General–NYPD documenting racially discriminatory effects of NYPD's broken windows policing policy. (2015)
- New York City: Black Lives Matter (in partnership with New York Justice League): Consultancy work for Black Lives Matter activists regarding recommendations for legal, policy, and human rights interventions targeting police brutality in New York City. (2015)
- Malawi: Prisoners' Rights (in partnership with Center for Human Rights Education Advice and Assistance): Submissions of individual claims on behalf of Malawian prisoners to United Nations Working Group on

Arbitrary Detention in Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. Anti-torture training for Malawian police officers and prison officials and prisoners' rights training for paralegals. International and comparative constitutional law research for public interest lawsuit on right to trial within a reasonable time. (2008–2010)

Access to Justice

- Global – Sexual Violence: 100-page handbook detailing best practices for community-based paralegal programs handling sexual violence cases available via the Namati global legal empowerment network. Based on comparative research and interviews with over 20 NGOs worldwide. (2015)
- Malawi: (in partnership with Center for Human Rights Education Advice and Assistance): Mobile legal aid clinics in three villages in rural Malawi. Clinic provided individuals in 110 cases with legal assistance on witchcraft accusations, property grabbing, domestic violence, and child maintenance. Handbook to improve design of community-based paralegal program. (2009-2011)
- Liberia (in partnership with Carter Center and Justice and Peace Commission): 200-page handbook to improve design of community-based paralegal program. (2008)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, TESTIMONY, AND CONVENED WORKSHOPS

Gender Equality and Human Rights Workshop, Center for Rights Education Awareness, Nairobi, Kenya (2018)

Training Women's Rights Advocates through the International Human Rights Clinic, HLS Celebration 65, Harvard Law School (2018)

Gender Equality and Human Rights Workshop, Amnesty International Japan, Tokyo, Japan (2018)

To Live Freely in This World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa, Palaver Series, Department of African History, Howard University (2018)

Against Criminalization: Gender, Activism, and the Pursuit of Justice, Behind-the-Book Series, Maloney Library, Fordham Law School (2018)

To Live Freely in This World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa, Guest Lecturer, Intersections: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Global Perspective, Department of Cultural and Social Analysis, NYU (2017)

Proposals for the Treatment of Prisoners Sentenced to Death in Japan, Testimony to Japanese Ministry of Justice, House of Councillors, Tokyo, Japan (2017)

Sex Work, Law, and Human Rights in Africa, Admitted Students' Day Faculty Spotlight, Fordham Law School (2016)

Which Policies Best Respect Sex Workers' Rights? A Conversation with Sex Workers' Rights Defenders, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (2016)

Sex Work and Human Rights in Africa, Institute for Human Rights Studies, Columbia University (2016)

To Live Freely in This World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa, Human Rights Program and Harvard African Law Students Association, Harvard Law School (2016)

To Live Freely in This World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa, Sex Workers Project, Urban Justice Center (2016)

To Live Freely in This World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa, Fordham Law School (2016)

Advancing Sex Workers' Rights in Africa: Human Rights Training on International, Regional, and Domestic Human Rights Mechanisms, Port Louis, Mauritius (2015)

Human Rights Defense of LGBTI Refugee Rights: Rights and Mechanisms Under International, Regional, and Domestic Law Training Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa (2014)

African Sex Workers: Building a Movement, Fordham Law School 10/10 Workshop (2013)

Sex Work and Human Trafficking: The Difference and Why It Matters, Fordham Law Student Advocates for Sexual Health and Rights, Fordham Law School (2013)

Sex Workers' Rights are Human Rights, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice Human Rights Speaker Series, Fordham Law School (2012)

Female Genital Cutting in Sierra Leone, Falcon Management (2011)

Female Genital Cutting and Human Rights Training Workshop, Kambia District, Sierra Leone (2010)

Torture and Criminal Justice Reform Training Workshop, Blantyre, Malawi (2009)

The First Year of the Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice Human Rights Speaker Series, Fordham Law School (2008)

Crowley Project Report-Back: The Feminization of HIV/AIDS in Malawi, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice Human Rights Speaker Series, Fordham Law School (2008)

Women's Rights and HIV/AIDS Workshop, Blantyre and Mchingi, Malawi (2007)

The Future of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Harvard College, Harvard University (2005)

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fordham University School of Law | New York, NY 2006–2007
Crowley Fellow in International Human Rights

- Authored report on feminization of HIV/AIDS in Malawi.
- Taught seminar on HIV/AIDS and human rights, Ethiopian and Malawian modern political history, and feminization of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia and Malawi.
- Co-produced documentary entitled “The Face of AIDS: The Feminization of HIV/AIDS in Malawi.” Documentary broadcast on Malawi TV for World AIDS Day and at International AIDS Conference in Mexico City and featured in university courses.

International Crisis Group, West Africa Project | Dakar, Senegal 2005–2006
Harvard Henigson Human Rights Fellow

- Authored Crisis Group policy reports on justice sector reform in Liberia and federalism and constitutional and legal reform in Nigeria.
- Drafted daily briefings and monthly internal reports on security situation in Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- Researched and analyzed West African legal issues, including transitional justice, Charles Taylor dossier, and legal regulation of private military companies in Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- Conducted advocacy meetings with international donors and interviews with international press.

ACLU Women's Rights Project | New York, NY Summer 2004
Law Clerk

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda on sex worker activism (2010–2014)
South Africa on employment and housing discrimination against LGBT refugees (2013)
South Africa on decriminalization of sex work (2011)
Malawi on access to justice and community-based paralegal programs (2011)
Ethiopia on Global Gag Rule and access to safe abortion (2010)
Lebanon on employment discrimination against transgender people (2010)
Cambodia on Cambodian-American deportees (2010)
South Dakota and Lakota reservations on American Indian women's access to reproductive health services (2009)
Cambodia on forced eviction (2008)
Malawi on arbitrary detention (2008)
Liberia on access to justice and community-based paralegal programs (2008)
India on HIV/AIDS programs targeting sex workers (2008)
Sierra Leone on female genital cutting and child-care maintenance (2008)
New Zealand on intimate partner violence (2008)
Ethiopia on non-judicial constitutional review (2008)
Malawi on feminization of HIV/AIDS (2007)
Ethiopia on feminization of HIV/AIDS (2006)
Nigeria on federalism and constitutional reform (2006)
Sierra Leone and Liberia on judicial reform, customary law, access to justice, gender justice and community based paralegal programs (2005)
Rwanda and Uganda on abuses against human rights defenders and journalists (2004)
Rwanda on *ingando* solidarity camps and post-conflict reconciliation (2004)

MEDIA COMMENTARY

BBC News Focus on Africa, The Nation, IRIN News, HuffPost, Global Network of Sex Work Projects, National media outlets in Malawi

FACULTY SERVICE

Public Interest and Service Committee (2007–Present), Chair (2015–2017)
Teaching Committee (2014–2015; 2017–Present)
Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2016–2018)
Long Range Planning Committee (2015–2016)
Women Law Students Committee (2013–2014)
Clinical Status Committee (2011–2012)
Student Faculty Public Interest Committee (2010–2011)
Ad-Hoc Clinical Hiring Committee (2010)
Faculty Adviser, Fordham Law Student Advocates for Sexual Health and Rights (2013–Present)
Faculty Mentor, Stein Scholars for Public Interest (2010–Present)

ACADEMIC REFEREE/PEER-REVIEWER

Cambridge University Press
Health and Human Rights Journal
Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism (Duke University Press)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Board of Directors (Secretary), Namati: Innovations in Legal Empowerment (2012–Present)
Board Member, Timap for Justice USA (2007–2011)
Association of Women’s Rights in Development (AWID)
Bar Admission: New York