

## **Seodi White**

Seodi White is a multi-disciplinary trained lawyer, experienced legal anthropologist, and writer on women's rights and the law. She is the National Coordinator of Women and the Law in Southern Africa Research and Education Trust (WLSA Malawi). She has conducted a number of grounded research projects on women's lived realities in Malawi including The Justice Delivery System, Widows Dispossession of Property, HIV/AIDS and Women's Rights and lately on Women in State Custody in Malawi. She has been influential in achieving ground-breaking law through the conception and subsequent the enactment of the Prevention of Domestic Violence legislation in Malawi in 2006. She received the Malawi Human Rights Commission Award in 2004 for her contribution to the advancement of women and children's rights. She served as a Commissioner on the Special Malawi Law Commission on Gender Related Laws and as a regional legal and gender expert for the upgrading of the Southern Africa Development Community Declaration on Gender and Development to Protocol status. In 2006, she led the NGO Delegation that presented Malawi civil society's Shadow Report to the United Nations CEDAW Committee. She was also the 2007's Dame Nita Barrow Distinguished Visitor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Centre for Women's Studies in Education, University of Toronto. As part of her visitorship she designed, directed, and taught a course on Women's Rights and HIV/AIDS in Malawi and Southern Africa: Realities, Successes and Challenges. She also gave a public lecture at the University of Toronto on the same topic. She sits on the global advisory panel of Because I am a Girl: The State of the World's Girls Report organised by Plan International.

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