



### Profile of a Panelist:

**Dr. Maude Dikobe**

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Dr. Maude Dikobe is a Senior Lecturer at University of Botswana where she teaches in the area of African Diaspora and gender studies. Her scholarship lies in the nexus between gender and human rights. She has more than 20 years of expertise working on gender equality issues including: Gender and Development, Gender Based Violence (GBV), gender and women's empowerment, mentoring for women in decision-making position and those venturing into politics. At regional and global levels she has worked with SADC, Pan African Parliament (PAP) UNFPA, UNWomen, UNESCO, IDEA International, UNICEF, and UNECA among others. Dr Dikobe was the Chair of the Gender Policy and Programmes Committee (GPPC) at the University of Botswana. She is an active member of civil society organizations and engaged in civil dialogues lobbying for gender equality. She served as a member of the Botswana Commission on Women and contributed to the drafting and finalization of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

**Title: Gender Dimenstions of COVID-19 in Botswana: *Mmangwana o tshwara thipa ka ha bogaleng.***

### Abstract

Whilst the figures of COVID-19 infections have remained relatively low in Botswana, several worrying trends have emerged with respect to the pandemic. The first was the negative impact of lockdown on communities especially about loss of jobs and livelihoods. The other has been the pervasive reports of gender-based violence including other fatalities mainly suffered by women and girls. The pandemic unmasked the often-hidden rampant gender-based violence, especially domestic violence. Consequently, women's voices have come forth, to demand action and to call leaders to account especially in the context of heavily militarized responses to the pandemic. The presentation will argue that an inclusive development agenda must include listening to women's lived experiences especially in the post COVID 19 world where issues of gender justice and the health for all is prioritised.







**Profile of a Panelist:**  
**Dr Tendayi Garutsa**  
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Dr Tendayi Garutsa is an early career researcher, a subject chair and senior lecturer in the Sociology Department, School of Social Sciences at the North West University. She is a recipient of The Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE), a program hosted by The African Academy of Sciences' AESA and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). She serves in a number of portfolios including the National Research Foundation (NRF) humanities review board, Population and health research entity and Recognition of Prior learning committees within the faculty of humanities at the North West University. She has published DHET accredited articles in the area of Gender, indigenous knowledge, Food security and Pedagogy.

### **Using an intersectional lens in understanding Gender Based Violence and Covid-19**

#### **Abstract**

Instances of Intimidate partner violence typically increase during and after emergencies. The restrictions to contain the coronavirus has resulted in increased reported cases of domestic violence, especially for women, children, and LGBTQ+ individuals. At least 2300 gender-based violence cases have been reported in South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic and 243 million women and children have been subjected to sexual and or physical violence globally in the last 12 months. The main objective of my presentation is to analyse some of the theories advanced to understand Gender Based Violence. Gender Based Violence cannot be captured by looking at class, age, race as mutually exclusive terrains. It is critical that we challenge monolithic definition of race, class, sexuality and other identities, which are profound, and influence Gender Based Violence. I propose an intersectional framework that analyses interlocking systems of oppression around social categories like race, gender, class, disability and sexual orientation embedded in power, privilege and positionality.







**Profile of a Panelist:**  
**Prof Alinah Kelo Segobye**  
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Alinah Kelo Segobye is the Dean of Human Sciences at the Namibia University of Science and Technology. She is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences. She has served as an advisor, facilitator, and expert for a number of international organisations. Segobye's research includes the archaeology of southern Africa, indigenous knowledge systems, heritage studies, gender, peace studies and HIV/AIDS. She has authored and co-authored essays and book chapters on African archaeology, heritage and development.

## Abstract

### Where have all the children gone? Memory and forgetting in a post COVID world

The human instinct to shield children from negative experiences is probably universal. However, throughout humanity children have been forced to be witness to many, sometimes unspeakable things. Often, they are caught in the crosshairs or forced to take active part in such acts. Across the continent, children have been forced to war as soldiers or to become brides and servants to men in conflicts. Children have faced regimes in the quest for justice and others have become parents long before their childhood should have transitioned. To date, global concerns in respect to the pandemic and discourses of a post COVID world almost completely excluded children save for discussions about their schooling. In reflecting on how post COVID futures should look like this presentation departs from the premise that children should be at the centre of discussions, not simply as problematised others but as active actors with agency. The presentation will advocate for the urgent review of policies to ensure children are supported in the current and future management of the COVID pandemic and associated policies in education, health, and other critical areas. Support for alternative healing and therapies should be drawn upon in providing psychosocial support for children and their communities during the pandemic. This support is especially needed to ensure that Africa's children, especially, can benefit from the promises of the African Union promise of *The Africa We Want* (Agenda 2063).







## Profile of Facilitator Dr Juliet Sylvia Pasi

Juliet Sylvia Pasi is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Communication at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). Her research interests are environmentalism in literature, issues of gender in literature, children's literature as well as new literary forms that are emerging on social media. In 2016, she received the Teaching Excellence Award at Faculty level. She is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the NAWA Journal of Language and Communication. She is also currently working on a book manuscript provisionally titled: Ecofeminism, the Environment and Cultural Resistance in African Women's Fiction.

