

## Acknowledgements

My first word of thanks goes to all the contributors of this academic publication, for their great work!

This publication is somewhat special: a good number of the contributors consisted of under- and postgraduate students. Ms Lena Kangandjela (who is at the same time employed at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare), Mr Willard Mugadza and Ms Ruusa Ntinda are third-year B Juris students. Ms Lotta Ambunda and Mr Pombili Shipila are – like Mr Mugadza and Ms Ntinda – student assistants at the Human Rights and Documentation Centre (HRDC) and fourth-year LL B students. Ms Moudy Hangula is a final-year LL B student. Both Ms Prisca Anyolo and Mr Clever Mapaire are currently in the process of finalising their LL M studies, while Mr Joab Mudzanapabwe (Ministry of Labour) is a Ph D candidate in Forensic Psychology. All of them are currently enrolled with the University of Namibia. I am particularly proud of their contributions, as I consider their achievement as an exemplary reflection of how capacity-building measures and young professional empowerment can be achieved successfully. I am confident to find some of the aforementioned names attached to the title of Professor at some point in the future.

The students' contributions amalgamated in this publication with articles by internationally renowned legal academics such as Prof. Manfred Hinz (who holds the UNESCO Chair, Human Rights and Democracy, University of Namibia), Prof. Julie Stewart (Southern and Eastern African Regional Centre for Women's Law, University of Zimbabwe) and Dr Stefan Schulz (Department of Legal Studies, Polytechnic of Namibia). Their contributions, next to those of more junior colleagues like Ms Yvonne Dausab (Faculty of Law, University of Namibia) and Ms Gugulethu Nkosi (Faculty of Law, University of South Africa), also blended in with the excellent papers by members from within the legal fraternity at large, such as the one by Ms Felicity !Owoses-/Goagoses (Ministry of Justice), the one co-authored by my wife Dr Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting (Legal Research and Development Trust of Namibia), and those by Ms Dianne Hubbard and Ms Rachel Coomer (Legal Assistance Centre). Ms Hubbard and Ms Coomer had already done tremendous work in the preparation of the Child Care and Protection Bill. Ms Hubbard is thanked in particular for reviewing the article on the Child Care and Protection Bill prior to its publication in this volume.

Apart from the interdisciplinary contributions by Mr Michael Conteh and Ms Chiku Mchombu, I am particularly grateful for the contributions by Public Prosecutor Ms Faith Chipepera and by His Lordship the Honourable Mr Justice Annel Silungwe. To His Lordship, my fellow Rotarian and the Past District Governor, and to the Auas Rotary Club in Windhoek I would like to express my gratitude for the joint effort in making the High Court of Namibia Vulnerable Witnesses' Project a reality.

Special recognition for her interesting contribution goes to my colleague Ms Agata Rogalska-Piechota from the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Proceedings before the International Organs of the Protection of Human Rights from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw, Poland. Thanks also go to Ms Veronica de Klerk and Women's Action for Development for the continuous activities in the process of women's (and children's) empowerment in Namibia.

The input by Ms Sandie Fitchat and Ms Helen Vale as regards the language editing deserves a special word of appreciation. Ms Vale was responsible for editing the contributions by Mr Mudzanapabwe, Ms Gugulethu Nkosi, Ms Agata Rogalska-Piechota, Dr Stefan Schulz, and Prof. Julie Stewart. The remainder of the content was edited by Ms Fitchat, who also did a wonderful job of the final layout.

I would furthermore like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who engaged in and participated during the Expert Workshop conducted by the Human Rights and Documentation Centre and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on 28 September 2009 preceding this publication.

My most grateful thanks are extended to Dr Anton Bösl, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Resident Representative for Namibia and Angola, as well as the Konrad Adenauer Foundation itself for its financial support of this publication. KAS and the HRDC have teamed up before by way of a publication promoting human rights and the rule of law in Namibia and beyond.

My appreciation is also due to Prof. Christian Roschmann, Director of the KAS Rule of Law in the Sub-Saharan Africa Programme in Nairobi, Kenya, for his continuous support.

Dr Bösl kindly accepted the invitation to do the cover design and provide a Foreword for this book. Ms Victoria Haashela blessed it with the poem *An African Child*. I thank both cordially!

It is hoped that the book *Children's Rights in Namibia* appeals to the Judiciary, Legislature and the Executive. The same, of course, applies to academics, legal practitioners, researchers, students and the general public.

*Oliver C Ruppel*  
20 November 2009