

CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL EDITION OF THE *JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES*

Guest editors: Prof Magezi Elijah Baloyi and Prof Lilian Cheelo Siwila

University of South Africa

Violence against women and girls in Africa-in the absence of *ubuntu*

Over the centuries, violence has been, and continues to be, one of the worst forms of abuse inflicted on women and girls. In South Africa, as is the case elsewhere on the continent, females – both young and old – are subjected to systematised and structured patriarchal systems that seek to dominate them. Indeed, many of the traditional practices which are observed, contribute to the oppression of women and girls. Globally, gender-based violence (GBV) manifests itself in different forms, which may be difficult to pinpoint and subsequently assess. Physical, psychological, spiritual and economic violence (among many other manifestations) is inflicted on women and girls, despite countries such as South Africa priding themselves on their adherence to the philosophy of *ubuntu* – a humanistic ideology that values each person's human dignity. Since this philosophy is upheld by secular society and even in theological circles, the question arises whether it indeed recognises the value of women and girls in our communities. If it does, why do so many brutal rape cases end up with the victim being murdered? How does the concept of *ubuntu* relate to the rape of women or girls who are mentally challenged? How are elderly women in our communities treated? All these factors can be associated with the loss of African value systems and societal decay. This could also explain why pandemics such as HIV, Aids and Covid-19, along with endemic poverty, are often feminized, and deemed to be contributing factors to the violence that women and girls experience.

In this special edition we are calling for the submission of abstracts for papers and case discussions that will propose ground-breaking research on violence against women in Africa, with a special focus on how those African value systems that claim to uphold human dignity, can be challenged. We welcome papers which adopt interdisciplinary perspectives. Some of the topics that this special issue wishes to address are listed below, but contributors are free to choose their own slant, as long as the topic aligns with the theme of the journal. Possible topics include:

1. African traditional understandings of respect for women and girls
2. Feminist perspectives on *ubuntu* and human dignity, and their role in GBV
3. Traditional values and GBV
4. GBV and the power of the patriarchy
5. Different forms of violence against women and girls and the root causes thereof
6. Pandemics and GBV
7. Reflections on the African moral fibre and its impact on women and girls
8. The role of socialisation in GBV
9. GBV and the impact of economic dependency

Timeline: We seek abstracts of 300 words or less, by July 30, 2021, addressing the above topics—but not limited to them, across all of our publication genres: scholarly articles, personal essays, feminist reflections, poetry, fiction, digital art, audio/video. Notification to accepted abstract will be sent out on 20 September 2021. Authors will be contacted to submit full papers with first drafts (APA) due by September 1, 2021 with accepted final papers due by March 1, 2022. Please submit your abstracts to: baloye@unisa.ac.za and siwila@ukzn.ac.za.

Specifications: Paper Guidelines: papers should be between 5000 and 7000 words in length, 1.5 spacing, Calibri font, APA citation style, well-cited, original, and never been published previously. In addition, please follow the JIWS's guidelines found at this link:
<https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/policies.html#guidelines>

The journal is indexed with the MLA International Bibliography, the International Bibliography of Social Sciences, EBSCO, Elsevier Bibliographic Databases, Ulrich's Periodicals, the Gale Group, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), SCOPUS, and ProQuest Bibliographical References.