



# **Gender-based Violence and COVID-19 in South Africa**

## **The Clash of Pandemics**

Authored by Dr Brigitte Clark, Senior Lecturer in Child Law and Jurisprudence  
at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg

### ■ 1. Introduction – Isolation and Vulnerability

In March 2020, the magnitude and severity of the COVID -19 outbreak was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO)<sup>1</sup>. Likewise, Gender-based violence (GBV)<sup>2</sup> is a problem of pandemic proportions<sup>3</sup>.

The recommended strategy for containing the spread of COVID-19 is to confine the movement and interaction of people as much as possible by 'lockdown measures' that restrict movement beyond the home. However, the effects of these restrictions may be disastrous for women, who are periodically or routinely abused within their own homes by a partner or spouse or other family member.



#### **Staying at home for those abused does not bring much safety or peace of mind.**

Many of those who abuse others, especially within families and relationships, employ secrecy and isolation as a way of controlling the victims of their bullying and abuse. Isolation keeps the suspicions of others at bay, reduces the opportunities for the abused person to seek help, and may also increase cases of physical violence where there is less chance of another person noticing bruises or other injuries.

Isolation and violence against women, particularly domestic violence, frequently work in tandem and depend on secrecy for their successful implementation. The abuser can inflict economic abuse, which does not leave a physical mark. Psychological abuse in the form of controlling and coercive behaviour takes the form of acts or a pattern of acts that can include threats, intimidation or other abuse designed to make the abused person dependent by isolating them from support, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour. At the core of this controlling and coercive behaviour and other forms of domestic abuse is the theme of isolation, which is precisely what the government is encouraging the population to introduce into their daily lives to combat the other deadly threat of COVID-19.

This White Paper, authored by Dr Brigitte Clark, Senior Lecturer at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, in Child Law and Jurisprudence, outlines the nature and severity of gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa and the legal measures to combat domestic violence. It discusses the State of National Disaster<sup>4</sup> which existed in South Africa from March 2020 as a result of the threat of COVID-19 and outlines the impact and indirect effects of the virus on the lives of abused women, particularly victims of domestic or partner violence. Dr Clark also suggests possible initiatives to combat this scourge during this period.

1. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic due to the rapid increase in the number of cases, emphasising the need for countries to balance the right efforts in protecting health, preventing economic and social disruption and respecting human rights.
2. Defined collectively as violent acts that are primarily or exclusively committed against women. Sometimes considered a hate crime, this type of violence targets a specific group with the victim's gender as a primary motive. This type of violence is gender-based, meaning that the acts of violence are committed against women expressly because they are women. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women states that: "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women" and that "violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."
3. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone known to her.
4. National State of Disaster Management Act.

### ■ 2. Definitions of Gender-based Violence

Violence against women is endemic in the world, but it has reached extreme and crisis proportions in South Africa. GBV may take the form of rape, assault, domestic violence, trafficking in women, violence against women in detention, violence against women during armed conflict and others. In South Africa, although femicide and rape are the most horrendous of the GBV problems, other particular local problems include harmful customary or traditional practices such as honour killings, dowry violence, female genital mutilation, marriage by abduction (Ukuthwala) and forced marriage. These are all ways of subjugating women and diminishing their life chances.

These acts infringe some or all of the following rights set out in the Bill of Rights in the South African Constitution: the right to equality, which includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms; the right not to be discriminated against unfairly – the state may not unfairly discriminate against anyone on the grounds of, inter alia, sex and gender; the right to dignity; the right to life; the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources; not to be tortured in any way; and not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way.

***GBV violates women's dignity and rights, and affects the educational performance of girls. Until GBV is at least diminished, women will struggle to attain full equality or be accorded the dignity and security to which all human beings are entitled. If South Africa is allowed to continue as a patriarchal society, the perception of inequality between men and women will leave women in an inferior position and this will perpetuate GBV, creating a cycle of violence, inequality and the patriarchy.***

### ■ 3. International and National Measures to combat GBV

Internationally, South Africa has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It is startling that CEDAW does not contain any explicit condemnation or prohibition of violence against women.

After CEDAW was adopted internationally in 1979, the international community gradually came to realise that violence against women was a vast global problem, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women attempted to make up for the lacuna in CEDAW by issuing two General Recommendations on GBV, namely General Recommendations 12 and 19, issued in 1989 and 1992 respectively.

General Recommendation 12 asserts that certain provisions of CEDAW require States Parties to protect women against violence, whether it occurs in the family, workplace or other area of social life. The recommendation therefore suggests that States Parties' periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee should include information about legislation protecting women against violence, other measures taken to eradicate it, support services and statistical data relating to violence against women.

5. Director v Public Prosecutions v Mngoma 2010 1 SACR 427 (SCA) para 14 at 432C; L Vetten 'Police accountability and the Domestic Violence Act' 59 (2017) The South African Crime Quarterly
7. S 9(1) and (2).
8. S 9(3)
9. S 10.
10. S 11
11. S 12(1)(c)
12. S 12(1)(d).
13. S 12(1)(e).

General Recommendation 19 states that GBV is a form of discrimination against women and defines it as violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. The Recommendation states that such violence includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. It states that this type of violence affects women's ability to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that full implementation of this Convention requires states to take positive measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women.



### Domestic Violence Act

For violence within the home, in addition to the wide range of Criminal Law remedies, the South African domestic legislation specifically aimed at legal protection against domestic violence is the Domestic Violence Act, (the Act). The Preamble of this Act states that its purpose is to afford the victims of domestic violence the maximum protection from domestic abuse that the law can provide; and to introduce measures which seek to ensure that the relevant organs of State give full effect to the provisions of this Act, and thereby to convey that the State is committed to the elimination of domestic violence.

The objective of the Act was thus to provide an effective legal procedure for victims of domestic violence and to facilitate an affordable procedure that can be pursued in the magistrate's court, in addition to the more expensive application to the High Court for an interdict. The Act repealed the Prevention of Family Violence Act, except for those sections that deal with a professional duty to report incidents of domestic violence and the abolition of the common law rule which exempted a husband from prosecution for raping his wife.

The Act gives a wide definition of domestic violence as inter alia "any controlling or abusive behaviour that harms the health, safety or well-being of the applicant or any child in the care of the applicant." The definition then elaborates on behaviour which will constitute domestic violence, which includes, but is not limited to:

- physical abuse or threat of physical abuse
- sexual abuse or a threat of sexual abuse
- emotional, verbal and psychological abuse
- economic abuse
- intimidation
- harassment
- stalking
- damage to or destruction of property
- entry into the applicant's residence without consent, where the parties do not share the same residence.

It is further required that such conduct either harms the complainant or that it may cause imminent harm to the safety, health or well-being of the complainant.

5. Director v Public Prosecutions v Mngoma 2010 1 SACR 427 (SCA) para 14 at 432C; L Vetten 'Police accountability and the Domestic Violence Act' 59 (2017) The South African Crime Quarterly
7. S 9(1) and (2).
8. S 9(3)
9. S 10.
10. S 11
11. S 12(1)(c)
12. S 12(1)(d).
13. S 12(1)(e).



The behaviour described in the definitions does not constitute a *numerus clausus*. Economic abuse is defined as including “the deprivation or threatened deprivation of any or all economic or financial resources to which the applicant is entitled under law or which the applicant requires out of necessity. Emotional, verbal and psychological abuse is defined as degrading or humiliating conduct that includes but is not limited to repeated insults, ridicule or name calling; repeated threats to cause emotional pain; or the repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness or jealousy, which is such as to constitute a serious invasion of the applicant’s privacy, liberty, integrity or security. Finally, intimidation is defined as uttering, conveying or causing any person to receive a threat which induces fear.



### Domestic Relationships

A domestic relationship, as defined in the Act, is not limited only to include a man and woman who are or have been married to each other according to any law or custom or who ordinarily live or lived together as husband and wife. It is available to any person who lives or lived with another person in a relationship similar to a marriage, regardless of whether the parties to the relationship are of the opposite or the same sex and extends to include persons who “are or were in an engagement, dating or customary relationship, which includes but is not limited to an actual or perceived romantic, intimate or sexual relationship of any duration<sup>19</sup>.



### Interim Protection Orders

The procedure laid down in the Domestic Violence Act obliges the court to issue an urgent interim protection order and a warrant of arrest in the absence of and without the knowledge of the respondent, in circumstances of domestic violence and where there is a well-grounded apprehension of undue harm if the interim protection order is not granted. In these circumstances, requiring that the respondent be given notice would defeat the object of this Act. The interim order has no force or effect until it is served on the respondent, who then has the opportunity on the return day to advance reasons why the order should not be confirmed<sup>20</sup>.

The Domestic Violence Act only makes provision for the granting of an interdict in the magistrate’s court at the instance of any person, including a child, who is or has been in a domestic relationship with the respondent. But the force of the Act is limited in times of COVID- 19. How do victims gain access to the courts to apply for these remedies? How can they get the police to act in these circumstances? How can this Act operate at times of lockdown when the courts are not fully operational? The efficiency and effectiveness of protection orders issued under this Act needs to be improved<sup>20</sup>.

18. K v S (A96/2014) [2014] ZAFSHC 144 (4 September 2014).

19. Section 1 of Act 117 of 1998.

20. S 8 of Act 116 of 1998.

21. See <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-08-2> accessed 29 August 2020. Sometimes women do not use the protection order to its fullest extent because they are still emotionally dependent on the perpetrator. Online protection orders should be made available. Police should have an app where they can access protection orders via mobile.

### ■ 4. The Impact of COVID-19 on South African Society

In South Africa, on 15 March 2020, COVID-19 was classified as a national disaster by the National Disaster Management Centre. The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs then declared a 'national state of disaster' in South Africa. South Africa already faced the challenges of widespread cyclical poverty, inequality, unemployment and a parlous healthcare system, but the COVID-19 pandemic affects women in new, specific and distinct ways. As South Africa faced insurmountable challenges to address its social and economic problems, there are widespread concerns around the alarming incidence rates of GBV in the face of the spread of the virus.

As a result of the lockdown measures, the South African government put in place strategies focused on containing the outbreak, including closures of schools, implementation of remote working policies, and domestic and international travel restrictions, and a total ban on the sale of alcohol. Those affected by domestic abuse, who were self-isolating, were restricted to online and telephone services, which could be difficult to access from home with the perpetrator constantly present and could lead to further domestic violence as had happened in China and the UK.

As a result of the lockdown measures, the South African government put in place strategies focused on containing the outbreak, including closures of schools, implementation of remote working policies, and domestic and international travel restrictions, and a total ban on the sale of alcohol.

There was a fear that this country would follow that trend. Yet, various South African data sources suggest the opposite. At first, increased awareness and concern about domestic violence even superficially, appears to have impacted positively in some provinces. In these cases, the Department of Social Development worked closely with shelters run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to ensure that services remain accessible and available to victims of domestic violence.

The reasons why South Africa did not appear initially to experience the rise in domestic violence cases reported elsewhere in the world may have been, firstly, that the ban on alcohol sales reduced the severity of domestic violence cases and the opportunity for rape (outside of the home). Sober partners may still be abusive and controlling, but are perhaps less likely to resort to extreme physical violence. The United Kingdom domestic abuse non-government organisation 'Refuge' reported a 700% increase in calls from victims and a 25% increase in calls from men wanting to change their behaviour. This suggests that the alcohol sales ban and enforced lockdown may be responsible for the decrease in reported cases and the reduction in cases of serious injury in South Africa during the alcohol ban. However, it could also be that the increase in police brutality and the strict lockdown kept women at home. They may have been unable to venture out because either they lacked a valid excuse, or because they were afraid of being confronted by police or were fearful of getting COVID-19, bringing the virus home and infecting their children. This may have meant that women were not able to report their cases because they could not get to a police station and unable to go to court to get orders under the Domestic Violence Act.

22. As designated under Section 3 of the National Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002

23. Nathan Van der Klippe 'Domestic violence reports rise in China amid COVID-19 lockdown' The Globe and Mail Inc. accessed at <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-domesticviolence/reports-rise-in-china-amid-covid-19-lockdown/> 27 August 2020.

24. Domestic abuse call to London police rose by 10% during lockdown.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/15/domestic-abuse-calls-to-london-police-rise-by-a-tenth-during-lockdown>

25. World Health Organisation 'Intimate partner violence and alcohol

[www.who.int/world-report/factsheets/fs\\_intimate](http://www.who.int/world-report/factsheets/fs_intimate) accessed 27 August 2020.

26. 12% rise in cases reported to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

27. However, it is more likely to have been the ban on alcohol in south Africa. In the UK, where alcohol was not banned, shocking statistics revealed that domestic violence in March 2020 surged at the start of the coronavirus lockdown, as the home secretary, Priti Patel, insisted that help for all victims of abuse was available. Patel said that all support services were operating during this difficult time and promised that assistance was available for anyone at risk.



### Gender Inequalities

The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to amplify existing gender inequalities and may especially affect women who survive on the peripheries of the economy. The perpetuation of violence against women is tightly interlinked with social and economic relations. The suspension of regular income may further increase tensions in the home. Following the Ebola epidemic, West Africa saw an increase in cases of GBV, owing to household stress caused by financial constraints. A research study by Oxfam International found that during the protracted crisis, households faced severe financial pressures as a result of job cuts, women not being able to generate income from their livelihood sources or through community-based lending facilities and the increased care burden at home. As a result, women and girls bore a greater burden in the household, coupled with stigmatisation and discrimination which contributed to the increased levels of GBV.

## 5. Measures to Combat GBV

In August 2020, Uyinene Mrwetyana, a nineteen year old University of Cape Town student, was brutally killed. Nation-wide protests ensued. Prior to the declaration of a National State of Disaster due to COVID-19, in February 2020, delivering the State of the Nation Address (SONA) before a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament on Thursday, President Ramaphosa stated that over the previous six months, the nation had been galvanised across communities, government, civil society, religious groupings, the judiciary and parliament, to end the crisis of violence perpetrated by men against women. Over a hundred frontline domestic abuse charities were given government funding. This led to R1.6-billion Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (ERAP), the report on which was made public in April 2020. One of the ERAP's key focus areas is access to justice for victims and survivors. However, it has been disclosed that minimal funding has been given to civil society organisations to implement the ERAP on the ground. ERAP was to focus on improving access to justice for survivors of violence and prevention campaigns to change attitudes and behaviour and also involves measures to strengthen the criminal justice process and to prioritise the creation of economic opportunities for women who are vulnerable to abuse.

The Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) has been created to operate under the Department of Social Development. The Centre operates a National, 24hr/7days-a-week Call Centre facility. As support to the GBVCC telephonic trauma counselling, the Department of Social Development launched a National Emergency Response Team (NERT) to pilot a national rapid response approach to provision of psychosocial services following incidents of trauma.

28. The 19-year-old UCT student was raped and killed, by a 42-year-old employee at the Clareinch post office in Cape Town with a known criminal record. According to the SA Post Office, the man charged with killing Mrwetyana lied, saying that he did not have a criminal record. In a statement, the Post Office said its preliminary investigation found the man's appointment did not follow its routine recruitment process (<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2019-09-09-five-shocking-revelations-in-uyinene-mrwetyanas-murder-case/> accessed 27 August 2020).
29. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-08-2> accessed 29 August 2020. In some cases, SAPS stations had no evidence- collection kits or the officer on duty who was questioned did not know what an evidence collection kit was. The ERAP set a target to clear the backlog of DNA samples related to GBVF at forensic labs. Close to 22,500 cases were backlogged and more than 35 years old. The SAPS had managed to finalise about 8% of the backlogged cases by the time the report was released, while 25,572 GBV cases were still in progress
30. The facility employs social workers who are responsible for call-taking and call referrals. The Centre employs 48 Social Work Agents, 8 Social Work Supervisors, 4 Quality Assurers and 1 Centre Manager, to operate and offer services to victims of Gender Based Violence.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Development and the South African Police Service, has developed a national anti-rape strategy in order to curb the problem. Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCC) have been established to deal with the high levels of sexual violence against women. The TCCs were established to provide professional medical care, counselling and access to investigators and prosecutors in order to avoid secondary victimisation. The TCCs improve the process of reporting and prosecution of rape and sexual offences in a caring environment and are housed in hospitals to ensure immediate access to necessary medical intervention, care and protection, while information that can be used as evidence in a criminal case is collated. South Africa currently has ten TCCs and seven more are being rolled out to communities hardest hit by GBV, rape and related sexual offences against women and girls.

Platforms of safe communication were to be set up, such as a free GBV whistle-blower hotline, for women and children in need of police assistance. Several organisations such as the National Shelter Movement, Rape Crisis and others took the initiative to set up sites for women to report violence. Resources for these initiatives needed to be scaled up by government to assist in providing shelter, counselling and legal aid. Rape Crisis made available online and additional telephonic reporting and counselling services and one-stop services for sexual offence victims at state hospitals remained open and a national gender-based violence hotline was widely publicised, but none of these services experienced the massive increase in cases which had been predicted. South African police data confirmed the reduction in reported cases of domestic violence. Hospital trauma units showed a similar trend. The Western Cape Women's Shelter Movement reported in this period that requests for shelter services did not increase, despite concerns about shelters being inundated during the lockdown.

### ***Neither parole nor bail should be permitted for sex offenders***

Three Bills have been tabled to strengthen legislation against allowing such persons to be released into civil society. The Bills also deal with the National Register of Sex Offenders (NRSO), a record of names of those found guilty of sexual offences against children and mentally disabled people, which should be made public to society. The NPA has instructed the Directors of Public Prosecution (DPP) offices to oppose bail as far as possible, where an accused is charged with an offence that falls within the ambit of GBV.

31. National Disaster Management Act Direction 6(c)Shelters for Victims of Crimes and Violence including Gender Based Violence (GBV)Victims may be released from the facilities only upon a Social Worker's recommendation.
32. The Director of Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust reported a roughly 50% drop in rape and sexual assault cases against women during the strict lockdown and alcohol ban period. Similar reductions have been seen at other call centres in the province.
33. South African police data confirms the reduction in reported cases of domestic violence. On 22 April Police Minister Bheki Cele stated that the national picture reflected a decrease by 69.4% from 9 990 cases between 29 March and 22 April 2019 to 3,061 since the lockdown until 20 April 2020, 6,929 less cases.
34. The Medical Research Council reports a 66% reduction in trauma cases presenting at South African hospitals since the start of lockdown, some of which would have been domestic violence cases
35. The Western Cape Social Development Department's Victim Empowerment Programme, which receives daily updates on available beds in shelters, reported that that there were beds in shelters available.
36. The Criminal Matters Amendment Bill (Bail and Sentencing), the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill and the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill.



### **6. Further Measures Urgently Needed**

As a result of the gendered vulnerability which women face in times of strain, especially those who are victims of domestic abuse and GBV, extra vigilance is needed during this period to ensure swift and effective law enforcement against GBV.

#### **a) Platforms of Safe Communication**

The National Strategic Plan against GBV needs to be fully implemented with its recommendations. Increased care is needed during this period as South Africa comes out of lockdown, stage 3, into stage 2 and alcohol sales are unbanned, to avoid GBV and ensure swift and effective law enforcement. Platforms of safe communication need to be set up, such as a free GBV whistle-blower hotline, for women and children in need of police assistance. Several organisations such as the National Shelter Movement, Rape Crisis and others have taken the initiative to set up sites for women to report violence and resources for these initiatives need to be scaled up by government to assist in providing shelter, counselling and legal aid. But more initiatives are needed such as bed spaces, more charities need to receive government funding and more refuge spaces are needed as well as further specialist support such as counselling.

#### **b) A Domestic Abuse Commissioner**

A Domestic Abuse Commissioner should be established to support the interests of victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse with a duty to provide support to survivors and victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

#### **c) Regular Reporting of GBV Statistics**

The COVID-19 lockdown illustrated the importance of providing statistics to enable evidence-based and targeted interventions. A similar approach towards enhancing public responses to GBV could be achieved by doing the same with the crime statistics. Statistics on COVID-19 infections, recoveries and deaths are provided daily to raise public awareness and mobilise society against the spread of infection. The provision of timely statistics will facilitate better planning and the co-ordination of targeted interventions by those providing victim support services. Timely access to accurate crime statistics is arguably a constitutional right.<sup>39</sup>

The Constitution states that everyone has the right of access to any information held by the state as well as any information that is held by another person and that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights.<sup>40</sup> The Public Finance Management Act further compels public institutions to provide accurate information to the minister on a monthly basis. The public are entitled to be furnished with accurate records of reporting of GBV and incidents and the follow-up actions taken by the South African Police and the National Prosecution Authority.

37. Tuesday 18 August 2020, National State of Disaster renewed by lessening to Level 2.

38. In England over 1,500 bed spaces will be provided to support survivors of domestic abuse at risk during the pandemic backed by £8.1 million government support (5 June 2020 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government).

39. S32 (1) of the Constitution, 1996.

40. Section 4 of the Public Finance Management Act

### 7. Conclusion

Although GBV does not distinguish on the basis of race, wealth or class, postcolonial or third world feminists point out that, for women in the third world, the experience of racial and gender oppression may be very much more significant and widespread. Global economic forces and the effects of colonialism and imperialism have a significant impact on the lives of women in the third world, where there is a particular need to identify the specific intersectional problems that face South African women. Many feminist theories assume that all women experience oppression in the same way, taking the experiences and problems of white middle-class women as the reference point from which to define and analyse social issues. This essential view marginalises black and working-class women and ignores the intersectionality of some forms of GBV, especially where it is perpetrated on poor women and motivated by patriarchal customs. The ways in which different forms of disadvantage, like race and class, intersect with gender to structure different life experiences for different women should never be overlooked. Every effort must be made to change society in a post-COVID world. In the current context of COVID-19, abusers will seek to exert further power and control over their partners because of economic and other uncertainties surrounding the pandemic. With stay-at-home orders in effect, victims of social isolation are more vulnerable and have fewer opportunities to connect with others who can potentially assist. When poverty, anxiety and job loss as well as isolation are present, GBV is likely to be exacerbated.



41. Section 4 of the Public Finance Management Act

42. Even a high-profile person, whom one might expect to be more insulated from such an attack, can experience extreme GBV and not even be afforded a legal remedy. Josina Machel, daughter of Graca Machel, may seem by virtue of her family associations to have enjoyed some immunity from Gender-based violence from an intimate partner. But even she has experienced vicious assault at the hands of her former lover, losing the sight in one eye. This happened in Mozambique and the court in Mozambique allowed his appeal against his prosecution. Josina is still fighting to get her appeal heard ([polity.org.za](http://polity.org.za)).

43. Martha Fineman in Fineman (ed) *Transcending the Boundaries of Law: Generations of Feminism and Legal Theory* 47–61; Gear in Jones, Gear, Fenton and Stevenson (eds) *Gender, Sexualities and Law* 39–51; Code Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories; Stevi Contemporary Feminist Theories; Lorber *Gender Inequality: Feminist Theories and Politics*; Bromley *Feminisms Matter: Debates, Theories, Activism*; Albertyn in Roederer and Moelendorf (eds) *Jurisprudence* 309–311; Van Blerk 1997 *THRHR* 597–598; Martha Fineman (2010) 60(2) *Emory Law Journal* 251–275



### **Dr Brigitte Clark, Senior Lecturer in Child Law and Jurisprudence at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg**

#### **Biography**

After completing her Master's degree at Cambridge University, she qualified as an Attorney and Conveyancer of the High Court of South Africa. She then began her career in academia, firstly, as Senior Lecturer at University of Cape Town from 1986 – 1994, then Rhodes University where she completed her Doctorate on Child Maintenance in South Africa with a comparative perspective. In 2002 she commenced her lecturing career in the United Kingdom, firstly, at the University of East Anglia for ten years and then from 2008 to 2019 at Oxford Brookes as Senior Lecturer in Family Law, Contract and Medical Law. Since 1995, she has been General and Contributing Editor of the Butterworths Family Law Service. She is the author of over 50 journal articles and chapters in books, largely in area of Family Law and the Handbook on Child Maintenance in South Africa (2017).

In April 2019 she took up a Senior Lectureship at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa lecturing in in Child Law and Jurisprudence.

#### **Academic Qualifications:**

- BA
- LLB
- LLM
- PhD

#### **Professional Qualifications**

- Attorney and Conveyancer of the High Court of South Africa

#### **Research Interests**

- Family Law
- Medical Law
- Jurisprudence
- Comparative Law
- Law and Religion

#### **Recent Publications and Papers**

##### **Accredited**

- South African Handbook on Child Maintenance (2017) (fourth edition) (Lexisnexis) (Durban, South Africa)
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