



PRESS RELEASE: New website on custom and citizenship is launched by the Centre for Law and Society

Visit *Custom Contested* - www.customcontested.co.za

Custom Contested is a one-stop website that provides news, information and analysis on laws and policies affecting custom, “tradition” and citizenship rights, exploring what is at stake for ordinary South Africans. It aims to serve as a resource for journalists, activists, researchers, policy-makers, and the public at large.

“*Custom Contested* aims to expand and deepen the public debate on issues of custom and rights in our democracy. How do ideas and practices of custom deepen equality and democracy? And, how might their abuse undermine it? We hope to stimulate engagement with these questions”, says Dr. Aninka Claassens, director of the Rural Women’s Action Research Programme at the Centre for Law and Society.

Sizani Ngubane, director of the Rural Women’s Movement, states that, “we see *Custom Contested* as an important platform on which to speak out and share our views and experiences, particularly about the excesses of power that are taking hold amongst some chiefs and traditional authorities which threaten our rights to be equal citizens”.

What you can find on the website:

- *Want to know what the latest developments are in law and policies on traditional leadership and affairs?* Read the website’s regular **news updates**.
- *Want to know what new legislation and policies are in the pipeline? Or what the status of draft laws such as the Traditional Courts Bill is?* Check out the **law and policy tracker**.
- *Want to know about customary practices and traditional leadership in relation to human rights and democracy? Want to know what is at stake in relation to control over resources such as land and mineral rights?* Read **opinion articles** from activists, rural community members, researchers and social commentators.
- *Want to know what concrete actions civil society can take?* See the **action alerts**.

Custom Contested (www.customcontested.co.za) is an initiative of the Rural Women’s Action Research Programme at the Centre for Law and Society, University of Cape Town.

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