



## DESK FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia  
(DfSD-ELCRN)

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Dear Church Leaders, Civil Society Representatives, Community Leaders, Activist and the Media!

**Re: Invitation to a Dialogue on the “State of Human Rights in Namibia” – in celebration of Constitution Day – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022- 10h00 to 13h00 -Virtually on Zoom.**

Namibia was reviewed by member states of the United States during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council on 3 May 2021. The UPR mechanism is a peer review process, in which countries that are members of the United Nations scrutinize each other’s human rights situation, followed by a set of recommendations to each government that is being reviewed on how to improve their specific situation.

The review process was based on the following key documents:

- a national report, prepared by the Government of Namibia and submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) summarizing the state of human rights in Namibia;
- a report prepared by the United Nations explaining the human rights situation from the perspective of United Nations agencies operating in Namibia;
- a summary compilation also prepared by the United Nations based on civil society reports on the human rights situation in Namibia.

It is within this context, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) through its Desk for Social Development (DfSD-ELCRN) also facilitated a process in 2021 to prepare an Alternate Report on the State of Human Rights in Namibia, with a number of civil society organizations and member churches of the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN). In this regard, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (on Constitution Day) the Draft Alternate Report from this process was discussed at a one-day workshop of churches and civil society organizations.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia welcomed the recommendations made by member States during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle in May 2021, where it received 283 recommendations, out of which, 229 recommendations have been accepted and enjoy the support of the State, and 54 recommendations were noted.

**As a follow up to this process, we are therefore kindly inviting you join us for a “Dialogue on the State of Human Rights in Namibia” with special reference to the recommendations finalized and adopted by the Human Rights Council in September 2021. This Dialogue will mark Constitution Day and therefore would take place on 9<sup>th</sup> February from 10h00 to 13h00 through Zoom Virtual Platform.**

**Program will include the following: 10h00 to 13h00**

1. Introductory Remarks by Uhuru Dempers – Director of the Desk for Social Development of ELCRN
2. Opening Remarks by Bishop Sageus /Keib of ELCRN and President of the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN).
3. Reflections by the Minister of Justice – Yvonne Dausab (MP) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle of the UPR of Namibia and the 283 recommendations – including way forward plans for the implementation of the recommendations!
4. Reflections from the Ombudsman Basilius Dyakugha on the “State of Human Rights” with special reference to the 283 recommendations.
5. Reflections from civil society representatives on the State of Human Rights with special reference to the 283 recommendations: John Nakuta-Human Rights Lecturer and Media Ombudsman, Dr Lucy Edwards-Jauch, Linda Baumann from Diverse Women’s Network and Reverend Dr Andre September - United Congregation Church of Southern Africa.

**NB! Additional experts and resource persons will provide inputs on specific areas of specialization on the state of human rights in Namibia.**

6. Vote of Thanks and Conclusions: Reverend Dr Kauna Betty Schroeder-Presiding Elder of the AME Church and member of the CCN Executive Committee.

**NB! Presenters/speakers are requested to limit their initial inputs to a maximum of 15minutes to allow time for inputs from participants! If presenters have a PowerPoint presentation, this should be forwarded before or on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

**A Zoom link will be provided for participants that have confirmed to participate in the Dialogue.**

Kindly confirm your participation with a SMS or WhatsApp message to Yolande Sabatta (0816803210) and Josephine Nghishoono (0814471410) and Ndamona Shimanda (0814885639)

With the kindest regards,



**IM Uhuru Dempers: Director: Desk for Social Development of ELCRN**