

16TH ADVOCATES AFRICA CONFERENCE REPORT



01 SEPTEMBER 2025

Lawyers of Hope Rwanda
Prepared by: Sezikeye Jean Paul


16TH ADVOCATES
AFRICA CONFERENCE
KIGALI



1. CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

- Conference Name: 16th Advocates Africa Conference
- Theme: We are the pleasing aroma of Christ
- Dates: 13th to 15th August 2025
- Location: Kigali Convention Centre MH3
- Organizer: The Network of lawyers of Hope Rwanda
- Supported by: Advocates Africa

2. THEMATIC OVERVIEW

This year's theme is: "We are the pleasing aroma of Christ" which is taken from 2 Corinthians 2:14-17. The theme is a call to action for our collective calling as Christian Lawyers. During the Conference, various legal topics were covered including Dispute Resolution, and other matters. This was in addition to the networking/fellowship that was expected to take place in keeping with the Christian exhortation to meet regularly and encourage & uplift one another.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Conference aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices and ideas among lawyers. The attendants have made aware of emerging legal issues and also encouraged to do justice, show compassion and practice law as calling. Finally, the Conference involved planning future activities for Advocates Africa including identifying a venue for the next Conference in 2027. The Next venue for the Conference will be in Togo.

4. AUDIENCE DETAILS

It was anticipated that the Conference will draw an audience of approximately 350 participants in total drawn from a diverse group of Christian Lawyers including members from the forty-three (43) countries where Advocates Africa has a presence including government officials, judicial officers (judges and magistrates), academics/lecturers, practicing advocates (in private, corporate & international practice) and law students.

In Total attended delegates was 255 about 61 % of all who have registered initially to attend the conference. Total countries represented was 30 countries out of 43 countries expected.

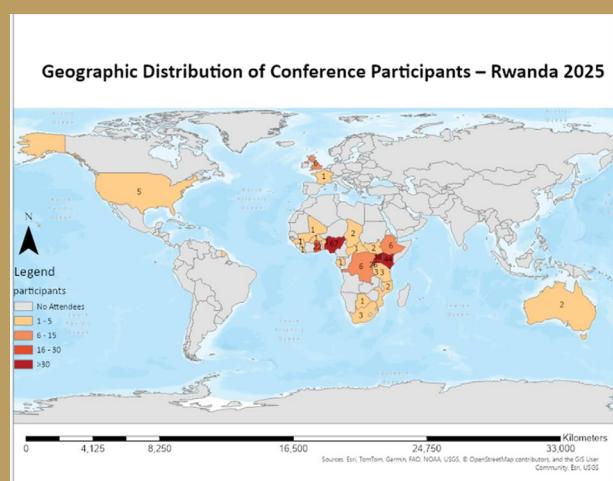


Figure 1: Map of Conference Participant Distribution by Country – Rwanda 2025

Audience Breakdown by Gender

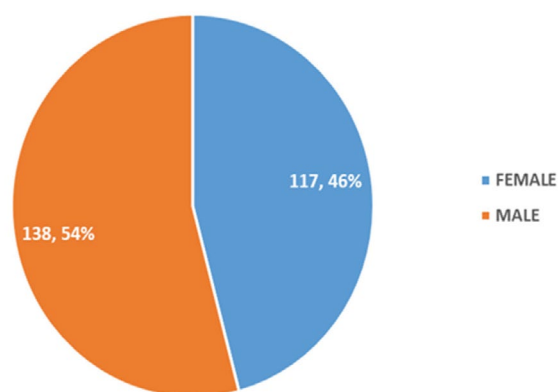


Figure 2: Audience breakdown by Gender, Rwanda 2025

5. OPENING SESSIONS

The Conference started by the opening remarks by the Advocates Africa President and Lawyers of Hope Rwanda President.



Mr. Kimathi Kamencu
President of Advocates Africa

Welcome to the 16th Biennial Advocates Africa (AA) Convocation. The Convocation provides an opportunity to reflect on our call to serve the LORD, take stock of our tools of trade (the law), and learn from each other on how best we can be the Aroma of Christ in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World.

This year's Convocation in Kigali, Rwanda is symbolic of hope in uncertain times, resilience in troubled times and conviction in the face of great odds.

On behalf of the Board of Advocates Africa, I take this opportunity to invite you to this gathering of delegates who are from different sectors of the legal industry.

In our midst we are privileged to be joined by Judicial Officers, Law Professors & Lecturers, Government Officers, In House Counsel, NGO Lawyers, Practicing Lawyers and even Pupils & Law Students. Over and above this professional diversity, we count it an honor to welcome delegates both from the African Continent (West, Central, South & East) and beyond - including Albania, Australia, China, France, Pakistan, UK and the USA.

Join us as we engage on a host of issues with a view to being change makers and agents of transformation - Christ's Ambassadors in this world.

Murakaza neza!



Safari Gahizi
President of The Network of Lawyers of Hope Rwanda

Dear Esteemed Delegates, Advocates, and Honored Guests,

It is with great pleasure and heartfelt warmth that we welcome you to the 16th Advocates Africa Conference here in the beautiful city of Kigali, Rwanda.

This year's gathering brings together distinguished legal professionals, faith-driven advocates, and leaders from across the continent to reflect, connect, and engage around our shared mission of justice, integrity, and transformation through Christ. Kigali, a city known for its resilience, innovation, and hospitality, offers us a fitting backdrop for the important conversations and fellowship ahead.

Over the course of this conference, may we be challenged, inspired, and refreshed, both in our professional journeys and in our calling as advocates for righteousness in our societies. Let this be a time not only of learning and collaboration, but of renewed commitment to advancing God's Kingdom in and through the legal profession.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we thank you for your attendance. May this 16th edition of Advocates Africa be one of lasting impact, deep unity, and meaningful action.

Murakaza neza - You are most welcome - Bien venue - Kalibu sana!



Adv. NKUNDABARASHI Moise
President of Rwanda Bar Association

After The welcome remarks followed by the Key note speech of the guest of Honor Adv. NKUNDABARASHI Moise, President of the Rwanda Bar Association. In his remarks he encouraged participants to advocate for judicial independence, for well-resourced legal aid systems, for inclusive legal education, and for the digital transformation of their respective jurisdiction so that no citizen is left behind because of geography, poverty, or law ignorance.

6. DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY, 13TH AUGUST 2025. “WE ARE THE PLEASING AROMA OF CHRIST”



Bishop Prof. Dr. Masengo Fidele
Distinguished Religious Leader & Academic

6.1 We are the pleasing aroma of Christ by Bishop Prof. Dr. Masengo Fidele

The Topic aims to inspire Christian lawyers to reflect Christ in every aspect of their legal practice, how they behave, where and when they serve, and the ethical standards they uphold. Through the speaker's remarks, participants understood the vital link between law and Christian living, grounded in unity, peace, and integrity. Real-life experiences will highlight the challenges and responsibilities of being a Christian in the legal profession. The speaker mentioned that The three-day conference will not only focus on ethical conduct but also explore modern tools such as ICT, forensic science, and IECMS, as well as promote the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a practical, faith-aligned approach to justice and conflict resolution.



Allen Anjo

6.2 A Christian lawyer? Being a good Christian and a good lawyer? By Allen Anjo

The topic “A Christian lawyer? Being a good Christian and a good lawyer?” explores the potential conflict between professional duties and personal faith, addressing the challenge of living without a double standard where one's Christian values must align with legal practice. It examines what it truly means to be a good Christian and a good lawyer, emphasizing the importance of integrity, honesty, and moral consistency. The discussion also highlights the dangers of self-interest and lack of compassion in the legal field, calling Christian lawyers to uphold justice with care, humility, and unwavering ethical standards.

6.3 Family and Child Law: Bringing faith into the courtroom and how judges can be the aroma of Christ

Panel Discussion:

The plenary session on “Family and Child Law: Bringing Faith into the Courtroom and How Judges Can Be the Aroma of Christ” focuses on how Christian lawyers and judges should conduct themselves when handling sensitive cases involving vulnerable individuals, such as children or those lacking legal capacity. It emphasizes the importance of demonstrating compassion, justice, and moral integrity, allowing one's faith to guide their professional actions. Judges, in particular, are called to reflect the character of Christ in their decisions and demeanor, ensuring the courtroom becomes a place of protection, fairness, and dignity for the most vulnerable.



Teresa Conradie
President & CEO Advocates International

6.4 Resolving family disputes with dignity: The role of Christian lawyer

Panel Discussion:

The panel discussion on “Resolving Family Disputes with Dignity: The Role of the Christian Lawyer” addressed key issues such as divorce, focusing on prevention, legal processes, and its emotional and social effects, property management, and parental responsibilities including child protection. The goal was to equip Christian lawyers with the tools and spiritual grounding to handle family law cases with compassion, fairness, and integrity, while maintaining the dignity of those involved. By integrating faith into legal practice, Christian lawyers are called to be peacemakers and protectors of vulnerable family members, especially children. Recognizing the family as a cornerstone of Christian life, this session ties directly into the broader theme, “We are the pleasing aroma of Christ,” by encouraging lawyers to first reflect Christ's love and justice within their own families and in the way they handle family-related legal matters. With many Lawyers of Hope in Rwanda and other delegates engaged in Family and Child Law, these discussions hold a central place in the conference. They underscore the vital role Christian legal professionals play in promoting healing, unity, and dignity within broken or fragile family systems.



Mrs. Anne Mbugua

The Family in Africa - Opportunities & Challenges and how Christian Lawyers can respond in Practice & Advocacy

The speaker invited a critical exploration of the evolving African family in the face of modern pressures such as urbanization, migration and economic hardship. While the family remains a cornerstone of African society offering resilience, community, and identity, it is increasingly vulnerable to threats like domestic violence, breakdown of traditional support systems, and the rise of anti-family legislation and ideologies. This conference provides a platform for Christian lawyers to reflect biblically and legally on these issues, equipping them to engage in transformative legal practice and advocacy.



Dr. Richard Sezibera

6.5 Immigration and the Bible (Refugee Law) by Dr Richard Sezibera

The session “Immigration and the Bible (Refugee Law)” examined the legal and moral responsibilities surrounding the rights of refugees, particularly within the regional and global context. It explored how current refugee laws align or conflict with biblical principles that call for hospitality, protection of the vulnerable, and justice for the displaced. Participants were encouraged to consider how Christian values can inform legal advocacy and policy-making in the area of immigration and refugee protection.

A key highlight of the discussion highlighted Rwanda's example a small country that has shown a willingness to accept refugees, in contrast to wealthier nations like those in the EU or the USA, which often turn refugees away. This comparison raised important questions about global solidarity, compassion, and moral leadership. Christian lawyers were challenged to think critically about how faith can guide national and international responses to the refugee crisis, promoting a more just and humane approach rooted in biblical

7. DAY 2 | THURSDAY, 14TH AUGUST 2025. “USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE”

7.1 Justice, Christianity and Technology: Case study of Rwanda (Plenary)

The plenary on “Justice, Christianity, and Technology: Case Study of Rwanda” has explored how digital tools like the IECMS (Integrated Electronic Case Management System) are enhancing access to justice, particularly for vulnerable communities. It highlighted how technology, when guided by Christian values of fairness and integrity, can strengthen justice systems, reduce corruption, and promote transparency. Rwanda’s experience served as a practical example of how faith and innovation can work together to create more equitable and efficient legal processes.

This panel discussion explored the implementation of regional e-government initiatives, comparing Rwanda’s progress with other African countries that have embraced digital transformation in governance, justice, law, and order sectors. It highlighted how digitizing public services through platforms like Irembo that has improved efficiency, transparency, and citizen access to essential government services. Rwanda’s model was showcased as a leading example of how technology can streamline service delivery and bridge the gap between government and the population, especially in underserved communities.

In addition to e-government, the panel addressed the ethical implications of using artificial intelligence in legal and governance systems. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into public administration and justice delivery, the discussion focused on the importance of aligning its use with ethical principles such as fairness, accountability, privacy, and human dignity. Christian lawyers and policymakers was challenged to consider how to balance technological innovation with moral responsibility, ensuring that AI serves the common good without reinforcing inequality or injustice.

7.2 Forensic science, legal practice and Christian ethic: A convergence and divergence. By Dr Karangwa Charles



Lt Col (Rtd) Dr. Charles Karangwa
Director General, Rwanda Forensic Institute

The presentation on “Forensic Science, Legal Practice, and Christian Ethics: A Convergence and Divergence” explores how forensic science contributes to truth-finding in legal proceedings and where it aligns with or diverges from Christian ethical values. As an evidence-based tool, forensic science plays a crucial role in uncovering objective facts, supporting justice, and ensuring fair outcomes in court. This pursuit of truth closely resonates with Christian principles that value honesty, justice, and the protection of the innocent.

However, the presentation also highlights areas of tension where legal practice and forensic methods may raise ethical concerns such as the misuse of scientific evidence, lack of consent, or potential bias in interpretation. Christian lawyers are called to critically engage with these practices, ensuring that their use upholds moral integrity and serves the greater good. The session ultimately encourages legal professionals to embrace forensic tools responsibly, guided by both legal standards and the ethical framework of their faith.



Day 2 Panel discussion: Justice, Christianity and Technology: Case study of Rwanda

7.3 Constitution and protection of the freedom of religion

This presentation emphasizes the importance of the Church and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) operating in compliance with government laws, highlighting that mutual respect between religious institutions and the state is essential for national development. It underlined that social protection, the inherent value of every person, and integrity are foundational pillars for building a just and prosperous society. The panelists advocated for responsible faith leadership that not only upholds spiritual values but also contributes to civic order and the common good.

The discussion also addressed the regulation of FBOs, ensuring that their operations align with legal standards while maintaining their religious mission. Additionally, it explored the role of inter-faith partnerships in promoting unity, protecting human rights, and fostering peaceful coexistence. By aligning religious freedom with core human rights principles, the Church and other religious institutions can actively support societal well-being while remaining true to their spiritual calling.



Day 2 Panel discussion: Justice, Christianity and Technology: Case study of Rwanda

8. DAY 3 | FRIDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2025. “ADR AND OTHERS”



Harrison Mutabazi

8.1 Alternative Dispute Resolution: “A Case of Gacaca Court implementation in Rwanda as local way of administering justice and fostering reconciliation in society” By Mr Harrison Mutabazi

The presentation on Alternative Dispute Resolution highlighted the Gacaca Court system as a powerful example of community-based justice in post-genocide Rwanda. Following the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Gacaca played a critical role in addressing the vast number of genocide-related cases, delivering justice more efficiently than traditional courts could manage. This local approach not only provided a platform for truth-telling and accountability but also involved community participation, making justice more accessible and rooted in Rwandan cultural values.

Beyond legal resolution, the presentation emphasized on how Gacaca contributed to national healing by promoting forgiveness, reconciliation, and social rebuilding. It also explored the broader efforts that supported this process, such as trauma healing programs and forward-looking initiatives aimed at restoring trust and unity among citizens. Through this case study, the session demonstrated how Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms can foster both justice and long-term peace in post-conflict societies, when grounded in local context and aligned with principles of compassion and restoration.

8.2 ADR mechanisms & Biblical dispute resolution principles (mediation, reconciliation, plea-bargaining)

This panel discussion explored the relationship between Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism such as mediation, reconciliation, and plea bargaining and biblical principles of conflict resolution. By comparing modern ADR practices with scriptural teachings on peace-making and forgiveness, the panel highlighted how these methods promote resolution without hostility, restore relationships, and seek justice in a compassionate and non-adversarial way. Special attention was given to the use of court-annexed mediation systems, which aim to decongest courts while encouraging more collaborative and respectful resolutions.

The panel also stressed the important role of Christian lawyers in promoting and strengthening ADR platforms. It called on them to lead by example, advocating for peaceful dispute resolution as part of their spiritual and professional calling. By embracing ADR, Christian legal professionals can live out their faith in practical ways seeking justice while promoting unity and healing. The session ultimately affirmed that ADR not only complements legal systems but also aligns with the biblical mandate to be peacemakers and ministers of reconciliation in society.



Dr. Patrick Rwagatare
clinical psychologist and researcher

8.3 Mental Health for Christian Lawyers: Risks and Prevention Strategies. By Dr. Rwagatare Patrick

The presentation focused on the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance, especially for legal professionals who often face demanding schedules and high stress levels. Emphasis was placed on setting realistic and achievable goals, which not only enhances productivity but also helps prevent burnout. Participants were encouraged to prioritize their time and energy wisely, allowing space for both professional responsibilities and personal well-being.

A key theme was the call for lawyers to prioritize the interests of their clients over personal gain, aligning with ethical and Christian values of service, humility, and integrity. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the importance of personal self-care and body stewardship, recognizing the body as a temple of God. Taking care of one's health physically, mentally, and spiritually was presented not just as a practical necessity, but as a biblical responsibility that supports both professional excellence and a faithful Christian witness.



Day 3 Panel Discussion: ADR mechanisms & Biblical dispute resolution principles

9. THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE MET ADVOCATES AFRICA BOARD MEMBERS

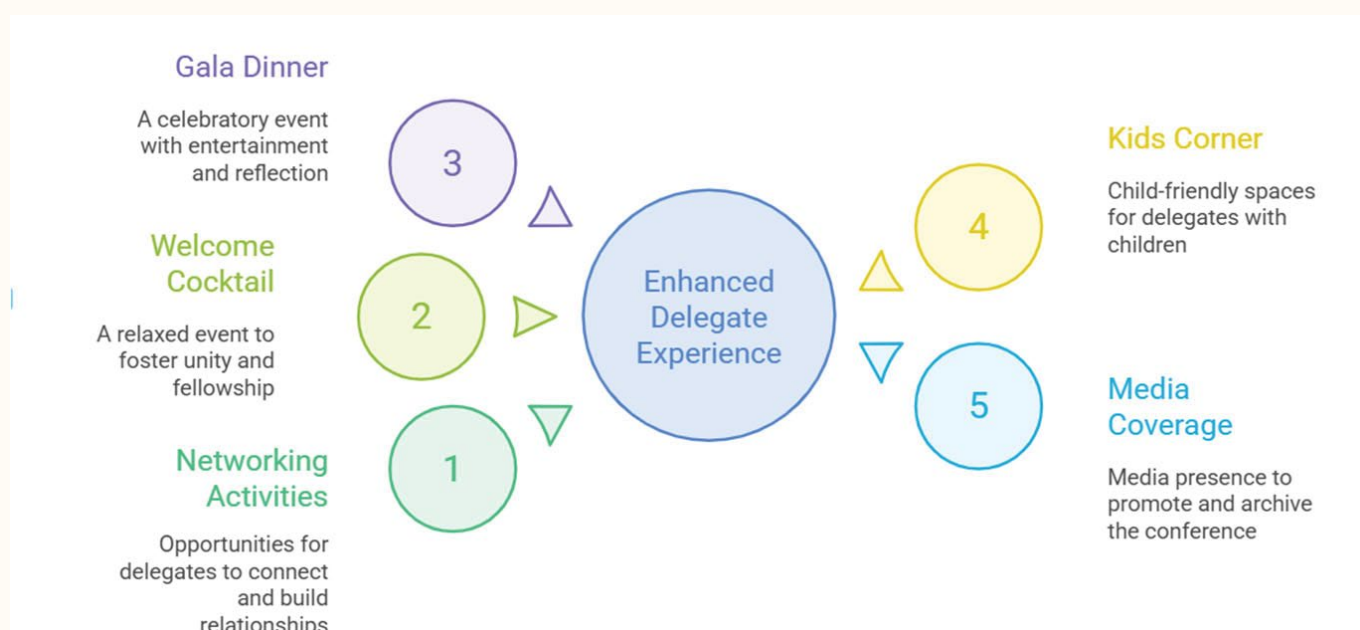
On Day 2 of the conference, the Minister of Justice of Rwanda held a pivotal meeting with the Board of Advocates Africa. This gathering marked a significant step towards strengthening regional collaboration in the legal sector. During the meeting, both parties explored opportunities for cooperation, particularly in areas such as capacity building, legal education, and the promotion of ethical legal practices across the continent. The discussions underscored a shared commitment to advancing justice systems that are inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs of African citizens.

The Minister emphasized Rwanda's ongoing reforms within its justice sector, highlighting the country's focus on digital transformation, access to justice, and institutional efficiency.



10. NETWORKING EVENTS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Delegates were scheduled to visit several significant sites, including the Kigali Genocide Memorial and the Rwanda Forensic Institute. However, due to scheduling constraints on August 14th, the tour was limited to the Rwanda Forensic Institute, as other locations were inaccessible after 5 PM.



11. ADVOCATES AFRICA CONFERENCE 2027 TO BE HELD IN LOMÉ, TOGO

On the final day of the Advocates Africa Conference, the Board resolved during its meeting that the next conference will be held in Togo in 2027.

12: DELEGATES FROM THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES OF ADVOCATES AFRICA GATHERED

The Leadership of the Francophone countries of Advocates Africa gathered on 15th August on a side event to discuss the challenges francophones countries are facing in gathering Christian Lawyers and meeting to implement some projects.

The meeting allowed all the attendees to know more about Advocates Africa And what they should do in their various countries.

All the attendees have agreed on the challenges they are facing and have decided to do their best to gather their brothers and sisters. and the main challenge is the attendance when meeting is called for. the meeting ended on a good note and we are grateful to God

13. LAW STUDENT GATHERING

The law student gathering brought together participants from various representative countries. The session began with an engaging icebreaker, allowing attendees to get to know one another and share their respective extracurricular interests.

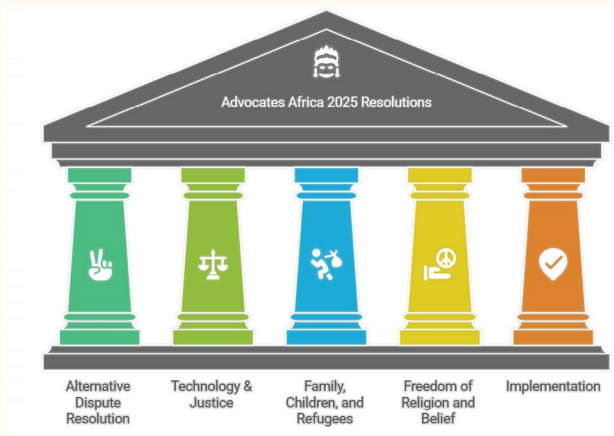
The primary focus of the meeting was to emphasize the significance of the gathering itself, particularly in fostering networking and collaboration among future barristers (advocates). The discussion highlighted the importance of unity among aspiring legal professionals, encouraging a spirit of mutual accountability, support, and long-term cooperation.



14. OVERALL POSSIBLE OUTCOMES AND RESOLUTIONS



- Stronger integration of Christian ethics into legal practice, particularly in family law, refugee protection, and dispute resolution.
- Increased adoption of technology to improve access to justice while ensuring ethical safeguards.
- Wider promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a peace-centered and faith-aligned approach to conflict resolution.
- Enhanced collaboration between faith-based organizations, legal institutions, and governments in upholding justice and protecting human rights.
- Improved lawyer well-being through greater attention to mental health and work-life balance.
- Implementation of adopted resolutions in 43 member countries, with progress to be reported at the 2027 Convocation in Togo.



Advocates Africa 2025 Resolutions

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS Advocates Africa, uniting Christian Legal Professionals and Lawyer Associations from 43 African nations, convened its 16th Convocation at the Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda, from 13-15 August 2025 under the theme "We are the pleasing aroma of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14-17); and WHEREAS 250 delegates, speakers, and experts deliberated on contemporary issues of law, justice, and faith;

NOW THEREFORE, the Convocation adopts the following resolutions:

1. On Dispute Resolution

We RECOGNIZE the biblical call to reconciliation, APPRECIATE diverse dispute resolution practices, and COMMIT to be Ambassadors of Christ in mending relationships and supporting judicial measures that foster godly resolution.

2. On Technology and Justice

We ACKNOWLEDGE technology's power to expand access to justice while guarding against misuse, and UNDERTAKE to integrate technology in our work, EMBRACE digital literacy, and ADVOCATE for its ethical application in line with Christian values.

3. On Family, Children, and Refugees

We AFFIRM the family as instituted by God, DEFEND the sanctity of life and the best interests of children, and COMMIT to uphold the dignity and rights of the displaced, refugees, and immigrants.

4. On Freedom of Religion and Belief (FORB)

We AFFIRM freedom of religion as integral to the Christian faith, CONDEMN all forms of persecution, and COMMIT to work with churches and partners to defend and promote FORB across Africa and beyond.

5. On Implementation

Member associations in all 43 countries shall report on progress at the next Convocation in August 2027.

ANNEX 1: ADVOCATES OF AFRICA 2025 CONVOCATION PROGRAM

DAY 1 Tuesday, 12th August 2025	
TIME	
	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION
19h00-20h00	Welcome Cocktail-Highlands Suites Hotel
Day 2 Wednesday, 13th August 2025	
“We are the pleasing aroma of Christ”	
06h30-07h00	MORNING PRAYER
07h00-08h30	Preparation
08h30-09h00	Worship & Intercession and Scripture Exposition & Word of Encouragement (President Teresa Conradie - Advocates International)
09h00-10h45	Word of Welcome by the President of the Network of Lawyers of Hope (LOH) followed by remarks by President Advocates Africa (AA) and remarks by Chairman of the AA Senate (Justice Mike Chibita). Official Opening Ceremony - Flag March and Country Introductions - Christian Traditional dance - Invitation of Guest of Honour by LOH Elder - Keynote address by Guest of Honor - President of Rwanda Bar Association - Prayer of dedication by President Femi David Ikotun (CLASFON) - Photo session
10h45-11h15	Tea Break
11h15- 12h00	We are the pleasing aroma of Christ Speaker: Dr Fidèle Masengo
12h00-12h45	A Christian lawyer?! Being a good Christian and a good lawyer? Speaker: Allen Anjo
12h45-14h00	Lunch
14h00-14h45	Plenary Session I Family and Child Law: Bringing faith into the courtroom and how judges can be the aroma of Christ Speaker: Mark Hedley
14h45-15h30	Panel Discussion Resolving family disputes and challenges with dignity: the role of the Christian lawyer Moderator: Teresa Conradie Panel: - Charity Wibabara - Maitre Gakunzi Valery - Janyys Scott
15h30-16h00	The Family in Africa - Opportunities & Challenges and how Christian Lawyers can respond in Practice & Advocacy. Mrs. Anne Mbugua, Chairperson Africa Christian Professionals Forum (ACPF)
16h00-16h15	Tea Break
16h15 -17h00	Plenary Session II Immigration and the Bible (Refugee Law) Speaker: Dr. Richard Sezibera
17h00 -18h30	SPORTS
19h00-20h00	END OF DAY - RETIRE

DAY 3 | Thursday, 14th August 2025

Use of technology for access to justice	
06h30-07h00	MORNING PRAYER
07h00-08h30	Preparation
08h30-09h00	Worship & Intercession & Testimony from Maître Jacqueline Moudeïna
09h00-09h45	Plenary Session III Justice, Christianity and Technology in Rwanda: Case study of Rwanda Speaker: Minister of Justice
09h45-10h45	Panel Discussion Regional E-Government implementation: comparisons with other African countries that have deployed technology in the Governance, Justice, Law & Order Sectors & Artificial intelligence: Ethical implications of the use of artificial intelligence Moderator: Professor Anthony C.K. Kakooza Panel: • Stella Murungi • Ope Olugasa • Pako Moakhofi • Dr. Setechi Okechukwe, Eli • Paul Ndemo Goodwill message (5 Minutes) from Kingdom International Legal Network (KILN): Counsellor Heilala Tabete
10h45-11h15	Tea Break
11h15- 12h00	Plenary Session IV Forensic science, legal practice and Christian ethic: A convergence and divergence Speaker: Dr Charles Karangwa
12h00-12h45	Plenary Session V Constitution and protection of the freedom of religion Speakers: Sunny Akanni & Sean Nelson
12h45-14h00	Lunch
14h00-14h45	Panel Discussion Freedom of Religion: Recognizing and protecting the rights for all • KAZAIRE Judith • Justice Dr Aimé Muyobokey Karimunda • Me Yusuf Nsengiyumva • Berihu Teweldebirhan
14h45-15h30	VISITING RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS IN RWANDA GROUP 1: FORENSIC LABORATORY GROUP 2: CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENOCIDE MUSEUM GROUP 3: NYAMATA GENOCIDE MEMORIAL
17h00 -18h30	END OF DAY - RETIRE

DAY 4 | Friday, 15th August 2025

ADR & Others	
06h30-07h00	MORNING PRAYER
07h00-08h30	Preparation
08h30-09h00	Worship & Intercession & Scripture Exposition by Maître Yaya Daou
09h00-09h45	Plenary Session VI Alternative Dispute Resolution: Case of Gacaca Court implementation in Rwanda a local way of administering justice and fostering reconciliation in society Speaker: Mr. Harrison Mutabazi
09h45-10h45	Panel Discussion ADR mechanisms & Biblical dispute resolution principles (mediation, reconciliation, plea-bargaining) Moderator: Me Andrews Kananga Panel: • Kezia Kenneth • Prof. Bankole Sodipo • Justice Kadigwa Gashongore • Penina Machoka • Adeline Mathilde Belle
10h45-11h15	Tea Break
11h15- 12h00	Plenary Session VII Mental Health for Christian Lawyers: Risks and Prevention Strategies Speaker: Dr. Patrick Rwagatare
12h00-12h45	Christian Legal Aid Speaker: Lawyers of Hope Representative(s)/Panel Conference Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks by Advocates Africa
12h45-14h00	Lunch
14h00-14h45	ADVOCATES AFRICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY / FRANCOPHONE MEETING - CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS Moderator: Dr. Ernest Katusingwe
14h45-15h30	ADVOCATES AFRICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY / FRANCOPHONE MEETING - BRAINSTORMING ON CROSS BORDER NETWORKING & AA LAW JOURNAL Moderator: Professor Bankole Sodipo
16h00	FREE TIME
19h00-20h00	GALA DINNER, ANNIVERSARY & CULTURAL CELEBRATION (Cultural Dress code)

DAY 5 | Saturday, 16th August 2025

FREE TIME FOR VISITING AND DOING SHOPPING

DAY 6 | Sunday, 17th August 2025

DEPARTURE



ANNEX 2: FULL LIST OF SPEAKERS

	NAME	ROLE	NATIONALITY
1	Dr. Fidele Masengo	Speaker (Conference Theme)	Rwanda
2	Jacqueline Moudeïna	Speaker (Testimony)	Mali
3	Yaya Daou	Speaker (Devotion)	Chad
4	Allen Anjo	Speaker (Conference Theme)	USA
5	Mark Hedley (Retired Judge)	Plenary Speaker Session I	UK
6	Mrs. Mbugua Anne, Chairperson, Africa Christian Professionals Forum (ACPF)	Plenary Speaker Session II	Kenya
7	Dr. Richard Sezibera	Plenary Speaker Session III	Rwanda
8	Hon. Dr. Ugirashebuja Emmanuel (Minister of Justice, Rwanda)	Plenary Speaker Session IV	Rwanda
9	Dr. Charles Karangwa (Rwanda Forensic Institute)	Plenary Speaker Session V	Rwanda
10	President Sunny Akanni & Mr. Sean Nelson of ADF International	Plenary Speakers Session VI	Nigeria/USA
11	Hon. Chief Justice Mukantaganzwa Domitilla (Chief Justice of Rwanda)	Plenary Speaker Session VII	Rwanda
12	Rwagatare Patrick	Plenary Speaker Session VIII	Rwanda
13	Teresa Conradie (Resolving family disputes and challenges with dignity: the role of the Christian Lawyer)	Moderator & Speaker (Devotion)	South Africa
14	Charity Wibabara	Panelist	Rwanda
15	Maitre Gakunzi Valery (Member RBA)	Panelist	Rwanda
16	Janys Scott	Panelist	Rwanda
17	Professor Anthony C.K. Kakooza (Regional E-Government Implementation: comparisons with other African countries that have developed technology in the governance, justice, law and order sectors)	Moderator	Uganda
18	Stella Murungi	Panelist	Rwanda
19	Pako Moakhofi	Panelist	Botswana
20	Dr. Setechi Okechekwu Eli	Panelist	Nigeria
21	Tefera Dagnachew (AFLAME - Regional Advisor on FORB) ("Constitution and protection of the freedom of religion: The case of Rwanda")	Moderator	Ethiopia
22	Rwanda Governance Board	Panelist	Rwanda
23	Justice Dr. Aimé Muyobohe Karimunda	Panelist	Rwanda
24	Mufti (Muslim Representative)	Panelist	Rwanda
25	Berihu Teweldebirhan	Panelist	Ethiopia
26	Association of Evangelicals in Rwanda	Panelist	Rwanda
27	Andrews Kananga (ADR mechanisms & Biblical dispute resolution principles (mediation, reconciliation, pleasant bargaining))	Moderator	Rwanda
28	Kezia Kenneth	Panelist	Ghana
29	Justice Kadigwa Gashongoré	Panelist	Rwanda
30	Adeline Mathilde Belle	Panelist	France
31	Dr. Ernest Tashboya Katwesigye	Moderator (AA 2025 Resolutions)	
32	Professor Bankole Sodipo	Panelist & Moderator (AA Cross border Networking & AA Law Journal)	Nigeria

ANNEX 3 : COMPLETE ADVOCATES AFRICA 2025 RESOLUTIONS

PREAMBLE

Whereas

- (i) Advocates Africa, consisting of Christian Legal Professionals from Africa and Christian Lawyer Associations in 43 African Countries had its 16th Convocation at the Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda from 13th to 15th August 2025;
- (ii) The theme of the 16th Convocation was, "We are the pleasing aroma of Christ," (2 Corinthians 2:14-17);
- (iii) In the course of the 16th Convocation, several resource persons and experts from Rwanda and other African nations spoke on wide ranging topics, that are apt in the contemporary world, in line with the theme of the Convocation;
- (iv) The Convocation played host to Two Hundred and Fifty (250) Christian Legal Professionals from Africa and other guests and participants from different continents;
- (v) After extensive and incisive deliberations, the Convocation arrived at the following resolutions to guide Advocates Africa, its member associations and its members going forward;

RESOLUTIONS

Wherefore, the 16th Advocates Africa Convocation resolves as follows:

1. On Appropriate/Alternative Dispute Resolution

- (a) THAT we RECOGNIZE the importance of godly dispute resolution including restoration of broken human relationships.
- (b) THAT we APPRECIATE the diversity of dispute resolution mechanisms available in our respective communities, cultures & countries and UNDERTAKE to share and seek to continuously learn & be equipped on these mechanisms, in line with best practices.
- (c) THAT we COMMIT to being Ambassadors of Jesus Christ and be active participants in resolving disputes and mending relationships for ourselves, our clients and our communities.
- (d) THAT we UNDERTAKE to support judicial initiatives & measures that encourage godly dispute resolution.

2. On Technology & Justice

- (a) THAT we RECOGNIZE the important role that technology plays in our modern world including in the Governance, Justice, Law & Order sectors.
- (b) THAT we APPRECIATE that technology is a potential facilitator and accelerator for access to justice, while taking cognizance of the potential dangers of the misuse of technology, and shall take measures to curb any abuses to technology, and promote its responsible and ethical use in the pursuit of justice.
- (c) THAT we UNDERTAKE to take reasonable measures to incorporate technology in our places of work including advocating for its use to advance the cause of justice.
- (d) THAT we will EMBRACE digital literacy for our ourselves and actively PARTICIPATE in digital initiatives (including but not limited to those initiated by the governments of our respective countries) that aid the cause of justice, in line with our values and calling.

3. On Family & Children and Refugees

- (a) THAT we AFFIRM the immutable truth that the human family is instituted, designed and sustained by God as revealed in the Bible.
- (b) THAT we RECOGNIZE the family as the basic unit of society and AFFIRM the unique roles of men, women and children in the family as accurately and exhaustively set out in the Bible.
- (c) THAT we UNDERTAKE as Christian legal professionals to use the tools available to us to support, uphold and defend the family including advancing the best interests of children (both born & unborn) in accordance with the dictates of the Bible.
- (d) THAT we ACKNOWLEDGE our own identity as pilgrims on the earth and COMMIT as Christian legal professionals to uphold the cause of the displaced, the refugee and the immigrant.

4. On Freedom of Religion and Belief (FORB)

- (a) THAT we AFFIRM the freedom of religion and belief as being entirely consistent with the Christian faith and a necessary incident to coming to a saving knowledge of God through Jesus Christ.
- (b) THAT we ACKNOWLEDGE and CONDEMN in their entirety, the many cases of religious persecution and discrimination in the African Continent and beyond, which occasions displacement, loss of life and economic hardship on millions of citizens in different countries.
- (c) THAT we COMMIT to work alongside churches and other like-minded organizations to uphold FORB.
- (d) THAT we UNDERTAKE to take measures to advise on, advocate for, and take other appropriate measures that counter abuses of FORB in whatever form they may manifest.

5. On Implementation

That member associations in our 43 Member Countries in Africa shall report on the progress of implementations of these resolutions in their respective countries and regions at the next Convocation to be held in August 2027.

Dated at Kigali, Rwanda, this 15th day of August 2025

Kimathi Kamencu
President, Advocates Africa

Mesfin Addise Sumamo
Secretary, Advocates Africa

Advocates Africa Board: Kimathi Kamencu (President), Safari Gahizi (Vice President) Mesfin Addise Sumamo (Secretary) Kezia Peace Kenneth Azumah (Treasurer) Komi Devotsu (Francophone Coordinator) Anne Muhairwe (East Africa Coordinator) Enobong Akpan (West Africa Coordinator) Pako Moakofhi (Southern Africa Coordinator & Assistant Secretary).

Annex 4: Media and Communication

During the conference various media houses covered the conference by publishing articles and in news highlights and updates about the conference including:

- Igihe.com

Ref: <https://www.igihe.com/amakuru/u-rwanda/article/abakora-umwuga-w-ubunyamategeko-babihuza-n-ubukristo-basabwe-kuba-inyenyeri>

Ref: <https://mobile.igihe.com/ubutabera-2047/article/abanyamategeko-babihuza-n-ubukiristu-beretswe-ibisubizo-biri-mu-buhuza-no>

- Igihe live tweets @IGIHE
- Rwanda Broadcasting Agency

Ref: https://www.youtube.com/live/_xpiYS55sgc

Ref: https://youtu.be/SKuz451uPOA?si=AT6A_CjPM5VPkHYV

- Sounds of Africa

Ref: <https://soundofafrica.rw/christian-legal-practitioners-from-across-africa-meet-in-kigali-to-rethink-the-delivery-of-justice-on-the-continent/>

- Salus Radio

On second day and last day of the conference the conference was live streamed on YouTube channel to facilitate others to attend as well as archive purpose. Here are the links

- Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/live/THbKZ5foowc?si=yz3PHmaR9EyQC6Cj>
- Day 3: <https://youtube.com/live/DW5eS5hSch4?feature=share>

[Link to Gallery/ 3 days Conference](#)

[Link to Gallery/ Gala Dinner](#)

ANNEX 5: EVENT GALLERY

