Afrobarometer wishes to bring advocates and gender champions around a Twitter Space to discuss Afrobarometer Round 9 findings from 28 African countries on gender equality and gender-based violence. The Afrobarometer findings will highlight gender gaps and trends in education, economic empowerment, political participation and leadership. Discussions will also focus on Africans’ views on the prevalence of gender-based violence, whether it should be treated as a criminal matter, and what happens when such cases are reported to the police.

Format of the webinar

The 90-minute Twitter Spaces will take place ahead of International Women’s Day.

Date: Tuesday 7 March at 15:00 pm GMT.

- Welcome address by Joseph Asunka, Afrobarometer CEO
- Presentation of Afrobarometer findings on gender equality and gender-based violence by Josephine Sanny, Afrobarometer’s Communications and Knowledge Manager
- Panel discussion with the following speakers
Amb. Nozipho January-Bardill, Afrobarometer Board Member, and the Chairperson of the Council of the Nelson Mandela University and the United Nations (UN) Global Compact Local Network in South Africa

Ms. Victoria Maloka, Head of the Coordination and Outreach Division of Africa Union’s Women, Gender and Youth Directorate

Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore, Human Rights and Governance Expert, Founder of the Center for Women’ Rights and Leadership

The Twitter Spaces will be facilitated by Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen, Founder, The Nielsen Network

Areas of discussion

Gender equality

1. Articulating the difference between equality and equity. The theme for this year’s International Women’s Day is “Embrace Equity.”
2. The impact of gender inequality on representation and leadership
3. Education and the role it plays in perpetuating or challenging gender inequality.
4. Efforts to challenge and combat gender inequality, including activism and social movements.

Gender-based violence

1. What constitutes gender-based violence, and what are the consequences of gender-based violence.
2. Let’s bring in some of our data here on gender-based violence
3. Why victims avoid reporting cases of gender-based violence.

Biographies of panelists

Amb. Nozipho January-Bardill
Afrobarometer Board Member, and the Chairperson of the Council of the Nelson Mandela University and the United Nations (UN) Global Compact Local Network in South Africa

Amb. Nozipho January-Bardill is an Afrobarometer Board Member, and the Chairperson of the Council of the Nelson Mandela University and the United Nations (UN) Global Compact Local Network in South Africa. She is also an independent non-executive director of Mercedes-Benz South Africa, the MTN Foundation, and two NGOs, Tshwaranang Legal Services (for women who are victims of gender-based violence) and Phenduka Literacy (for under-educated primary school pupils in Alexander Township).

At the start of 2021, she was appointed to the board of trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Assistance and the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) in the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Her own company,
Bardill and Associates, advises companies on integrating race, gender, and sustainable development into their business strategies. She served as South Africa’s Ambassador to Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and the Holy See as well as Deputy Director General, responsible for human resources and the Foreign Service Institute, in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs. She was chief of staff and special adviser to UN Women in New York and South Africa.

A four-year position as Corporate Affairs Executive at MTN Group exposed her to executive leadership in the private sector at home and on the continent, and the challenges of creating a human rights culture in business. Ethical leadership and governance, social justice, and sustainable development are central to her life and work.

Lehau Victoria Maloka
Head, Coordination and Outreach Division, Women, Gender and Youth, Directorate, African Union Commission

Lehau Victoria Maloka is the Head of the Coordination and Outreach Division in the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD) at the African Union Commission (AUC). She is a Women’s Rights Advocate and a lawyer by training, with over 23 years of collective national and international experience in the fields of human rights; gender equality and women’s empowerment; women, peace and security; electoral democracy, constitutional practice, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

She has served in various sectors, including international civil service in the African Union and the United Nations; government public service; civil society; and national human rights institutions. Victoria was the Head of Secretariat of the Association of African Women Mediators at the Centre for Mediation in Africa, a platform established to promote, empower, support and build the capacity of African women to participate effectively, equally and fully in peace processes, and which contributed to the establishment of FEMWISE- Africa. She is passionate about the development and empowerment of young women to support their leadership and participation so that they effectively and impactfully take their rightful place in the affairs of their families, communities, nations, continent and the world at large.

Fatou Jagne Senghore
Human Rights and Governance Expert
Founder Center for Women’ Rights and Leadership

Ms. Fatou Jagne Senghore is a Gambian human rights advocate with over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. She founded ARTICLE 19’s West Africa office in Senegal in
2010 after joining the organisation in 2002 as an Africa Programme Officer in South Africa. For more than a decade, she oversaw the work of the organisation in West Africa.

She led ARTICLE 19's work with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), advocating for the adoption of the declaration of a declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa and the establishment of mechanism of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in Africa in 2004. She has contributed to many standards settings, advocated and litigated on behalf of journalists and human rights defenders. Prior to ARTICLE 19, she worked for the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa and developed programmes for the judiciary and legal practitioners in the Gambia.

Throughout her career, she has supported women leaders and organisations across Africa. This includes among others awareness raising programmes on the implementation of the parity law adopted in 2010 to give women the possibility to have equal representation in decision making bodies. In addition, in 2013, she initiated work on how to tackle fistula in southern Senegal using access to information and community outreach programmes. In the Gambia, she has worked for many years with women political leaders, journalists and human rights defenders and initiated training programmes to support women political participation since 2017.

She has a proven track record on governance of both non-profit and government institutions, she sits in many Boards. She Chaired of the Board of Directors of the Gambia Radio and Televisions Services (GRTS) 2019-2022, Chair of the Africa Freedom of Information Center (AFIC). She co-chaired 2019-2022 the Development and adoption of Senegal 1st Action plan on the Partnership for Open Government (OGP) and was a member of the Multi Actors Group that oversaw the reporting process of Senegal under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative EITI (2019-2021).

She holds an (LLM) in Economic and Communication Law, a Master’s Degree in International and European Law, a Bachelors of Law (civil law) at the University of Toulouse, Capitole and a Bachelor of English Language Specialty Law, at the Institute for languages and Civilisations and a degree in international relations and development studies.

She has received many distinctions for her human rights work; these include, the French National Order of Merit (Chevalier dans l’Ordre National du Mérite) in 2018, the Shield Awards for West Africa by the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network in 2019, the Press Freedom hero by the Gambia Press Union in 2020 and the Deyda Hydara Award in 2021.

She has recently founded the Center for Women Rights and Leadership in the Gambia (CWRL), a platform to advance women’s rights and leadership in the Gambia.