

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION

PROJECT 138: THE PRACTICE OF *UKUTHWALA*

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) has approved the publication of a revised discussion paper on the practice of *ukuthwala*, for public comment. The revised discussion paper sets out the SALRC's preliminary recommendations for law reform regarding the practice of *ukuthwala*.

The SALRC published Discussion Paper 132 (Project 138: The Practice of *Ukuthwala*) on 31 August 2014 to elicit responses from various stakeholders and to serve as a basis for SALRC deliberations and for drafting the Bill. After receiving comments and responses, the SALRC decided to publish the Revised Discussion Paper, which includes a chapter on public consultations and a Draft Bill. This discussion paper is the revised version of Discussion Paper 132 (Project 138: The Practice of *Ukuthwala*).

The views, conclusions and recommendations in this paper are not the final views of the SALRC. The aim of the discussion paper is to elicit comments, which will assist the SALRC in preparing the draft report. In order to get comments from parties directly affected by the practice, the SALRC will conduct workshops in the provinces. Workshops are planned to take place between January and March 2016. An invitation to the workshops together with the dates will be posted on the SALRC website and parties are requested to complete the forms provided and return them to the SALRC. The SALRC plans to involve all stakeholders including individuals, non-governmental and community based organisations. Radio and television interviews are also planned where listeners and viewers can give comments.

Comments on the revised discussion paper and the draft Bill will be incorporated into a report on the practice of *ukuthwala*. This report will contain the final recommendations of the SALRC, accompanied by legislative proposals pertaining to the practice. The report, once approved by the SALRC, will be handed to the Minister for Justice and Correctional Services for consideration.

The project leader for the investigation is Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, *Emeritus* professor of the University of Cape Town. The SALRC's researcher is Ms Maite Modiba.

Copies of the revised discussion paper are available on the SALRC's website: <http://www.justice.gov.za/salrc/dpapers.htm>. Further copies are available free of charge from the South African Law Reform Commission (tel: 012 622 6300).

The closing date for comments on this discussion paper is **31 January 2016**. Comments and submissions are invited from any interested person or organisation, and should be addressed to:

The Secretary

S A Law Reform Commission

Private Bag X688

PRETORIA

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Telephone: (012) 622 6300 / (012) 622 6322

E-mail: MaiModiba@justice.gov.za

Fax: 086 511 8811

Internet: <http://salawreform.justice.gov.za>

ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, SA LAW REFORM COMMISSION

DATE: 28 OCTOBER 2015

THE CONTACT PERSON FOR ENQUIRIES IN RESPECT OF MEDIA STATEMENT:

MS MAITE MODIBA, TEL: (012) 622 6322 OR 083 525 8857

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