

**The African Human Rights Framework and Respect for Human Rights in Africa**

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## Certification

This is to certify that Ayobami OLUWADAHUNSI with matriculation number LCU/PG/001933 carried out this research work titled “The African Unions Human Rights Framework and its Effectiveness to Continental Equality” in the Department of Politics & International Relations, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo state, for the award of Master of Science Degree (MSc) in International Law and Diplomacy and that this has not been previously submitted.

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## **Dedication**

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty, the source of my support in all areas and my parents, Mr and Mrs Oluwadahunsi for being my role models in all aspects of my life.

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Even though the above institutions and persons have assisted in this research work, I alone stand responsible for errors, if any, found in this work.

## Abstract

The African Union was launched as a successor of the Organisation of African Unity in efforts to promote the unity and solidarity of African States, to coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts towards achieving a better life for the people of Africa, to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence, to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa and to promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This study evaluated the efforts and effectiveness of the African Union towards promoting and protecting the Human rights of citizens of Africa. The African Union has put in measures to make sure the Human rights standards in Africa are respected and has also created Human rights bodies, organs and treaties which contains some of the worlds first, especially in respect to women rights, the aim of this research is to study the African Unions Human rights framework. The theory adopted during the course of the research was the theory of natural rights which asserts that every Human being have the privilege of Human rights from birth. Secondary source of data which includes the use of books, journals, online materials, served as the source of information gathering. The African Union has left its mark on the continent, although most observers agree that there is still room for improvement, Notably, the Commission has also developed legal guidance on how to implement many key human rights which is set out in the African Charter and other human rights treaties and documents such as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The research recommends the AU should prioritize rights driven agendas by strengthening the mandate of Human rights institutions in Africa.

**Keywords:** African Union, Peace, Human rights, Organisation, Unity.

**Word Count:** 300

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## List of Acronyms

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ACERWC	The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACtHPR	The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
AEC	The African Economic community
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
AMU	The Arab Maghreb Union
AU	African Union
AUABC	African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
AUCIL	African Union Commission on International Law
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency - The New Partnership for Africa's Development
AUPSC	The Peace and Security Council of the African Union
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
EAC	The East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOCC	The Economic, Social, and Cultural Council
ECOWAS	The Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FC/FGM	Female Circumcision/ Female Genital Mutilation
FIDH	The International Federation for Human Rights
FLS	Frontline States

ICCPR	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICTR	The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
LRA	The Lords Resistance Army
MRG	The Minority Rights Group International
NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	The Southern African Development Community
UDEAC	Union Douanière et Économique de l'Afrique Centrale
UDHR	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations

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