



BARRIERS TO ASYLUM *WITHIN* AFRICA: WHAT ROLE FOR AFRICAN COURTS?

AN EXPERTS' ROUNDTABLE

Africa is often looked at as the playground of migration containment policies implemented by Western countries, especially the European Union and its Member States. Accordingly, African States risk being considered as passive pawns in the hands of Western countries that leverage legal, financial and political tools to achieve their goals in the field of migration.

Yet, at a closer look, external influence is just one among the relevant factors shaping barriers to asylum in the continent. Indeed, several African States place the containment of migration and refugee movements at the core of their political agenda and engage in a wide range of non-admission, departure prevention, and criminalization measures to curb access to asylum.

This Roundtable focuses on three key African jurisdictions in North, East, and West Africa - these being Tunisia, Kenya, and Nigeria -, which all have implemented severe physical, procedural, and legal barriers hindering access to asylum, also on a specific ground such as nationality and skin colour. Not only has external influence, such as that by the EU, played a role in fuelling asylum barriers in these countries, but recent political developments have further contributed to destabilizing the respect for people's fundamental right to asylum. Among others, the severe democratic downturn in Tunisia has not only resulted in mass deportation and violence against Black people in the country, but has most recently led Tunisia to revoke individuals and NGOs' direct access to the African Court on Human and People's Rights.

Experts from Tunisia, Kenya, and Nigeria will engage in an interactive discussion on barriers to asylum in these countries, highlighting the role – if any – that domestic Courts are having or may have in tackling unlawful practices and policies.

Date: Thursday 4 December 2025 from 3.15 to 5.15 pm CET.

Chair: Chiara Scissa (UNIBO)

Speakers: Amanda Bisong (ECDPM), Solomon Momoh (The University of Law), Fatma Raach (University of Jendouba)

Discussant: Alice Fill (École Normale Supérieure/University of Roma Tre)

Location: Online and in Aula Farneti, Palazzo Hercolani, Strada Maggiore 45 Bologna. Please register [here](#) to participate online.

Steering Committee: Chiara Scissa, Madalina Moraru