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The African Promise: a bid for equality for Africans in arbitral appointments

08/10/2019

Dr Emilia Onyema, Reader in International Commercial Law, (along with Dr Stuart Dutton and Mr Kamal Shah) recently published **The African Promise** – a bid to increase the number of Africans appointed as arbitrators and promote diversity and inclusivity in the international arbitration community.

The Promise sets out two objectives:

1. to improve the profile and representation of African arbitrators; and
2. to appoint Africans as arbitrators especially in arbitrations connected with Africa.

A survey carried out by a team led by Emilia last year showed that there was very little participation of Africans in international arbitration. In a keynote speech delivered by Professor Dr Mohamed Abdel Wahab at the 2018 SOAS Arbitration in Africa conference in Kigali, he suggested an African Pledge as one of the solutions.

When asked what other work should be done, in an **interview with LexisNexis**, Dr Onyema said: "We need to put in place a monitoring system that is evidence-led. The evidence we generate will help us understand what the problems are, where the bottlenecks are and help us to design interventions that will answer to these gaps and improve the international arbitration system."

[Sign the African Promise pledge](#)

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"They've become a highly valued addition to enrolment, positively received by students - and are a strong example of an important student-led national campaign."

Read about SOAS's work on developing Consent Workshops for students in today's [@Telegraph](#): [ow.ly/7DC850wGmwG](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2019/10/08/soas-consent-workshops/)



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