

Chizumila, Tujilane (Republic of Malawi)

[original: English]

Curriculum vitae

FAMILY NAME:	CHIZUMILA	
FIRST NAME:	Tujilane	
MIDDLE NAME:	Rose	
GENDER:	Female	
DATE OF BIRTH:	14 May 1953	
NATIONALITY:	Malawi	
REGIONAL CRITERIA:	Africa	
SECONDARY NATIONALITY: (IF APPLICABLE)	N/A	
MARITAL STATUS:	Widow	
LIST A/LIST B	List A	
LANGUAGES	Mother tongue: Chichewa	
- ENGLISH	(written) Advanced	(oral) Advanced
- FRENCH	(written) Basic	(oral) Basic
- OTHERS	Swahili : (written) Advanced	(oral) Advanced
	German : (written) Intermediate	(oral) Intermediate
	: (written) Please select >>	(oral) Please select >>
	: (written) Please select >>	(oral) Please select >>
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: <i>Date, institution, qualification(s) obtained (starting with most recent)</i> <i>- Please click the “+” sign in the bottom right corner to add more entries</i>		
07/1985 - 07/1988 - <i>Institution:</i> Christian-Albrecht University, Kiel, Germany - <i>Qualification(s) obtained:</i> Master’s Certification in International Law		
06/1982 - 12/1982 - <i>Institution:</i> Kenya School of Law / Commonwealth Secretariat, Nairobi - <i>Qualification(s) obtained:</i> legislative Drafting Certificate		
07/1973- 07/1977 - <i>Institution:</i> University of Dar es Salaam - <i>Qualification(s) obtained:</i> Bachelor of Laws (LLB)		
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: <i>Date, employer, post title, other information (starting with most recent)</i> <i>- Please click the “+” sign in the bottom right corner to add more entries</i> <i>- Please indicate the relevance of the experience to the candidacy under list A or list B, as appropriate</i>		

02/2017 - 02/2029

Employer: African Court on Human and People's Rights (African Union)

Post title: Judge

Other information: Justice Chizumila has served for nine years on Africa's highest human rights court, adjudicating cases involving: violations of fundamental rights under regional treaties, due process and fair trial guarantees, political rights and electoral justice, freedom of expression, gender-based discrimination and violence, protection of vulnerable populations.

She has contributed to the development of continental jurisprudence interpreting the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and related instruments. My participation in the landmark decision in APDF & IHRDA v. Republic of Mali internationally recognized through the Gender Justice Uncovered Awards, strengthened legal protections against child marriage and discrimination against women.

06/2010 - 06/2015

Employer: Government of Malawi

- *Post title:* Ombudsman

- *Other information:* Justice Chizumila served as Public Ombudsman of Malawi for 5 years, leading the Administrative tribunal: investigating complaints of maladministration and abuse of public authority. her work strengthened government accountability, transparency and administrative justice, while providing remedies through investigations, public inquiries, and policy recommendations. By constitutional mandate she also served on the Malawi Human Rights Commission and the Police Service Commission.

She was the first female Ombudsman in Malawi

05/2003 - 07/2004

- *Employer:* High Court of Malawi

Post title: Judge

Other information: She presided over serious criminal trials, constitutional litigation and complex civil matters, applying international human rights standard within domestic jurisprudence.

10/1994 - 04/1999

Employer: Chizumila & Company(the first female lawyer in malawi to establish her own law firm)

Post title: Founder and Proprietor

Other information: She developed extensive expertise in criminal procedure, defence rights and access to justice for vulnerable persons and was chair of the Malawi Women Lawyers Association during the period of serious sexual abuse of women and children culminating in legislative amendments.

08/1993 - 09/1994

- *Employer:* Chizumila Msisha& Company(A private legal firm of my late husband)

- *Post title:* Advocate

- *Other information:* She strengthened her criminal law expertise handling very grave cases of criminal abuse by the previous government.

06/1991 - 11/1991

- *Employer:* Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs Malawi

Post title: State and Legal Aid Advocate

- *Other information:* Represented the State in criminal prosecutions and provided legal representation to indigent accused persons, strengthening access to justice.

10/1978 - 10/1988

Employer: Tanzania Legal Corporation(A legal parastatal under the Ministry of Justice 10 years)

- *Post title:* Counsel

- <i>Other information:</i> Represented accused persons in serious criminal prosecutions before Tanzanian courts. Developed extensive expertise in criminal procedure, evidentiary standards, and fair trial rights.	
OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: - Please click the “+” sign in the bottom right corner to add more entries	
2008-2009 <i>Activity:</i> United Nations and International Humanitarian Experience Child Rights Consultant (UNICEF) Responsibilities included: Advising on implementation of international child protection standards. Promoting the best interests of the child in policy frameworks. Programme and Administration Officer(Save the Children Federation - USA) Responsibilities included: Implementation of child survival and protection programmes. Handling matters concerning refugees and vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. Strengthening humanitarian programme accountability and delivery.	
04/1999 - 04/2003 <i>Activity:</i> Diplomatic Service Ambassador of Malawi to Zimbabwe and Permanent Representative of Malawi to SADC Responsibilities included: Representation of Malawi in regional diplomacy and multilateral negotiations. Facilitation of governance dialogue, peace processes, and rule of law initiatives. Co-organization of the Zimbabwe All-Stakeholders Inter-Party Conference (2001).	
1991 - 1993 <i>Activity:</i> United Nations and International Humanitarian Experience Officer for Refugee Women and Children (UNHCR) Responsibilities included: Protection of refugee women and children. Addressing gender-based violence in refugee settings. Family tracing and reunification of separated children. Skills training and livelihood support for displaced women. Oversight of voluntary repatriation processes.	
1989 - 1990 <i>Activity:</i> International Humanitarian Experience Programme and Administration Officer(Save the Children Federation - USA) Responsibilities included: Implementation of child survival and protection programmes. Handling matters concerning refugees and vulnerable populations, particularly women and children.	
MOST RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS	
From a Refugee Girl to a Judge – Volume II (2026) From a Refugee Girl to a Judge - My Journey Volume I (2022)	

Two-volume work on refugee law and refugee protection, addressing the legal challenges of displacement and statelessness

UN voices from the Bench: Women shaping International Justice by GQUAL (2026) Campaign/UN Women – contribution by Justice Tujilane Chizumila

Adventures leading to the Bench: African Women Judges - Storytelling as Judicial Freedom: Tujilane Rose Chizumila pages 223-238 (2025)

A Widow's Perspective- A personal Journey - contributed to Malawi's inheritance law reforms addressing property grabbing against widows. (1996)

Women's Leadership Roles and Food Security for Refugees in Nsanje (1992) by T. Madinga (now Chizumila) and S. Chande

Food Distribution and Sexual Harassment in Ntcheu By T. Madinga (now Chizumila) (1991)

Two research studies conducted under UNHCR that led to the reform of food distribution systems across refugee camps in Malawi, addressing sexual exploitation and abuse linked to food access especially for women and children

MOST RELEVANT SEMINARS

- Ethics Training for Registry Staff - African Court. Arusha, Tanzania
- African Union Ethics Training, Arusha, Tanzania
- Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 OAU Convention, International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ), Cape Town, South Africa
- Trainer of Trainers: Justice, Human Rights and Peace, and Leadership Development. UN University for Peace, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Inter-disciplinary Regional Course on Children's Rights, SAHRIT, Pretoria, South Africa
- Repatriation and Protection of Refugees, UNHCR, Geneva and Zimbabwe
- Anti-Corruption for Judicial Officers, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Lilongwe, Malawi
- Bridge Modular Training on Media and Elections, Lilongwe, Malawi
- Conflict Management & Peace Building, Pretoria, South Africa
- Children's Rights and Child Survival, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa
- Women's Reproductive Health Rights through Public Interest Litigation, Harare, Zimbabwe

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

- International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges
- The African Court on Human Rights Committees on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial matters; and Audit matters
- The African Court on Human Rights, the African Commission on Human Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child Dialogue
- The Intercontinental Human Rights Courts Dialogue
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Malawi Law Society
- Women Judges Association of Malawi
- Women Judges and Magistrates Association of Malawi (WOJAM), Founder member
- African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA)
- Malawi Widows Association

AWARDS AND HONOURS

GAVEL AWARD OF T. CHIZUMILA AND OTHER FEMALE JUDGES APDF & IHRDA v. Republic of Mali (2018)

Full case title:

Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes Maliennes (APDF) & The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) v. Republic of Mali

Application No.: 046/2016

Judgment date: 11 May 2018

Court: African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Justice Chizumila maintains a strong commitment to intellectual engagement through reading and writing on issues of human rights, rule of law, and social justice. She is passionate about mentorship and youth empowerment, particularly supporting young women and vulnerable populations in refugee and post-conflict settings. She also values physical wellness through regular exercise and enjoys gardening as a means of promoting sustainability and community self-reliance.

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

A former refugee, Justice Chizumila brings a unique and deeply personal understanding of displacement, conflict, and human vulnerability to her judicial work. Her career spans national, regional, and international legal systems, providing her with a rare, multi-layered perspective on justice and accountability.

She has extensive experience engaging with multilateral institutions, including the African Union and the United Nations, and has held leadership roles within diplomatic circles. She is a strong advocate for gender equality and the protection of women's and children's rights.

In addition to her judicial work, she leads community-based initiatives aimed at empowering vulnerable groups through education, livelihood support, and capacity-building programmes. She has also contributed to training and mentorship programmes for judges, diplomats, and young professionals under the tujilane chizumila foundation and its subsidiary, Rita's Etiquette.