



Frequently Asked Questions

Human Rights Strategic Litigation & Trial Advocacy Training – Cape Town, 2026

Is the training free?

Yes. Participation in the training is free of charge. However, participants are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, visa, and related costs.

Is funding or a scholarship available?

At this stage, PILnet is not offering funding or scholarships. We are exploring fundraising options and will update applicants if this changes.

Does PILnet assist with visas or accommodation?

PILnet does not provide direct support with visa applications or accommodation arrangements. Participants are responsible for securing their own travel logistics. We can issue visa support letters, where required. For a list of nearby accommodation, travel, and venue information, please see the [logistics note here](#).

Who is this training for?

The training is designed for lawyers across Africa, and beyond, working on or interested in public interest and pro bono practice, including public defenders and practitioners engaged in human rights, civic space, and community-based litigation.

What will the training cover?

The program focuses on practical litigation and trial advocacy skills, including case theory development, litigation strategy, witness examination, cross-examination, working with expert witnesses, objections, and courtroom advocacy through simulations and exercises.

Will participants receive materials or certificates?

Yes. Participants will receive training materials and resources. A certificate of participation will also be provided upon completion of the full program.

What is the language of the training?

The training will be conducted in English.

How many participants will be selected?

About 50 participants will be selected from across the region.

How are participants selected?

Selection is based on demonstrated commitment to public interest or pro bono work, relevance of practice area, potential for impact, and ensuring geographic and gender diversity.

Is attendance for all four days required?

Yes. Participants are expected to attend the full duration of the training.

Is the program linked to the PILnet Global Forum?

Yes. The training takes place immediately after the PILnet Global Forum and is designed to allow participants to attend both without needing separate travel. More information on the Forum can be found [here](#).

Will there be a detailed agenda?

A detailed agenda is being finalized with faculty and will be shared on the website once confirmed. A brief overview is already available on the training page.

Who is delivering the training?

The program is delivered in partnership with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), a leading global provider of practical trial advocacy training. Faculty information and bios will be available on the website shortly.

When will applicants hear back?

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis starting in June 2026. Successful applicants will be notified as decisions are made until all places are filled.

When do applications close?

Applications will remain open until all places are filled. The call may close earlier than the stated deadline, based on demand. Applicants are encouraged to apply early.

After selection, what next?

Selected applicants will receive a conditional acceptance on a rolling basis and will be required to confirm participation within a specified timeframe. Failure to confirm within this period may result in the place being offered to another applicant on the waitlist.

Is there a waitlist?

Yes. Applicants who are not initially selected may be placed on a waitlist and contacted if places become available. Waitlisted candidates may be asked to confirm participation within a short timeframe if a place opens up. All places will be finalized once the cohort reaches full capacity.

Will applicants who are not selected hear back?

Yes. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by October 20,

2026. This includes applicants who are placed on the waitlist as well as those who are not selected.

Who can I contact for further information?

For any additional questions, please contact info@pilnet.org