



THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY  
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## GLOCEPS Webinar Series

**Theme: Institutionalizing the Raila Odinga Legacy:  
Constitutionalism, Democratic Reform, and the  
Realization of African Union Agenda 2063**

**Week 4: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 | Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Meeting ID: 867 5936 4039 | Passcode: 993189**

**Article 1: *Institutionalising Raila Odinga's Legacy: Constitutionalism, Democratic Reform, and the Realisation of the African Union Agenda* ~ *Serah Wangeci Gachunga***

**Article 2: *Hon. Raila Odinga and the Advancement of Gender Parity in Kenya* ~ *Gloria Nyambura Kenyatta***



**Dr. Caroline Sambai Sultan, PhD.**

**Chair**



**Serah Wangeci Gachunga**

**Author**



**Dr. Gloria Nyambura Kenyatta, PhD.**

**Author**



**Mr. Michael Owuor**

**Moderator**



**Dr. Peter Kirui, PhD.**

**Discussant**



**Dr. Susan Mwangi, PhD.**

**Discussant**



**Amb. Catherine Mwangi**

**Discussant**



**Prof. Daniel O. Orwenjo, PhD.**

**Discussant**



**Brig (Rtd) Foustine Sirera**

**Vote of Thanks**



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### Abstract

#### **Institutionalising Raila Odinga's Legacy: Constitutionalism, Democratic Reform, and the Realisation of the African Union Agenda**

*Serah Wangeci Gachunga*

This paper highlights the enduring political legacy of Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga and its resonance with the transformative ambitions of the African Union's Agenda 2063. It assesses his relentless advocacy for multiparty democracy and constitutional reform. His political struggles culminated in the adoption of the transformative 2010 Constitution. It also gives a comparative analysis of leaders like Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia who ignited the push for multiparty democracy through the Saba Saba protests, and Raila Odinga emerged as a key pillar of this struggle enduring detention, and ultimately carrying forward the vision and momentum of Kenya's second liberation well into the 21st century. While Kibaki's presidency is associated with democratic and economic liberalization, Raila Odinga, though never serving as president, remains one of Kenya's most influential proponents of democratic reform, consistently shaping national politics through his activism, opposition leadership, and central role in constitutionalism and governance transformations. This paper further explains Raila's legacy beyond national politics. Raila's tenure as the African Union's High Representative for Infrastructure Development (2018–2021) strengthened his Pan-African stature by advancing Agenda 2063's vision of continental integration through major cross-border infrastructure initiatives. The paper concludes with recommendations for transforming Raila's struggles and policy advocacy into permanent, functioning institutional practices in Kenya and Africa.



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### Abstract

#### **Hon. Raila Odinga and the Advancement of Gender Parity in Kenya**

*Gloria Nyambura Kenyatta*

This study examines Hon. Raila Odinga's efforts to achieve gender parity for equitable development in Kenya. It focuses on how his political leadership, advocacy, and policy influence have shaped national debates and institutional commitments to gender equity. The study's objectives are threefold: to analyze Odinga's public positions and political actions supporting Kenya's constitutional one-third gender rule; to evaluate how his influence affected political parties and legislative efforts for gender-balanced representation in government; and to assess the impact of the one-third gender rule on equitable socio-economic development in Kenya. This study draws on desk research to examine both qualitative and quantitative data on Odinga's contributions to gender governance and inclusive socio-economic progress. The analysis includes parliamentary debates, public speeches, party documents, media statements, and records of constitutional reforms associated with Odinga. Additionally, this research applies the feminist institutionalism framework to examine how Odinga navigated both formal and informal institutions to promote gender-parity reforms. The topic aligns closely with the first and third thematic areas of this special issue. The paper discusses Raila Odinga's legacy by placing gender equity an important yet understudied aspect of his political identity within Kenya's evolving governance landscape. Moreover, by analyzing his successes and limitations in advancing women's political participation and supporting the one-third gender rule, the study provides a comprehensive understanding of Odinga's legacy in democratic reform, social justice, and inclusive policy-making. The findings offer new insights into how political leadership can influence normative commitments to gender parity, paving the way for long-term, equitable national development.

**Keywords:** equitable development; gender equity; one-third gender rule; political leadership; Raila Odinga.