



# Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law in Post-Traumatic Societies: An Action Research Study on Rwanda's Transitions

Constitutionalism and the  
Rule of Law

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## Abstract

Rwanda has experienced significant political and legal transitions since the genocide in 1994, which have influenced its constitutionalism and rule of law framework. This action research employs qualitative methods including interviews with legal practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders in Rwanda. Data analysis involves thematic content coding. The study reveals that while Rwanda has made strides in establishing constitutional institutions such as the Constitutional Court and Human Rights Commission, challenges remain in ensuring fair trials and effective enforcement of laws post-genocide trauma. Rwanda's journey towards a stable legal framework is marked by both progress and persistent obstacles due to historical traumas and socio-political dynamics. Future research should focus on developing comprehensive training programmes for judicial personnel, particularly in areas related to trauma-informed justice systems.

**Keywords:** *African geopolitics, constitutional change, legal reform, post-conflict development, qualitative methodology, rule of law, transitional justice*

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This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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