

Mark Heywood

After studying English Language and Literature and graduating from Oxford University in 1986, Mark Heywood worked for the Marxist Workers Tendency of the African National Congress in England and from 1989 back in South Africa. As a cover for his political activities, he also taught in the African Literature department at Wits University whilst completing an MA dissertation.

After South Africa's first democratic election in 1994, Heywood joined the AIDS Law Project (ALP) at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, becoming its head in 1997 and Executive Director in 2006. In 1998, he was one of the founders of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), where he remains on the Board of Directors. In 2007, he was elected as Deputy Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (the Chairperson is the Deputy President of SA). He was also the Chairperson of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights between 2006 and 2012.

In 2010, together with Adila Hassim, Heywood founded and was the first executive director of SECTION27, a public interest law center that seeks to influence, develop and use the law to protect, promote and advance human rights, particularly in relation to healthcare services, sufficient food, and education.

Heywood has written extensively on HIV, human rights, and the law, including co-editing *AIDS and the Law Resource Manual* (three editions) and *Health & Democracy: A guide to human rights, health law and policy in post-Apartheid South Africa*. He has been part of the legal teams that have been involved in all the major litigation around HIV and human rights.

Mark is currently the editor of *Maverick Citizen*, a section of the *Daily Maverick* that focuses on activism, human rights and social justice; and an Adjunct Professor at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at University of Cape Town.

He has worked to advance the rights of people with HIV for 30 years and has published hundreds of articles on AIDS and human rights. Mark joined the ICASO board in 2019.