

Investigating the Abolishment of Virginity Testing in South Africa

Authors : Nqobizwe Mvelo Ngema

Abstract : This paper argues that the custom of virginity testing has been revived in order to combat against social ills such as unwanted pregnancies, immorality, promiscuity and the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, virginity testing is not free from challenges such as the belief that having sexual intercourse with a virgin can cure men from AIDS, virginity testing is not accurate because there is scientific evidence supporting the fact that there many ways of losing virginity other than sexual intercourse, for example, the usage of tampons and participation in physical activities may tear the hymen. South African parliament took some positive steps in combatting against harm associated with virginity testing by regulating it in the Children's Act. It is argued, in this paper, that the abolition of virginity testing may lead to paper law and it would be premature to abolish virginity testing in South Africa.

Keywords : equality rights, virginity testing, human rights, interdisciplinary law and legal studies

Conference Title : ICILLS 2015 : International Conference on Interdisciplinary Law and Legal Studies

Conference Location : Rome, Italy

Conference Dates : March 05-06, 2015