PROFESSOR ATTIYA WARIS' BIO

LONG BIO

Attiya Waris is Kenya's second full female law professor and the first professor from a religious, ethnic and racial minority in the country. She is also the only known Professor of Fiscal law on the African Continent. Her original scholarly contribution to this field has been the development and strengthening of the linkages between finance and development through taxation, debt and illicit financial flows and the raising of living standards.

Professor Attiya Waris has held a couple of roles. In the past she has simultaneously and separately held the position of Director of Research an Enterprise as well as the acting Deputy Principal College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the University of Nairobi becoming the first professor to do so. She holds several portfolios currently; she is the UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and International Financial Obligations under Implications for Human Rights currently serving her second term. Globally, she is a member of the International Tax Force on Climate and Development, a member in the Expert Group of the Global Solidarity Levies Taskforce , the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the Capabuild Foundation based in the Netherlands, the Executive Director at the House of Fiscal Wisdom in Nairobi, a Commissioner on the O'Neill-Lancet Commission on Racism and Structural Discrimination and Global Health, a member of the Editorial Board of the Yearbook on Economic Determinants at WHO, a Professor of Law at the University of Nairobi, a Board member at African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, a member of the Working Group on Debt at the Madrid Club, a Senior Advisor at the Tax Justice Network International as well as the Managing Editor of the Journal on Financing Development at the University of Nairobi.

Professor Attiya has notably been quoted and cited by key figures. Most recently she was quoted in March, 2025 by Christian Duarte, the Secretary of State for Finance in the Government of Honduras, in his Keynote speech at the UNCTAD Debt Conference. In May 2024, President Higgins of Ireland quoted her in his keynote speech in Dublin, Ireland. She has also been quoted in the Constitutional Court of Kenya in October 2023 during the deliberations on housing tax. Additionally, professor Attiya has been Cited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Frederick Mitchell of the Bahamas in his intervention during the G77 meeting in Kampala in January 2024.

Professor Attiya has also been a founding member of several organizations focusing on tax justice and fiscal studies in Africa including the African Tax Researchers Network in South

Africa, the Tax Justice Network Africa, the Capabuild Foundation in Amsterdam, the Committee on Fiscal Studies at the University of Nairobi and most recently AFRODAD-East and Horn of Africa and the House of Fiscal Wisdom. She is also an observer for the UN Tax Committee, a Strategy Group Member at the Africa-Europe Foundation Working Group on Combatting Illicit Financial Flows, a reviewer at the South African National Research Foundation and a board member at the UNESCWA Equality Board. Additionally, she is a member of other groups such as the UNICEF Expert Advisory Panel on Taxation and Children, the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting(BEPS) Monitoring Group and the Muslim Consultative Council.

SHORT BIO

Attiya Waris is a recently inaugurated and distinguished law professor in Kenya, notable for being the second woman to achieve this title and the first from a religious, ethnic, and racial minority in the country. She stands as the only known Professor of Fiscal Law in Africa, contributing significantly to the intersection of finance and development, particularly in the areas of taxation, debt, and illicit financial flows.

Professor Waris has held several leadership positions, including Director of Research at her university and acting Deputy Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, notably being the first woman to hold both positions simultaneously. Currently, she serves as the UN independent expert on foreign debt and international financial obligations related to human rights. She is also actively engaged in various global organizations including, Global Solidarity Levies Taskforce, the Capabuild Foundation, Tax Justice Network International and the O'Neill-Lancet Commission on Racism and Structural Discrimination where she serves in various capacities.

Her expertise has garnered international recognition, with recent citations in speeches by notable figures, including the Secretary of State for Finance in the Government of Honduras, Christian Duarte, Ireland's President Higgins, Kenya's Constitutional Court, as well as the Bahamian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frederick Mitchell, in discussions on international cooperation. Professor Waris is also a founding member of several influential institutions and organizations focused on tax justice and fiscal studies in Africa such as the Committee on Fiscal Studies, the House of Fiscal Wisdom and the Tax Justice Network Africa.