

InFOCUS



A magazine of the UN in South Africa

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UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



#standup4humanrights

Global Citizen
Festival: leaving no
one behind

Expanded HIV
treatment campaign
kicks off

Celebs appointed
UN Goodwill
Ambassadors

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InFocus

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Front and back cover photos:

UN staff at the 2018 All Africa UN Games in South Africa.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The side events organized around the 2018 Global Citizen Festival where the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed as well as global and award-winning celebrities like Beyoncé were hosted feature in this edition of *InFocus*, a magazine of the UN system in South Africa.

Topping the list of events was the Global Citizen Festival itself at FNB Stadium in Johannesburg, co-organized by the New York-based Global Citizen as part of events to mark the Nelson Mandela centenary. An article by the World Food Programme aptly captures the euphoric atmosphere that swept an audience of more than 80,000 participants into a frenzy. South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa called on the crowd to be "united by Madiba's [Nelson Mandela] vision of a world where every human being lives in freedom, prosperity and dignity... to silence the drums of war and to heal the planet... united in the universal language of music... to sing with one voice."

We also feature the various side events that were organized to leverage the Deputy Secretary-General's visit to South Africa including the "Leading Like Mandela" initiative that is designed to inspire, motivate and encourage youth to not only follow in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela but to internalize his ways and become great leaders.

As per usual practice, we also highlight many other activities that tell the story of UN's work in South Africa in collaboration with partners from the government, civil society and the private sector. These include public awareness efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as it celebrated 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the appointment of two Goodwill Ambassadors by UN Women and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, including South Africa's actress and human rights activist Nomzamo Mbatha.

Also, in this issue there is the official launch of the nation-wide multi-disease wellness campaign to accelerate screening and testing for HIV, tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted and noncommunicable diseases, including hypertension and diabetes.

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Galvanizing Mandela's legacy at Johannesburg Global Citizen Festival



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed attends an SDG2 Dialogue co-hosted by WFP and SDG2 Advocacy Hub

“Forever young” echoed around Soweto’s iconic Soccer City, as Beyoncé enchanted more than 80,000 people at the star-studded Mandela 100 Festival.

Once home to the 2010 World Cup final, Soweto became the epicenter of Global Citizen’s pop and policy movement of engaged citizens.

Nine hours earlier, minutes after a jumbo jet fly-past, the Soweto Gospel Choir kicked-off the festival. Thousands sang out South Africa’s national anthem Nkosi Sikelela Africa (God bless Africa) as a thank you to Nelson Mandela, honoring the centenary of his birth. The festival served as a tribute to Mandela and his legacy, and a call to a new generation to continue the struggle for social justice

and to end extreme poverty everywhere in the world.

With Trevor Noah as the master of ceremony, this was going to be a truly special event. Presidents, activists, artists, business leaders, kings, queens, musicians and icons came on stage to announce 58 commitments to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) actions worth more than seven billion U.S. dollars.

South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa called on the crowd to be “united by Madiba’s [Nelson Mandela] vision of a world where every human being lives in freedom, prosperity and dignity... to silence the drums of war and to heal the planet... united in the universal language of music... to sing with one voice.”

In her emotional festival keynote, Oprah Winfrey urged us all “to leave here dreaming big. Your legacy isn’t one big great gesture waiting to happen, but it is



UN delegation and Chefs at the High-Level SDG2 Dialogue hosted by WFP and SDG 2 Advocacy Hub





Soweto Gospel Choir entertains guests at the High-Level SDG2 Dialogue

every hand you touch. Open someone's world to new possibilities"

Performances by Cassper Nyovest, D'banj, Ed Sheeran, Eddie Vedder, Femi Kuti, JAY-Z, Kacey Musgraves, Pharrell Williams, Chris Martin, Sho Madjozi, Tiwa Savage, Usher, Black Coffee, Wizkid and many more were broadcast live in over 180 countries through SABC, Multichoice, MTV, MSNBC and Canal+.

Zero Hunger was given top-billing, and more than US\$204 million in commitments were announced. Madagascar, whose 49% child stunting rate is one of Africa's highest, committed US\$40 million over the next three years to tackle that endemic hunger. Lesotho and Namibia promised to fully fund their World Food Programme (WFP)-supported school feeding programmes going forward, representing annual budgetary outlays of US\$13 million and US\$7 million respectively.

Beyond the concert, WFP's delegation, headed by Assistant Executive Director Valerie Guarnieri, led several events to outline progress made and challenges to ending hunger for all.

WFP co-sponsored the House of Mandela Forever Young Gala at Nelson Mandela's home. In her keynote at the event, Ms. Guarnieri acknowledged the leadership of Mandela's grandson Kweku and his daughter, Dr. Makaziwe Mandela, in their actions to lift the burden of hunger.

WFP also co-hosted a high-level SDG 2 dialogue, with the SDG 2 Advocacy Hub. The dialogue was attended by national, regional and international leaders calling for even greater action. Ms. Guarnieri cited the growing trend of African countries taking over school feeding programmes as symptomatic of promising momentum towards country-led ownership of hunger solutions.

At a WFP co-sponsored dinner, attended by the Prime Minister of Norway and United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Ms. Guarnieri warned, "No African country is presently on course to meet SDG 2", citing conflict and climate change as major impediments. Chefs Arthur Potts and others spoke of their ability to transform food systems, bridging the gap from farm to fork and

advocating for a better food future for all—the Chef's Manifesto.

Months of preparatory work by RBJ and HQ Partnership and Communication teams generated significant visibility and networking opportunities, helping to reach influential audiences that ranged from heads of state to energized youth activists in Soccer City and around the world.

Activists, policy-makers, WFP staff and popstars all left the festival in agreement with Madiba's call to action:

"Freedom is meaningless if people cannot put food in their stomachs."

Yes, our collective work galvanizing Madiba's legacy must continue. 🌱



WFP's Delegation (from left to right): Peter Schivute, Lola Castro, Blaec von Kalweit, Simon Clements, Gerald Bourke, Valerie Guarnieri and Margaret Malu. Photo: WFP/Peter Schivute

UN Deputy Secretary-General visits South Africa for the Global Citizen Festival



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed at the UN-Private Sector Dialogue in Sandton

The weekend of 30 November to 2 December promised to be a memorable one for South Africans as Johannesburg braced itself to welcome several celebrities and high-profile guests who came into the country to perform and attend the Global Citizen Festival, Mandela 100 celebration which took place at the FNB Stadium in Soweto.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, was one of the anticipated guests following her encouragement to Global Citizen and relevant partners to bring the festival to Africa for the first time in an effort to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms. Mohammed used her short visit to participate in various events and activities in the lead up to the actual Festival on 2 December 2018. These events included meeting with the Presidency and high-level government officials, an interactive meeting with UN staff in Pretoria and an address at an event co-organized

by the UN and the Thembikele Mandela Foundation headlined, “Leading Like Mandela”.

In her address, the Deputy Secretary-General said that it required leadership to steer the world to achieve the SDGs. The world needs “leadership that is fearless, selfless, bold yet humble, leadership that models mutual respect, compassion and understanding, leadership that puts people at the centre of its service”. Saying that these are all the qualities embodied by Nelson Mandela, she added that they still remain as urgent as ever.

Also present at this event was the UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa, Nardos Bekele Thomas, and Graca Machel, Ndikela Mandela, Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana as well as the Minister of Energy, Jeff Radebe, amongst other distinguished guests.

The Deputy Secretary-General also addressed youth at the Motsepe Foundation Breakfast, on the theme, “Achieve equality by ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”. In her remarks, she said, “There is no time to waste, and we must all do our part to end discrimination and push the agenda forward, to continue to provide the space for women’s voices to be included, for gender equality to be addressed, and for investment and prioritization to be given to the global agenda of our time”.

Marking World AIDS Day on 1 December, at the World AIDS Day High-Level event on Adolescent Girls and Young Women and attended by, among others, officials from the Global Fund and the Government of South Africa, Ms. Mohammed commended South Africa for its fight against HIV and AIDS, adding that the country has succeeded in nearly halving new HIV infections between 2010 and 2016.

Her visit culminated in the Global Citizen Festival at the 80,000-capacity-filled stadium on 2 December in Soweto. The Deputy Secretary-General took to the stage telling a cheering crowd that despite the evils and division in the world today, the UN believes in the power of solidarity and “in building bridges across divides; taking on the big issues like ending hunger, disease, exclusion, discrimination, pollution and inequality” and that the 17 Global Goals are roadmaps to ending poverty and tackling climate change.

Also in attendance at the concert was President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Ms. Machel, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador and Black Panther actress Danai Gurira, and many more distinguished guests.

There were entertaining performances from artists including Beyoncé, JAY-Z, Cassper Nyovest, D’banj, Ed Sheeran, Eddie Vedder, Femi Kuti, Pharrell Williams and Chris Martin, Sho Madjozi, Tiwa Savage, Usher, Wizkid.

The Deputy Secretary-General’s last engagement was at a meeting between the UN and the private sector in South Africa to discuss the role businesses could play in achieving the Agenda 2030. She told her audience that “all of us have a role to play,” adding, “The interconnected, universal and transformative nature of the SDGs means that we can all contribute in ways big and small, NGOs, community groups, faith-based groups and individuals”.

The overall message that resonated throughout her remarks at all the events and meetings she attended was a stern determination to attain gender parity, end poverty and that every individual has a significant role to play in achieving the SDGs. 🌍

South Africa launches campaign to expand HIV treatment and tackle multiple other diseases

On World AIDS Day on 1 December South Africa launched its multi-disease national wellness campaign to accelerate screening and testing for HIV, tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted and noncommunicable diseases, including hypertension and diabetes. The campaign, known as Cheka Impilo, is a direct response to the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his first State of the Nation address in February last year to initiate an additional 2 million people on HIV treatment by 2020, find 88,000 missing TB cases annually and screen 7 million people for non-communicable diseases during the first year of the campaign.

South Africa has committed to ending the HIV and TB epidemics by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and to achieve universal health coverage. The country has made considerable progress in the past decade and reported having more than 4.5 million people on life-saving antiretroviral therapy by the end of June 2018.

UNAIDS estimates show that the number of AIDS-related deaths in South Africa has dropped significantly, from 200,000 in 2010 to 110,000 in 2017. However, there were 270,000 new HIV infections in 2017, including approximately 77,000 among adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years. South Africa is determined to reduce new HIV infections to 80,000 or fewer annually by the end of 2020.

At a ceremony in Soweto suburb of Johannesburg, the Deputy President of South Africa, David Mabuza, who is also the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), urged his fellow countrymen to end gender-based violence as a driver of HIV infection. He also called on people to get tested for HIV and treatment for those testing positive.

"We will not walk alone. We have always had partners like UNAIDS, the Global Fund and PEPFAR walking with us, side by side, shoulders to the grindstone. We know what unity and struggle is. We are not giving in and we are not turning back," said the deputy president.

UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé attended the event, which marked the 30th commemoration of World AIDS Day. Mr Sidibé also called for an end to gender-based violence, noting: "Oppression and power imbalances must be reversed. Women and girls must be empowered, and harmful masculinities must be consigned to the history books. Our girls and young women deserve a chance to live in a world with dignity and respect and free from violence and HIV."

South Africa's Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi thanked Mr. Sidibé for inspiring him almost a decade ago and encouraging South Africa's leadership to scale up its response to HIV/AIDS. Mr. Sidibé, he said, helped turn South Africa's response into a success story that provided leadership beyond the country, characterized by a journey from despair to hope, and from denial to acceptance and to ownership, made possible by activism, determination and solidarity. 🌈



The then Acting President and the Deputy President of South Africa, David Mabuza, holds aloft condoms in a variety of flavours, available to the public without charge to entice more frequent use, especially among young people.



Young people at the "Colour My HIV" event in Soweto called for more positive promotion of condoms and efforts to make South Africa's AIDS response more relevant to youth.



UK supermodel Naomi Campbell joined UNAIDS National Goodwill Ambassador Loyiso Bala in encouraging young people to identify solutions to the AIDS epidemic, at the forum "Colour My HIV" forum.

Taking over the “Blue Carpet” on World Children’s Day



9 year old Lelo Kingston Mafokeng discusses his book “How I survived Bullying” at the Blue Carpet event in Johannesburg @UNICEF South Africa/2018/Mojapelo

Every year, on 20 November, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) celebrates the World Children’s Day, a day for children whose commemoration has been led by children for the past few years.

For the 2018 commemoration, UNICEF South Africa embraced the spirit of World Children’s Day by hosting “blue-themed” events to raise awareness, advocate for children’s rights and provide them with the opportunity to take over traditionally

adult-dominated spaces to discuss issues around physical and cyber bullying and its effects on mental health.

According to YouGov, a global market research and data analytics firm, South Africa has the fourth highest occurrence of bullying in the world with an average of 24% of learners (3.2 million learners) between the ages of 13-18 reporting being bullied every year (*Safer Schools Report 2015*).

To highlight the worryingly high level of bullying in the country, UNICEF used World Children’s Day to enhance an understanding, from a learner’s perspective, on how children might feel when they are bullied either physically or online and, importantly, who they can approach for help.

The event, led by Mary Anne Nobel and Palesa Motaung from the Children’s Radio Foundation, was staged as an informative Facebook Live Chat Show called “The Blue Carpet” which was held at the studios of Ndalo Media, a partner of UNICEF. With support from UNICEF’s established corporate partners, Ster Kinekor and Facebook, the session brought together children between the ages of 13 and 18

from ten different schools to have their voices heard and share their experiences on how to tackle bullying.

The radio studio session was followed by a tour of the Facebook South Africa offices. UNICEF selected the learners based on the active roles they took in standing up against bullying.

To mark the day and in collaboration with Red September, an advertising agency, UNICEF launched a Facebook Bot called the “Mask A Raid” with an aim to protect children from cyber bullying when using social media. The goal of the initiative is to make children more aware of sexting and online privacy. The Bot is an interactive experience that introduces users to “Thembi”, a 21-year-old character that experiences the consequences of personal intimate pictures shared online.

The online interactive experience was followed by a discussion led by nine-year-old author Lelo Kingston Mofokeng. After experiencing bullying, Lelo decided to help other learners who are also being bullied. In his book, he encourages victims to “speak to a grown up that you trust” about their experiences and urges bullies to reflect on their behavior and think about the emotional pain they are inflicting on victims and their families.

In her remarks on the World Children’s Day, Sandra Bisin, the Chief of Communications and Partnerships at UNICEF South Africa, said: “We need to educate parents and educators so they can guide children better and provide age appropriate recommendations. Indeed, with the help of supportive parents, youth will be able to speak out about their experiences and have the confidence to take proactive action.”

UNICEF South Africa hopes to continue hosting events like the Blue Carpet to raise awareness about bullying through youth voices and encourage other young people to speak out about their experiences.



Participants at the Blue Carpet online discussion held at the offices of Facebook South Africa on World Children’s Day @UNICEF South Africa/Chopra

Leading Like Mandela: “Let’s walk the talk”

“Be proactive, positively disruptive and innovative; show the world what meaningful youth participation and leadership looks like as we strive to achieve the SDGs; constructively contribute to everything you do; learn from the lesson of the past to shape a better future.” This was the appeal from the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed when she addressed the youth and delegates at the launch of the “Leading Like Mandela” initiative last December.

The initiative is a collaborative effort between the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Thembekile Mandela Foundation and the Forum for Former African Heads of State and Government (Africa Forum), designed to inspire, motivate and encourage youth to not only follow in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela but to internalize his ways and become great leaders. The programme further strives to develop African and global leadership to empower young

people with a deeper awareness and understanding of the leadership qualities and characteristics of the former South African president.

Leading Like Mandela will also offer leadership development courses to individuals from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society organisations. The courses will consist of a series of case studies, inter-generational dialogues and exercises for self-reflection. The goal is to enable participants to gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of Mandela’s leadership legacy and to apply these principles and practices in daily life to further unleash leadership potentials. The courses are also expected to inculcate participants with transformational leadership skills that will enable them to adopt innovative action to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The programme was the brainchild of Nelson Mandela’s eldest grandchild, Ndileka Mandela, the daughter of

Mandela’s first child, Thembekile, who passed away while Madiba was in prison and subsequently banned from attending his funeral by the apartheid government.

In her remarks, the UN Deputy Secretary-General said that there was a need to not only talk about Madiba’s leadership style but live out his values, a sentiment expressed by Ndileka, who contributed to an inter-generational dialogue at the launch. A plaque of Madiba was unveiled at the event to symbolize the passing of the leadership baton to young people.

Graça Machel, an SDG Advocate and widow of the late Nelson Mandela demonstrated her commitment to youth by pledging to help build the institution and bring people together in support of SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The call for pledges also extends to the public who want to walk the talk and Lead Like Mandela. 🌍



(L-R) UN Resident Coordinator, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Graça Machel, Ndileka Mandela, Amina Mohammed, Minister Radebe and Bishop Malusi Mpumwana unveiled a plaque of Madiba

UN marks 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

South Africa marked the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a visit by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, who joined President Cyril Ramaphosa at commemoration event held in Johannesburg last December. The event also marked the centenaries of the births of former President Nelson Mandela and former anti-apartheid activist Albertina Sisulu, as well as the 22nd anniversary of the entry into force of South Africa's Constitution.

In his keynote address, President Ramaphosa acknowledged the historical role and contribution the Universal Declaration had played in the development of South Africa's Constitution.

"It is no coincidence that our Constitution was signed into law by Nelson Mandela on the same day that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been adopted by the UN General Assembly 48 years earlier," he said, adding: "The centrality of human rights in our law,

and the importance of having a Bill of Rights included in our Constitution, is in no small part thanks to the enduring impact of a Declaration that has proven to be as relevant as it is timeless. Seventy years since it was adopted, South Africa reaffirms its commitment to upholding this pact between the peoples of the world."

High Commissioner Bachelet acknowledged how "South Africans have taught us the power of the people's protest against oppression and the force of justice to change minds and transform the world." She highlighted the role of women activists noting, "Mama Sisulu and other South African women taught us to emulate their fearlessness, their tremendous strength and their fortitude. No tribute to this country's struggle for freedom would be complete without recognition of their role."

Some 300 guests convened at Constitution Hill, a highly symbolic location for such a commemoration given its history as a former prison and military fort which once saw the incarceration of Nelson Mandela

and Albertina Sisulu – and its contemporary use as the seat of South Africa's highest court, the Constitutional Court. The event's high-level panel discussion brought together members of the Mandela and Sisulu families, inspirational and esteemed thought leaders, youth, civil society representatives, and human rights defenders in an interactive conversation on what the Declaration means to South Africa.

The event was part of a broader campaign to reflect, engage and promote a deeper understanding of human rights, on how the Declaration empowers all people and encourages them to stand up for human rights. The campaign included several activities supported and organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in conjunction with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Foundation for Human Rights, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Constitutional Rights Education Working Group and other civil society groups. 🌍



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet and President Cyril Ramaphosa officiated the event marking the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Decent jobs critical to development

Labour partners in South Africa recently came together and agreed on a new programme that will benefit workers through the provision of decent jobs as championed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The agreement on the programme, which will run from 2018 to 2023, was signed by the Government's Department of Labour, representatives from the labour federations, (COSATU, FEDUSA and NACTU), the Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), representing employers' organisations, and community constituents.

The new South Africa Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) is considered a great accomplishment for the labour market actors in the country as it prioritizes the critical areas for intervention in the labour market and spells out the support to be provided by ILO to its partners and ultimately to workers.

The DWCP is a strategic programme of action that is developed through consultations among these tripartite partners (government, unions and employers) with ILO support. Through this consultative process three priority areas have been identified to have the greatest impact on the labour market in South Africa, namely: the promotion of more and better jobs; the expansion of social protection coverage and the strengthening of tripartite partners.

The DWCP agreement was signed by ILO's Director General Guy Rider, South African Labour Minister Mildred Oliphant and a representative from the labour federations, Zingiswa Losi (Confederation of South African Trade Unions) and Kaizer Moyane from Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) at a ceremony held



Representative from the labour federations, Kaizer Moyane (BUSA), the South African Minister of Labour, Mildred Oliphant, the ILO's Director General, Guy Rider and representative from the labour federations Zingiswa Losi (Cosatu) signed the DWCP, in Geneva, Switzerland.

in Geneva, Switzerland. All the parties committed themselves to driving decent work into the South African development agenda.

According to the DWCP, more and better jobs will be created by implementing labour policy reforms and interventions through aligning these policies with ILO's core conventions on assisting the informal economy to formalize and strengthen labour market institutions. This support will be based on current developments within the job market to ensure that the support provided to job seekers, workers, entrepreneurs and employers is relevant and responds more effectively to the needs of these groups, particularly among women and youth.

The expansion of social protection coverage is a key priority for the ILO that seeks to address family poverty, especially those in rural areas. South Africa has a developed social protection system; however, refinements are required including the co-ordination between social protection programmes and finding the best funding models, especially for the National Health Insurance system that is being implemented. Through these interventions, the reach and coverage of

these systems will be expanded.

The strengthening of tripartite partners is another key priority area that the DWCP will focus on. There are two areas of focus. The first seeks to strengthen the partners themselves, while the second seeks to enhance the engagement between these partners. In developing the capacity of partners, the emphasis will be on improving inclusivity of policies and membership to keep these organizations relevant and responsive to their constituents needs.

These priorities align to the national, sub-regional, continental and global frameworks namely, the National Development Plan 2030, Mid Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019, the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, the SADC DWP 2013-2019, the AU Agenda 2063, AU Declaration on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development in Africa, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Through the DWCP, South African labour market actors are well positioned to play a significant role in meeting the employment and social protection needs of the majority of South Africans. 🌍

Commemorating International Anti-Corruption Day



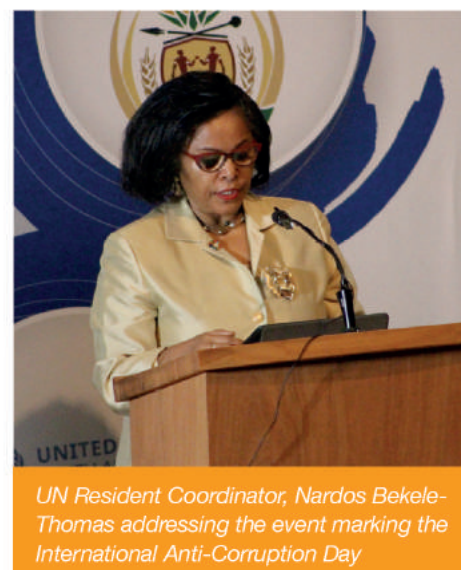
According to South Africa's Department of Economic Development, corruption costs the country's economy at least R27 billion (about US\$2 billion) annually as well as the loss of 76,000 jobs that would otherwise have been created. In her statement at an event in Pretoria to mark the 2018 International Anti-Corruption Day, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Africa, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, noted that "as staggering as this figure is, there are suggestions that it could be an underestimation of the real cost of corruption to the economy and in an environment where the creation of jobs is a priority the jobs lost to corruption are critical".

The International Anti-Corruption Day is commemorated annually on 9 December in recognition of the UN Convention against Corruption

Assembly and is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. In South Africa, the Day's 15th anniversary was organized by the Public Service Commission, in partnership with the UN and the University of South Africa (UNISA) under the theme "United against Corruption: Working together to enhance an environment where the rule of law prevails".

Ms. Bekele-Thomas highlighted Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and noted that South Africa has dropped from 64th to 71st in the ranking, indicating that perceived corruption levels in the country have increased over the past 24 months, effectively reversing the improvements made over the preceding periods. She also pointed out the difficulties of estimating the cost of corruption because of the sheer secrecy behind the practice.

"We also underestimate the cost and impact of corruption because our framing of corruption tends to limit it to activities that entail the illegal transfer or movement of money for personal



UN Resident Coordinator, Nardos Bekele-Thomas addressing the event marking the International Anti-Corruption Day



gain,” she said. “The reality, however, is that corruption includes public inefficiencies, wasting of resources and irregular expenditure.”

The Resident Coordinator urged her listeners to pay special attention to the annual figures released by the Auditor-General on wasteful and irregular expenditure of the state. According to the Auditor General, this amounts to as much as R79 billion (US\$6 billion) of wasteful expenditure. When these figures are added, conservative estimates of public sector corruption well exceed R100 billion (\$7.7 billion). “These staggering figures are a material diversion of much needed public resources from schools, clinics and much more,” she said.

Turning to private sector corruption and its impact on development, Ms. Bekele-Thomas noted: “We would be amiss if we did not reflect on illicit financial flows out of the continent and their impact on development financing. Some of the figures quoted in this regard are absolutely staggering: between \$1.2 trillion and \$1.4 trillion has left Africa in illicit financial flows between 1980 and 2009—roughly equal to Africa’s current gross domestic product”.

According to Ms. Bekele-Thomas, contrary to popular belief, money stolen by corrupt governments is insignificant compared to the other forms of illicit outflows. The most common way illicit money is moved across borders is

through international trade. “This is an area of corruption in the continent we have to understand better for us to be able to deal with it. Our tax and prosecuting institutions must ensure that they attract and develop the requisite skills to deal with these complex crimes.”

In his statement on the Day, the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, credited the UN Convention against Corruption for getting nearly every country in the world to pass laws that criminalize corruption. “The international community has recognized that combating corruption is essential for preventing and addressing root causes of conflict and violent extremism, building peace and protecting human rights,” he said. More than 186 State Parties have signed the convention.

In her remarks at the event, the UNODC’s Representative for Southern Africa, Zhuldyz Akisheva, said she was “proud to highlight that South Africa was one of the first signatories to the Convention”. Corruption is a serious crime that can undermine social and economic development in all societies, she said, adding that no country, region or community was immune. “Therefore, this day provided an opportunity for political leaders, governments, business, legal bodies and lobby groups to join

forces against corruption, as it is one of the biggest impediments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

Discussions at the event focused on the progress made thus far in establishing a relevant anti-corruption policy framework in South Africa, for example, the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, as well as on specific issues such as whistleblower protection and illicit financial flows. Advocate Richard Sizani, the Chairperson of South Africa’s Public Service Commission, said that the loss of revenue in South Africa due to corruption could be greater than what the country receives in official development assistance. He urged “everyone to have a zero tolerance against corruption by building a value system which is embedded on ethics and transparency”.

Key national institutions, including the South African Revenue Services and the Financial Intelligence Centre, have come together to set up a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team to coordinate efforts to crack down on illicit financial flows. The National Prosecution Authority of South Africa is leading regional cooperation efforts to address money laundering through the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa (ARINSA), which now has 16 members across the region. 🌍



UNODC team engage participants at the event marking the International Anti-Corruption Day

Forum urges gender activists to strengthen democracy and development



UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (centre) speaks as Ms. Kate Gilmore (left), United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Activist Ntsiki Sisulu look on. Photo: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

Feminist civic activists, youth and social movements have been urged to strengthen democracy, gender equality and sustainable development. The call was made at a high-level forum held in late last year under the theme, "Supporting social movements and civil society activism to Leave No One Behind for peace, prosperity and sustainable development."

"We recognize that there is no country that has attained true equality in which women are central without a strong women's movement," UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka told participants. "But that on its own is not enough. You actually need to ensure that you have democratic institutions, that disability rights are respected, that children's rights are respected because all of these have to be fought together," she said.

The Deputy High Commissioner for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Kate Gilmore, called on everyone to "lower the fists of violence against women

and discrimination, extend the hand of solidarity, activism and engagement and stand up for human rights."

The forum, which was held at the University of South Africa (UNISA) during the commemoration of Women's Month and 70 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was signed, was organized by UN Women and the OHCHR in partnership with Amnesty International, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, UNISA, the Commission for Gender Equality, Mama Albertina Sisulu Centenary and the Government of South Africa. It provided a platform to reflect on the need to leave no one behind when considering the challenges to civic engagement and threats to civil society and women's rights activism.

Governments were also urged to act on strengthening civil society activism to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, women's right to land ownership. Tawanda Mutasah, the Senior Director of Amnesty International, reiterated the need for states to hold each other

accountable on human rights and for civil society to speak truth to power.

Speaking at the forum, the Economic Advisor to the President of South Africa, Trudi Makhaya, called on governments to prioritize what matters for human beings in their national budgets and to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

The event symbolised the coming together of inter-generational and inter-sectional forces to discuss national and global strategies of activism to re-affirm the voice of civil society and feminist activism within governments, the UN and civil society organizations.

Young women urged their elders to pass on the baton and mentor them on championing women's empowerment and equality. "I want to challenge all the women who have been veterans of the struggle and the apartheid era to transfer this knowledge and experience to us, transfer the baton to us," said Vanessa Mokobedi, a student leader from UNISA's Student Representative Council. 🌍

Telling our stories: UNICEF supports Digital Story-telling for young people



A facilitator shares tips on Digital Story-telling by use of mobile phones.

“We all have access to apps on our smartphones but we are all not aware of how we can use these apps to tell young peoples' stories,” explains South African youth reporter, Bongani Dlamini at a UNICEF-organized Digital Story-telling Training course.

Filmmaking is often considered a daunting process and is associated with expensive equipment. However, with effective apps being built on mobile phones and a growing culture of capturing social issues on smartphones and sharing short films on social media, millennials are finding innovative and accessible platforms to reach large audiences.

In light of its commitment to youth engagement, UNICEF believes that educating future generations on social issues will not only help raise awareness about social issues but will also contribute to practical and creative solutions. Over a six-day period, trainees learned the art of storytelling through practical and theoretical lessons on the filmmaking with British documentary film-maker Kate Middleton provided the training.

With this in mind, UNICEF hosted 20 youth reporters from east and southern Africa who were given the opportunity to learn sustainable and accessible ways to digitally report issues affecting their communities through film. Aged between the ages of 16 and 20, the youth reporters were chosen based on their involvement in their communities and active digital profiles and came from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and were joined by UNICEF staff from the region.

UNICEF plans to continue its partnership with the youth reporters and envisages them using the skills learned at the workshop to not only train others in their communities but to make films about which they are passionate. In collaboration with UNICEF, each youth reporter has been tasked with producing a film about a social issue in their community.

By giving youth the skills to produce engaging digital stories, UNICEF hopes to build youth-led content that can be used during engagements with key stakeholders including policy makers, donors as well as other young people to help bring solutions to issues that affect youth today.

Each country office is expected to support their chosen youth reporter and provide guidance throughout the process. Chaperones present at the training are also expected to help youth organize training workshops so youth reporters can pass on their skills to other young people in their communities.

Dlamini plans to combine his previous experiences as an active member of his school's GEM-BEM club (an initiative that UNICEF helped establish) and the skills he has learned during this workshop to go into schools and document social issues around the violence youth face in schools but also, he adds, “to celebrate and capture the amazing initiatives that young people are designing and leading to address issues that affect our lives”.



Participants listen at a session on basics of Digital Story-telling

PHOTO GALLERY



Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed in South Africa for the Global Citizen Festival events December 2018



Danai Gurira, UN Goodwill Ambassador with UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

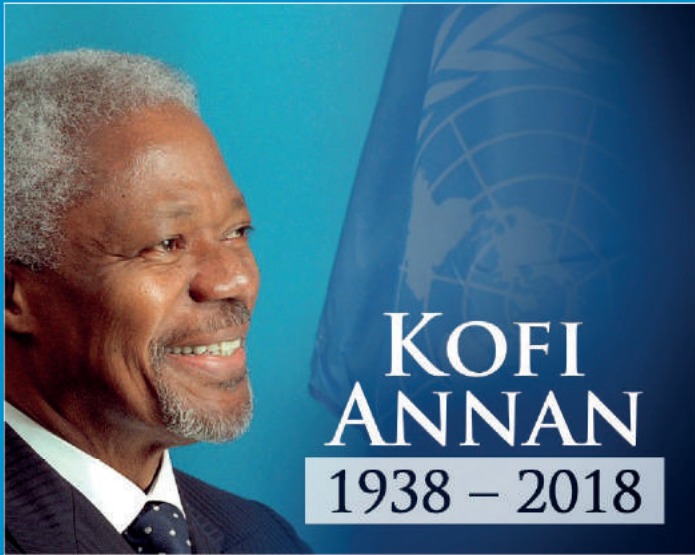


UN Deputy Secretary-General meets UN Staff on her visit to South Africa for the Global Citizen Festival



#TotalShutDown Protest March – Women's march calling for an end to violence against women in South Africa

IN MEMORY OF FORMER UN SECRETARY-GENERAL DR. KOFI ANNAN



Ghana's High Commissioner to South Africa, His Excellency Mr. George Ayisi-Boateng and Judge Navi Pillay



UN choir at the Kofi Annan memorial



UNICEF Team

UN Women announces Danai Gurira as Goodwill Ambassador during Global Citizen Festival in Johannesburg



UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Danai Gurira (left), at the Global Citizen Festival Mandela 100 with the Under Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, in Johannesburg.

The UN Women has appointed internationally renowned award-winning actor-playwright Danai Gurira as its Goodwill Ambassador. With this designation, Ms. Gurira will lend her name and dedicate her support to putting a spotlight on gender equality and women's rights, as well as bringing unheard women's voices to the fore.

Introducing Ms. Gurira on-stage at the Global Citizen Festival Mandela 100 held in Johannesburg on 2 December, the United Nations Under Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, highlighted the power of advocacy and the urgent need to get everyone involved in efforts to end violence against women and girls and to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment reaches the most marginalized globally. The designation was also made during the UN's global annual advocacy campaign, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence which is marked every year from 25 November to 10 December.

"UN Women is delighted to welcome Danai Gurira in her new role as Goodwill Ambassador to support our work on gender equality," Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, told the audience. "As a playwright, actor and activist in pursuit of women's empowerment



Danai Gurira on a panel at the African Leadership Academy, as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence global campaign.

and gender equality with her sharp human rights lens, she is uniquely qualified to communicate and inspire. She recognizes the challenges of intersectionality and will connect with the diversity of women living on the margins of society.”

“Her engagement with us will bring generations of girls greater belief in a positive future. As an influential role model in both her personal and professional life, and a voice for those who have not yet been heard, we look forward to her ability to drive action on gender equality in communities across the world,” she added.

In her response, Ms. Gurira expressed her gratitude for the honour to join the UN Women family. “My passion for women and girls has been my focus in the narratives I create as well as the roles I have been able to play. I have always sought to push the boundaries and tell the stories of those who are

often marginalized and unheard,” she said. She pointed out that her own advocacy for women and girls has made her deeply aware of UN Women as she had experienced its work on the ground. She added that she was delighted to partner with UN Women to amplify many more stories from around the world and give a voice to those who were working relentlessly to make gender equality a reality.

“We are at an urgent time, a time where our participation is crucial to ensure that all women and girls, no matter where they live, where they grow up or where they work, are in a world where their potential can be fully actualized; a world of true equality,” she added.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka and Ms. Gurira also engaged with over 200 young women leaders at the African Leadership Academy. They discussed their challenges and experiences within academia and the work force, and in

ending violence against women as part of the 16 Days of Activism.

“I want young girls to remember the women who came before them, so they know the courage of women, the courage inside themselves,” Ms. Gurira told the young women.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka also emphasized that youth make up a huge part of the global population and that their voices and experiences need to be heard and shared. “If you don’t speak to as many young people as possible in our society, we are totally missing the point.”

The 2018 UN theme, “Orange the World: #HearMeToo”, sought to broaden the global conversation and highlight the voices and activism of all survivors of violence and advocates around the world—many of whom are often missing from the media headlines and social media discussions. 🌍

Leaders call for an end to gender-based violence and femicide

In what the organizers described as a historical turning point, the Presidential National Summit on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide in South Africa put the spotlight on the excessive scale of the scourge, including the killing and rape of women and children and the ineffective court processes over the past years.

The summit was a result of one of the 24 demands tabled in a memorandum presented by #TheTotalShutdown movement who marched and occupied the Union Buildings in Pretoria late last year. The movement is composed of South African women from all walks of life who have become fed up with ongoing gender-based violence. The summit brought together more than 1,200 delegates from government, civil society and trade unions. It heard gut-wrenching testimonies of women

survivors of GBV and sexual abuse, some illustrating how the justice system has failed them.


In her address, United Nations Resident Coordinator Nardos Bekele-Thomas commended the bravery of the survivors who gave testimonies telling delegates, "It is time to respond to the cries for justice of women and children and end the horrible acts of violations by taking action against the impunity that allows these human rights violations to continue."

Ms. Bekele-Thomas re-affirmed the UN's commitment to work with the government to enable institutions to provide the necessary services to women when they are most vulnerable. She further urged the delegates and the Presidency to find effective ways of identifying silent survivors and exploring

ways of dealing with gender-based violence from atrocious acts to reporting systems which do not favour victims and thus perpetuate the practice.

To this end, the Resident Coordinator called for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary rapid response deployment team which should be on call whenever emergencies arise. She reiterated the UN Secretary-General's commitment to eradicate sexual abuse, harassment and abuse of power in the workplace, including response mechanisms that have been introduced within the UN.

One of the outcomes of the two-day summit was the Presidency's commitment to implement a targeted, social behaviour change programme to address patriarchal practices and structural drivers of gender-based violence. Additionally, the declaration commits to establish an overarching, multisectoral gender-based violence coordinating structure and a national strategic plan on GBV. This approach would be targeted towards all sectors, including individuals, families, communities, civil servants, religious and traditional leaders, the private sector, the media and others that are strategically placed to influence attitudes, behaviours and practices, supported by an effective, well-resourced communication strategy.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women form part of the steering committee set up by the Department of Women in the Presidency to explore the implementation of gender responsive budgeting, planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as gender auditing which is at the core of solving GBV. 

SAY NO UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN





The then Acting President and Deputy President of South Africa, David Mabuza (left), the Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi (centre), and the UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé launch the Cheka Impilo national wellness campaign during the World AIDS Day event in Soweto on 1 December.

Youth-friendly HIV prevention strategy puts condoms at centre-stage

Young people are being encouraged to ensure that they have “no regrets” over their sexual relations by using condoms correctly and consistently. The call was made by the then Acting President and Deputy President of South Africa, David Mabuza, during the annual celebration of World AIDS Day in Soweto on 1 December. Mr. Mabuza urged people attending the “Colour My HIV” forum to take advantage of free male and female condoms available across the country.

Speaking at the same event, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi encouraged young people to use the social media hashtag #NoRegrets to help spread the message that condoms are an effective method to prevent HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections as well as prevent unwanted pregnancies. Other speakers also encouraged the audience to reinforce that message with the hashtag #NoCondomNoSex.

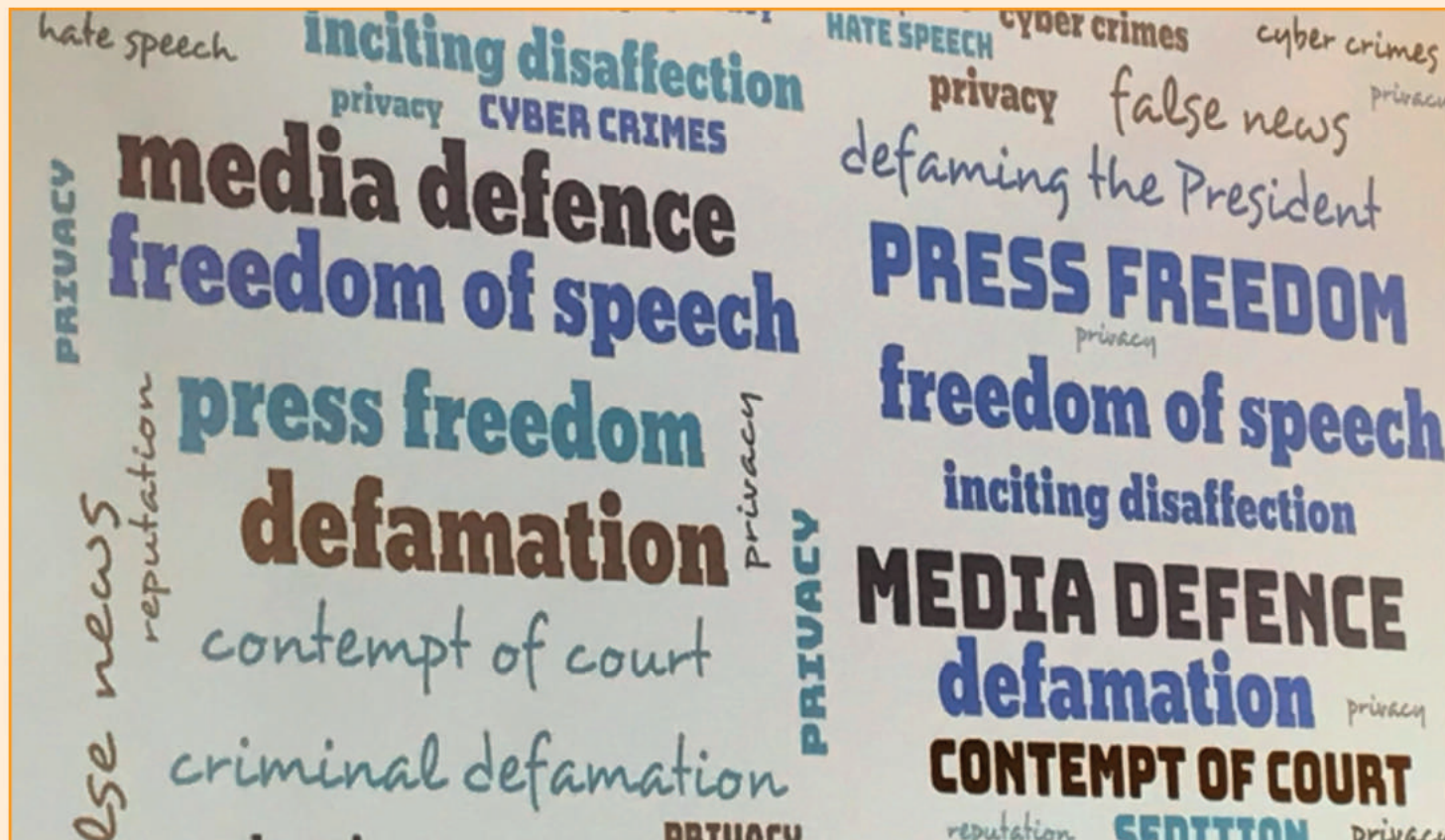
The “Colour My HIV” forum drew hundreds of young women and men to debate the issues confronting young people, including those at risk of HIV infection and people living with HIV, and to clarify their priorities and potential contribution to ending the epidemic by 2030.

The “Colour My HIV” youth dialogue resulted in a set of recommendations to the government in five key areas: ending gender-based violence; addressing substance abuse; improving access to basic health services; encouraging condom use and reducing stigma; and expanding education on sexual and reproductive health. The proposals included a call to make HIV discussions more vibrant and encourage youth to take more interest.



Several hundred young people attended the “Colour My HIV” event in Soweto.”

Supporting the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network



Leaders defend the spirit of the Universal Declaration

“More than a hundred human rights defenders from across Southern Africa gathered in Johannesburg late last year to reflect on the closing of civic space in many countries of the region. The occasion was the first summit held by the newly established Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN).

Discussions focused on how criminal laws and practices can inhibit freedom of assembly and expression, the role of the judiciary in protecting human rights defenders, and other challenges human rights defenders face in carrying out their work. The summit reemphasised the importance of

forging solidarity among human rights groups that face restraints on their ability to operate and to organize.

A keynote address was delivered by Judge Sanji Mmasenono Monageng, former Vice-President of the International Criminal Court, who spoke of her time in the judiciary in Botswana and Gambia. The retired judge highlighted the importance of impartiality of judiciaries, as well as the need for efficient access to the courts for human rights defenders and other civil society organisations.

The summit’s report provided an outline of the various challenges faced by human rights defenders throughout

the Southern African region and called on governments to take urgent action to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly in the region.

The event was co-sponsored by the Southern Africa Litigation Centre, the International Commission of Jurists, the Media Legal Defence Initiative, and AIDS and Rights Alliance of Southern Africa. While participants were drawn from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. 🌍

The Mandela Rules: South Africa is committed to the fair treatment of prisoners

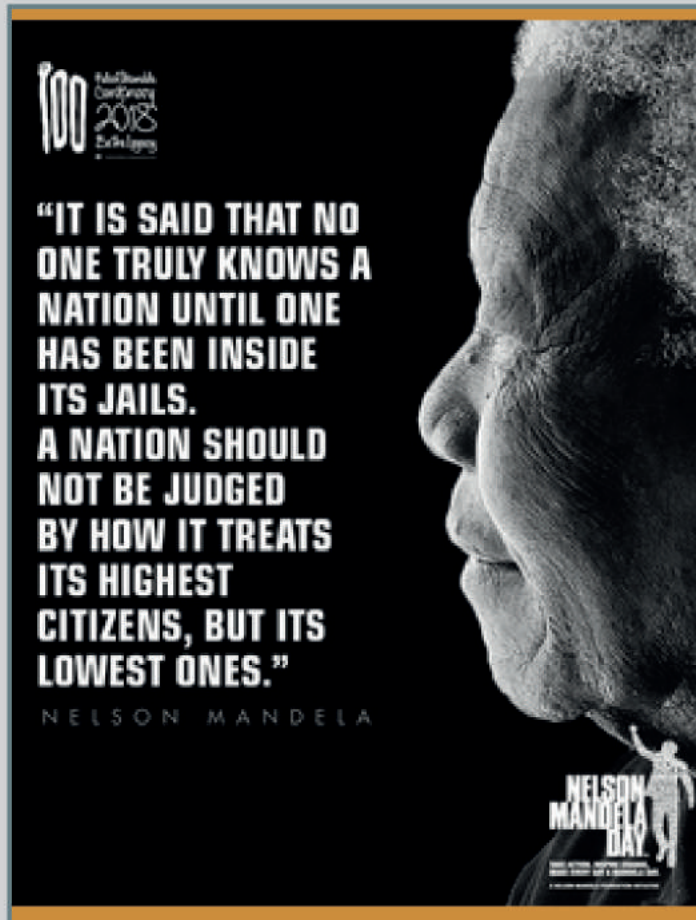
While the Government of South Africa has organized a lot of high-impact and high-visibility events last year to commemorate the Nelson Mandela Centenary, one event stands out because of its special meaning. This is an event that reconfirms the commitment of the State to treat all prisoners with respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.

The United Nations Minimum Standards of Treatment of Prisoners, named after former President Nelson Mandela, recognizes his outstanding contribution to a culture of peace and freedom. On 24 July 2018, as part of the commemoration of Nelson Mandela Centenary, the South African Government launched the event to draw attention to the more than 10 million prisoners worldwide as well as to the work of those entrusted with their safe, secure and humane custody.

With the memory of Nelson Mandela in mind, who spent 27 years of his life in prison, the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in December 2015 as “the Nelson Mandela Rules”. The rules resulted from five years of inter-governmental consultations and represent a landmark harmonization of the original 1957 version with international law and good prison management practices.

By launching the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Government re-affirmed its commitment to advance prison reform in line with human rights standards. South Africa’s Justice and Correctional Services Minister Michael Masutha highlighted that the Nelson Mandela Rules provide important guidance on the internationally recognized standards in treating prisoners. Although these rules don’t have legally binding power, South Africa is ready to incorporate them in relevant national policy and legal documents. The minister also talked about the prison reform process already initiated in the country, the main achievements and the challenges remaining in applying comprehensive measures for the prison reform to be successful.

In recognition of the UN role in facilitating the inter-governmental negotiation process which resulted in adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Government of South Africa presented the organization, through UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a memorable gift—a replica of Nelson Mandela shoes he wore when he was released from prison.



The launch ceremony was held at the Drakenstein Correctional Centre (the former Victor Verster maximum security prison), which was the last place at which Mandela was incarcerated, and it was through the gates of this prison that Mandela walked to freedom in 1990.

To commemorate this pledge, the Government opened a memorial plaque at the entrance to the Drakenstein Correction Centre in the presence of the UNODC Regional Representative, Zhuldyz Akisheva, and UNODC officials, who expressed confidence that South Africa, with its experience, knowledge and human rights principles enshrined in its Constitution, will play an important role in supporting the implementation of Nelson Mandela Rules at the national, regional and international levels.



Sex-work activists challenge stigma and legal woes in South Africa

UNAIDS Regional Director Catherine Sozi (far left), UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Goedele Liekens (second from right), Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander De Croo (third from right) and UNFPA Country Representative Beatrice Mutali (far right) joined Programme Coordinator Jane Arnott, Charity Chadyendiya and other sex work activists at the SWEAT facility in Cape Town.

The right to health of sex workers took centre stage during a recent visit to South Africa by the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, Alexander De Croo.

Ahead of World AIDS Day on 1 December 2018, De Croo, who is also Belgium's Minister of Development Cooperation, visited the Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task Force (SWEAT) in Cape Town. The visit was an effort to put a human face on the issues surrounding sex work and especially the stigma and risks of violence and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that sex workers face. Sex work is criminalized in South Africa and this is identified in the National Sex Worker HIV Plan 2016–2019 as being a barrier to the full implementation of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, tuberculosis and STIs.

De Croo was joined by UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Catherine Sozi, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative, Beatrice Mutali and the UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, Goedele Liekens.

The Belgian deputy prime minister is an advocate of the "She Decides", a movement for the rights of girls and

young women, which is guided by a group of Champions that includes South Africa's Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi. Mr. De Croo also supports UNICEF's recently-launched "Generation Unlimited" programme and the "She is Equal" campaign organized by the Global Citizen movement for sexual and reproductive health rights and eliminating gender-based violence among adolescent girls and young women.

"When we talk on the international level about sex work policy, it is done in a dehumanized way," said Mr. De Croo. "We forget that all of this is about humans. The discussions here with sex workers at SWEAT strengthens my belief that we need programmes like She Decides."

UNAIDS estimates that in 2017 there were 112,000 sex workers in South Africa with HIV prevalence of almost 58% in 2015. Sex workers are at higher risk of HIV infection for several reasons, including the inability to negotiate condom use with clients in all cases, a high rate of STIs, and contextual factors such as harassment and abuse of sex workers by clients and local police which creates barriers to accessing health and HIV services.

South Africa developed the National Sex Worker HIV Plan to address HIV prevention and treatment among sex workers. The plan provides for prescription of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and, since 2016, sex workers have been offered PrEP in several pilot sites around South Africa. Currently there are approximately 3 800 sex workers accessing PrEP from a target of approximately 14,000.

Civil society partners such as SWEAT have worked closely with the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) to develop and implement the Sex Worker HIV Plan. SWEAT's core objective is to provide sex workers with health and rights services while advocating for sex work to be decriminalised in South Africa. Over the past 20 years, SWEAT has established a visible campaign for a legal and safe adult sex work industry where sex work is acknowledged as work, and where sex workers have a strong voice which informs and influences wider social debates.

During the visit, the delegation had the opportunity to hear the concerns of sex workers and engage with them on a number of issues, including stigma and discrimination in health care settings,

challenges in accessing and adhering to PrEP, and the decriminalization of sex work. Many of the sex workers spoke of the stigma and the rigorous process of accessing PrEP, which can be “off-putting” for some. One sex worker said, “We know some of us are HIV negative, but we are afraid of the stigma of being HIV positive when we go to the clinic.” “When sex workers do get access to HIV

prevention services, the government helps with condoms and PrEP but the local police take them away as ‘evidence’ of sex work...so the government gives and the local police takes away!” said SWEAT Programme Coordinator Jane Arnott.

“Despite advances, we see stories in the media every day about the abuse, harassment and rape of sex workers,”

said Dr. Sozi from UNIADS. “They are not safe and still have to operate in the shadows. UNAIDS will continue to advocate globally and locally for the protection of human rights, access to health services and sexual and reproductive health services for sex workers.”

UN staff commemorate World AIDS Day

“**K**now your HIV status,” that was the main message from Dr. Mbulawa Mugabe, the UNAIDS Country Director in South Africa to UN staff as the global organization marked the 2018 World AIDS Day on 1 December. The call for people to know their HIV status was also last year’s theme.

Addressing staff at the World AIDS Day, Dr. Mugabe said promoting the well-being of the workforce of the UN was a fundamental aspect of management’s duty of care to staff. It was also in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals which, among others, call on the need to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

Sindiswa Mathiso, the Wellness Coordinator, talked about the importance of the UN Cares’ minimum standards of health which

help mitigate or control health concerns that ultimately improve productivity and absenteeism in the workplace. As part of the event, the Wits Reproductive Health Institute was available to give HIV self-screening kits and also assisted in demonstrating the use of both the male and female condoms.

The event kicked off with a presentation from Musa Nxumalo, a business coach who encouraged staff members to remain resilient, regardless of the situation they are faced with in life. “It is only when we are healthy and happy that we can contribute better to our development work and that of this beautiful country.” said Dr. Mugabe. Prior to this, he lit candles in remembrance of those who succumbed to AIDS.



Dr. Mbulawa Mugabe, at the podium, the UNAIDS Country Director and UN staff lighting a candle in remembrance of those who succumbed to AIDS.

High-school students at the Johannesburg Model UN



“Future diplomats” with UNICEF representative, Sanjay Wijesekera, at the Johannesburg Model UN

In a bright auditorium adorned with the colorful flags of the member states of the United Nations, 300 high school students gathered to participate in the annual Johannesburg Model UN Conference organized by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

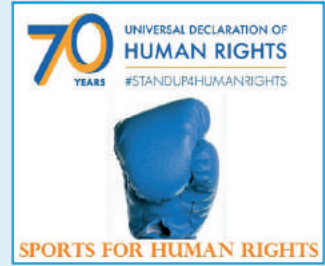
“Caucus, veto, abstain” are just some of the international diplomatic lexicon that were convincingly used by the students who were themselves referred to as “delegates” of the UN. At a time when UNICEF is increasingly focusing, both globally and nationally, on how to enhance the Young People’s Agenda, the South African Model UN is a shining example of youth talent, eloquence and confidence in action. As a recent partner of SAIIA, UNICEF provided a range of information materials for the participants and contributed book prizes to the winning teams.

By playing the role of UN Member States on a range of topical issues, the students get to understand the world of

multilateralism and diplomacy in a tangible and interactive way. A range of critical issues were discussed at this year’s Johannesburg Model UN including gender equality, nuclear non-proliferation, the war in Syria and clean energy.

Delivering the keynote address at the event was the Representative of UNICEF South Africa, Sanjay Wijesekera, who commended the participants on their commitment to a remarkable programme. As a former Model UN participant during his high school years, Mr. Wijesekera explained how programmes such as the Model UN reflect the power of young people to shape their individual and collective future. 🌍

Standing up for Human Rights through sports



Poster #Standup4Humanrights

As part of a year-long campaign to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) teamed up with United World Wrestling and the South African Wrestling Federation to promote human rights and the Declaration at community level.

The South African Wrestling Federation's "Wrestling4All" initiative saw South African wrestlers from all ages and weight classes convene in Roodepoort, Johannesburg, for an official competition under the banner of wrestling as a sport for all. The

wrestling competition was part of wider open day at the Danie Van Zyl recreation centre where OHCHR's Regional Office for Southern Africa was able to promote the declaration and encourage people to #standup4humanrights.

The guest of honour for the occasion was Ms Natalie du Toit, best known for the gold medals she won at the 2004 Paralympic Games and for being just one of two Paralympians to compete at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Ms du Toit stressed the importance of making sport accessible to all, as well as the right of persons with disabilities to participate.

At the event, the UN Human Rights Office exhibited a collection of posters by renowned graphic designers around the world, to celebrate seven decades of the UDHR. It also mobilized individuals to add their voice by reading our articles of the Declaration that were important to their lives, as well as disseminating information and material about the UN and human rights in South Africa today. Participants and attendees on the day were encouraged to think about human rights mean to them, and how best they can #standup4humanrights! 🌍



South African wrestlers at the Johannesburg competition

Refugee Agency appoints UN Goodwill Ambassadors



Nomzamo Mbatha

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has appointed a South African actress and human rights activist, Nomzamo Mbatha and South African news anchor, Leanne Manas as its newest Goodwill Ambassadors. Since 2017, Ms. Mbatha has worked in close cooperation with UNHCR as a High Profile Supporter and advocate for UNHCR's LuQuLuQu campaign, raising awareness for the forcibly displaced in Africa.

Ms. Mbatha's engagement includes visits to experience UNHCR's life-saving work in camps and settlements in Malawi, Kenya and South Sudan. She also hosted the 2018 Nansen Refugee Award Ceremony, which honoured South Sudanese humanitarian Dr. Evan Atar,

and spoke at TEDxKakumaCamp, the first ever TEDx event to be hosted in a refugee camp. In her talk, she reflected on how her deep attachment to helping refugees, particularly women and children, is rooted in her personal life story of overcoming adversity.

"The strength of refugees, their ability to persevere and their ingenuity for making the best of a difficult situation is what I celebrate. Being named a Goodwill Ambassador is an incredible honour and I can't wait to embark on this journey, learn more and use my voice to truly be an agent of change," said Ms. Mbatha.

"It is with great delight that we welcome Nomzamo Mbatha to the UNHCR family," UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi said. "She has shown tireless commitment to shining a light on refugee situations across Africa and I look forward to seeing her inspire many more people in this new role."

Ms. Mbatha's appointment comes at a time when war, conflict and persecution have forced over 68 million people to flee their homes—the highest level of displacement ever recorded. Over 25 million of these are refugees, with sub-Saharan Africa hosting over 31% of the global refugee population. 🌍



Leanne Manas

"I am incredibly thrilled to be appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR," Ms. Manas said. "Since my involvement with the The Luquluqu Tribe, I have had the honour and privilege to meet resilient and courageous people who have escaped war and persecution in search of safety. Listening to their stories, I am more compelled than ever to advocate for their cause."

Ms. Manas' first official role as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador was to participate in the #StepForSafety walk in Johannesburg, South Africa in February at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens. The #StepForSafety walk encourages people to walk in solidarity with people who have been forced to flee war, conflict, violence and persecution. 🌍



Nomzamo Mbatha talks to a Sudanese refugee at Doro Refugee Camp, South Sudan in May 2018. © UNHCR/ Eujin Byun



Women and Philanthropy: UNICEF South Africa Influential Women's Circle

Philanthropy plays an important role in the work of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). In early 2018, UNICEF South Africa launched the Influential Women's Circle with a mandate to mobilize female leaders and philanthropists from across South Africa help raise resources to enhance the protection of children from violence and abuse.



UNICEF South Africa Special Advocate for the Influential Women's Circle, Carol Bouwer, at the UNICEF Canada Dialogue in New York @UNICEF South Africa/Reddy

Chaired by well-known South African philanthropist and media company owner, Carol Bouwer, the Influential Women's Circle (IWC) has begun to play a key role in ending violence against children, one of UNICEF's global and national priorities. Similar platforms to the IWC already exist in the UK, France and Canada and here too UNICEF plays an instrumental role in channeling philanthropic resources.

To learn more about the work of the IWC in South Africa, UNICEF Canada extended an invitation to Ms. Bouwer to participate in a dialogue titled, "In Celebration of Women's Philanthropic Leadership and Global Impact" in New York.

Noting the impact that violence has on curbing the development potential of the younger generation, Ms. Bouwer highlighted the efforts of the IWC to

advance the child agenda in South Africa with the guidance of UNICEF. She explained that her work with UNICEF has reminded her that she "cannot be a bystander but rather part of the solution", pointing out the need for young people to have a voice and a say in the decisions that will affect their future.

These views were also aired by the head of UNICEF Canada, David Morley, and the Canadian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Diane Jacovella, who thanked the UNICEF offices throughout the world for their work to ease the lives of children.

The buzz and excitement of the world's largest gathering of heads of state, the UN General Assembly, provided a suitable backdrop for these critical deliberations on the power of partnerships to fully realize UNICEF's mandate. 🌍



A Girl Guide representative from South Africa with IWC Chair Carol Bouwer in New York @UNICEF South Africa/Reddy

Staff Profile: Rhulani Lehloka



Rhulani is the Communications Analyst at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She is a passionate community development specialist who has worked in the development field for more than 15 years. She joined the UNDP in February 2018.

Tell us more about your education and career:

I am a qualified Extraction Metallurgist, but never pursued that career because I found my passion in community development. I started my career in

the development sector as a volunteer in the information and communication department at LoveLife (South Africa's youth HIV prevention programme) and navigated through from there. I also have qualifications in project management, public relations and health management and a Masters' Degree in Public Health from University College Dublin in Ireland.

I have also coordinated school projects, managed information dissemination, worked as a communications manager and an executive director for a non-profit organization. I have supported and managed projects dealing with sexual and reproductive health for young people; advocacy for the rights of people living with HIV; and governance and fund management in non-profit organisations.

During my tenure as Executive Director of The AIDS Consortium, I also served as the Chairperson of the NGO Sector of the South African National AIDS Council. My current role at UNDP is exposing me to other aspects of development.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I either catch up with family and friends, travel, journal, read or bake. I support small non-profit organizations with my knowledge and skills. I like engaging with young women and try to be a good influence to those with whom I interact. Also, as an executive member of the Kader Asmal Alumni, I keep busy with coordinating the efforts of the Alumni to help connect them to career, entrepreneurial and mentorship opportunities.

What is your motto in life?

It depends on the situation, but the one I like most is "nothing is ever as bad as it seems".

What is your favourite quote?

"The highest expression of love is to give without expecting and to accept without exception" from a song by India Arie.

What are your dreams and aspirations?

To work in the African continent with women and girls and teach at an African leadership academy or university. At a personal level, I am always striving to be the best mom and friend to my three children. 🌈

New faces at the UN in SA



Lily Sanya is the new Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) South Africa. She took up her appointment on 22 January 2019. Prior to her current post, she was Chief of Mission to Zimbabwe from March 2016 to January 2019. Ms. Sanya has worked with IOM for the past 22 years in several field operations in sub-Saharan Africa and in central Asia.

She joined the IOM in 1995 and has held several positions since

then. She served in Kenya as a regional Cultural Orientation Trainer for Africa between June 1995 to June 2004. In July 2004, Ms. Sanya temporarily served as a Regional Trainer for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). She also served as an Electoral Support Officer for the IOM's Out of Country Voting Process for Iraq in Syria and the UN Assistance Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the Liberian elections.

She re-joined IOM in September 2005 during which she served in various leadership capacities in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and Nigeria. Ms. Sanya is a national of Kenya. 🌈



Sanjay Wijesekera was appointed the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in South Africa in August 2018.

Mr. Wijesekera has a wealth of experience spanning over three continents, and is no stranger to Africa, and indeed, South Africa, having worked on emergency programmes for Oxfam in Rwanda in 1994 shortly after the genocide. Between 2000 and 2002, Mr. Wijesekera worked for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in South Africa, supporting newly-formed local governments

to take on the responsibility for delivering water and sanitation services to previously under-served communities.

Between 2003 and 2005, he worked for UNICEF in Nigeria and then supported post-tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka. From 2005 to 2011, Mr. Wijesekera was based at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), where he was responsible for managing overall policy and global programmes related to achieving water and sanitation. He also worked for DFID in Ghana as an Infrastructure Adviser, where he helped coordinate a Joint Assistance Strategy for the donor community.

Mr. Wijesekera joined UNICEF in October 2011 as the global Chief of Water, Sanitation

and Hygiene programmes where he managed a team providing technical support to more than 100 countries.

In his current role of Country Representative, Mr. Wijesekera provides overall leadership and guidance to UNICEF programmes to support and protect children's rights in South Africa. UNICEF deploys evidence-based and proven solutions in South Africa to improve outcomes in early childhood development, help end violence against women and children, and to create opportunities for adolescent girls and boys.

Mr. Wijesekera is a Chartered Civil Engineer by profession and holds a Master's degree in Water and Environmental Management from the University of Loughborough, UK.



Francesco M. Pierri was appointed as the Representative to South Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in November 2018. Prior to

this appointment, he was a Policy Officer within the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division in Rome, Italy, where he led the Advocacy Unit and was responsible for the 2014 UN International Year of Family Farming.

Mr. Pierri started his career in 1994 as the National President of the Unione degli Universitari Students' Union in Rome. From

1999 to 2000, he worked as Relief Officer of the Italian Consortium of Solidarity at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also in Rome.

From 2003 to 2011, he undertook several consultancies for the Centre for Agrarian Studies and Rural Development of the Ministry of Agrarian Development in Brazil; the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), providing advice on land and agrarian issues in Southern Africa, Asia and Latin America; and for the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile.

In 2011, he was appointed Head of the International Affairs and Trade Promotion, Cabinet of the Minister for Agrarian Development, Brazil where he led the National Section of the Specialized Meeting

on Family Farming of MERCOSUL and represented the Ministry of Agrarian Development in the BRICS' Agricultural Cooperation Working Group.

He also led a special policy dialogue mission before the Colombian High Commissioner for Peace on governance and public policies for rural development, as part of the consultative process feeding the formulation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia.

Mr. Pierri, a national of Brazil and Italy, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Sciences from Università La Sapienza, and a Ph.D in History and Theory of Economic Development from Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali "Guido Carli" (LUISS) in Rome.



Dr. Akpaka Kalu is the new Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in South Africa. He assumed his responsibilities in October

2018. Prior to this, Dr. Kalu was the WHO Representative in Ethiopia.

A public health practitioner with national and regional working experience in Africa

in strengthening health systems, public health emergency management, diseases control and institutional and organizational transformation, Dr. Kalu has spent over 30 years in public health practice including the last 19 years with the WHO.

Between 1999 and 2016, Dr. Kalu served in the WHO Regional Office for Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe and in Brazzaville, Congo as well as in Libreville, Gabon as part of the WHO inter-country support teams. He also served in WHO Country Offices in Kenya and Sierra Leone.

Over the years Dr. Kalu's professional interest has been in disease control, programme performance management and health entrepreneurship. In regional and inter-country offices, Dr. Kalu served either as Coordinator of Malaria Action Coalition or Malaria Strategic Information and Planning Officer; and in country offices he served either as Immunization Adviser, Malaria Adviser or acting Country Representative.

Dr. Kalu holds M.PH and M.B.B.S degrees from the University of Lagos in Nigeria and the University of Nigeria respectively.



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