

2022



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3rd Annual **International Conference**
on Social Justice – 11 October
4th Annual **Social Justice Summit** – 12 October

Conference Theme: **RESTITUTION**



The Law Trust Chair in **Social Justice**
Prof. Thuli Madonsela

www.socialjustice.sun.ac.za

socialjustice@sun.ac.za

[Social Justice M-Plan](#)

[@socialjusticechairsu](#)

[Social Justice Chair @CFSJ_MPlan](#)

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SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT **CONCEPT NOTE**

The **4th Social Justice Summit** (on 12 October) and the **3rd International Conference on Social Justice** (11 October 2022) will be held at Boschendal Conference Centre in the Western Cape, South Africa under the theme **Restitution**.

Previous themes were: *Leveraging the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Human Rights Agenda to Advance Social Justice* in 2019; *All Hands on Deck to Leave No One Behind in the Post Covid-19 Recovery Agenda* in 2020; and *Law, Policy and Social Justice: Taking Economic Equality Seriously* in 2021.

The purpose of the **Social Justice Summit** and **3rd International Conference on Social Justice** is to bring together government, legislators and other policymakers, judicial officers, civil society, business and international stakeholders, lawyers, and academics to advance social justice and mobilise South Africa and the international community to accelerate progress on ending poverty and inequality in pursuit of the global SDGs. These platforms also seek to integrate social justice perspectives in all policy processes, innovation, academic pursuits and social impact in communities.

The **3rd International Conference on Social Justice: Restitution** will delve into the theory underpinning restitution, the discourses and models of restitution in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and the link between restitution, justice (including social justice and restorative justice), accountability, social inclusion, social cohesion and peace.

The main aim of the summit is to engage in dialogue regarding the rationale for and models of restitution in societies with a history of legalised injustice on various grounds such as race, gender, disability, ethnicity and space.

The summit will also specifically address the restitutive challenges in the aftermath of colonialism, apartheid, patriarchy and other past forms of legalised justice in South Africa. It further explores the adequacy of current policy frameworks for rebuilding better in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the regulatory impact of lockdown regulations.

The summit aims to emerge with concrete proposals and plans for catalysing the advancement of social justice, including remedying the legacy of past injustices. The outcomes will also contribute to the accelerated implementation of South Africa's **Musa Plan for Social Justice (M-Plan)** while catalysing the effective pursuit of and accelerated progress on SDGs on the African continent.

- Summit date:** **12 October 2022** (preceded by the Conference taking place on **11 October 2022**)
- Venue:** Both the Social Justice Summit and Conference will take the form of a hybrid event with the option of attending either online or in person at **Boschendal Conference Centre** close to Stellenbosch in the Western Cape. *The registration link and programme will be shared with delegates closer to the time.*
- Stakeholders:** The event brings together academics, legislators and other policymakers, judicial officers, local government actors, civil society, business, lawyers, judicial officers, and international stakeholders.
- Cost:** R350 per delegate (exemption for NGOs upon request).

Objectives

The key objectives of this summit are:

1. To provide a forum for engaging in and showcasing proficient case studies on the perennial challenge of restitution as part of social justice in South Africa and other contexts of previously legalised injustice.
2. To deepen the dialogue on social justice and mobilisation of South Africa and the international community to accelerate progress on ending poverty and inequality by 2030 in line with the United Nations SDGs, while anchoring the dialogue on restoration, peace, reconciliation, development, redress and accountability.
3. To contribute to the deepening of social justice scholarship and the systematisation of the incorporation of a social justice lens in policy design, law reform, legal practice, academic offerings and other endeavours that have implications for advancing equality and ending poverty by 2030 through the presentation and discussion of research papers and publication of outputs.
4. To provide space for the ongoing exploration of good practices in justice, including social justice theories and models aimed at advancing equality through restitution as part of restorative justice in transitional societies with a legacy of structural inequality due to past unjust laws, policies and programmes.

The focus will be on:

- a) **Wealth, income and economic justice;**
 - b) **Health and well-being, family and social life;**
 - c) **Land, housing and spatial equality;**
 - d) **Impact of digitisation and innovation on the media, education and epistemology;**
 - e) **Public governance, democratic leadership and access to justice.**
5. To contribute to an awareness of the global SDGs and incorporation thereof in policy design and law reform that incorporates redress and accountability in justice and human rights models.
 6. To showcase research, teaching and innovation as well as promote collaboration on social justice, research, teaching, policy reform and monitoring of progress while anchoring accountability.
 7. To highlight the work that has been done and recognise what remains to be done by institutions of higher learning, corporate bodies, government, civil society and faith-based communities, to advance social justice meaningfully.
 8. To provide an update on the innovative research focusing on the Social Justice Impact Matrix (SIAM) and Social Justice Explorer development while sharing global good practices on leveraging data analytics for prospective regulatory impact assessment of planned policies, laws and programmes with a focus on social justice (equality and poverty impact) foresight impact assessment.
 9. To generate policy briefs to enhance the capacity of states and development partners to design and implement policies and programmes that meaningfully reduce inequality and poverty while advancing constitutional governance and accountability.
 10. To review progress achievement on past resolutions, declarations and plans adopted at previous summits and conferences.

Benefits

1. Learn from good global practices demonstrated on restitution and restorative justice relating to historical social injustices.
2. Utilise this platform to disseminate and harness ideas generated at the 3rd International Conference on Social Justice: Restitution.
3. Utilise the opportunity to learn about trends about emerging pathways to achieve restorative justice through restitution aligned with the Musa-Plan (M-Plan) key objectives and the SDGs.
4. Meet multidisciplinary peers engaged in social justice research on restitution to share what works and what does not and identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration.
5. Become part of key social justice policy development that feeds into concrete recommendations for action on various dimensions of historical harm that require redress to ensure substantive equality while promoting social cohesion, the rule of law and peace.
6. Tap into a broader reservoir of literature and information on social justice scholarship and policy directions that have the potential to effect restitution and redress in policy-making.
7. Participate in a programme of activities allowing open dialogue, constructive critique and self-reflection as well as connection to an emerging global social justice movement.
8. Gain information on developments in social justice research, policy reform and tools for using population profile disaggregated data for social impact conscious policy design and implementation.

Background

The Social Justice Chair (CSJ) is a platform that undertakes research, innovative policy tools design, training and stakeholder management to promote social justice scholarship and consciousness; public policy design skills, collaboration in academia and society; as well as to accelerate social justice reform.

Our philosophy is that an investment anchored in shared humanity, prosperity and equitable life changes for all enhances the country's sustainable democracy and peace. To ensure the full realisation of these goals, this summit seeks to deepen social justice scholarship focused on identifying, discussing and engaging restitutive practices which prioritise social justice, reconciliation, redress and accountability as a prerequisite for the achievement of peace and for reducing poverty and inequality in South Africa and on the African continent. Furthermore, the summit seeks to evaluate South Africa's, as well as the African continent's responses to past injustices, to understand the prevailing conditions that continue to hinder access to opportunities and growth for all Africans on the continent, particularly those that have been left at the margins.

The backdrop of the summit and conference will be an appreciation of the fact that despite efforts of transformation in many sectors, globally, much work lies ahead to effect deep-rooted changes that transform power relations in societies with a history and legacy of legalised discrimination and dispossession. The Summit seeks to reaffirm stakeholders' commitment made by government, business, civil society, and academia to join hands in implementing the M-Plan at the Inaugural Social Justice Summit and International Conference, held in August 2019. Many opportunities tend to be missed particularly on matters such as psychological harm, social attitudes, broken families, special disparities, wealth and land disparities, the default outlook of societal institutions such as education, epistemology, justice and the implications of these for substantive equality, social cohesion, the rule of law and peace. Lack of accountability for previous human rights violations, including torture and disappearance of democracy and human rights activists, also often remain unaccounted for and not remedied. Without remedying the legacy of past injustices, justice in the present tends to be elusive and the same applies to social cohesion and peace.

Thematic Areas of Social Justice Summit in 2022

- a) Wealth, income and economic justice;**
 - b) Health and well-being, family and social life;**
 - c) Land, housing and spatial equality;**
 - d) Impact of digitisation and innovation on the media, education and epistemology.**
 - e) Public governance, democratic leadership and access to justice.**
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