

IMPACT REPORT

**#Action
#4Inclusion**

2020 – 2022



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

forward together
sonke siya phambili
saam vorentoe

The Law Trust Chair in Social Justice



#Action 4Inclusion

#Action 4Inclusion

Fundraising for
Stellenbosch University
students through
innovative partnerships
and crowdfunding
technology

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Background

The **#Action4Inclusion** initiative, launched in 2020, was conceptualised by Stellenbosch University's Student Representative Council, Prof Thuli Madonsela, SU's Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Prof Sonia Human, former Dean of SU's Faculty of Law, and Social Justice Ambassadors. The funds raised via **#Action4Inclusion** are used to support students who cannot register for the next academic year owing to outstanding fees, as well as graduates who cannot access their academic records upon graduation, thereby hampering their capacity to contribute to a talented workforce.



Prof Wim de Villiers
Rector and Vice-Chancellor

“ Stellenbosch University firmly believes that no deserving student should be denied access to higher education based on their financial struggles. Stellenbosch University commits a substantial portion of its income – generated through state subsidies and student fees – to student bursaries each year. However, the University is experiencing increased financial strain as state subsidies for universities have progressively declined. Significant amounts of outstanding student debt further exacerbate our concerns as we cannot write off the money owed to the University because it is crucial to sustaining our operations.



Message from the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice

Since the inception of the **#Action4Inclusion** campaign in 2020, it has been heartening to see students, parents, staff, alumni and members of the public come together to support one another as we work towards ensuring equal opportunities for all.

#Action4Inclusion is one of several initiatives that fall under Stellenbosch University's annual fund, **Bridge the Gap**, which enables the community to support our students and close the gap between talent and financial need – something we all care about.

The plight of students who are overwhelmed by university debt is of great concern. Many students from under-resourced backgrounds struggle to pay their university fees and are at risk of dropping out or abandoning their studies when they are about to complete their degrees.

The problem of study debt primarily affects students from the so-called missing middle and students from poor working-class backgrounds that have fallen off the national student financial aid scheme (NSFAS) criteria, often for reasons beyond their control.

Through the **#Action4Inclusion** campaign we seek to ensure academic inclusion of all our students by helping them clear their debt.

I firmly believe that a lack of funding should not inhibit success and access to education should not be dependent on wealth. As a society, we have to make an effort to invest in social justice. It starts with giving a fair start to every child and every young person regardless of their race, gender and socioeconomic status. Inclusive development involves everyone and doesn't leave anyone behind.

Over the past two years, the **#Action4Inclusion** initiative has shown that young people are ready to take action and lead the way to ensure social justice becomes embedded in the fabric of our society. Helping students over the hurdle of university debt enhance young people's social mobility in pursuit of social justice while capitalising them as essential assets for sustainable economic growth and development.

Due to the hardships of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a drastic increase in the number of families who cannot afford university fees and many students have struggled to perform academically, which in turn has impacted their funding.

As a community, we are also still recovering from setbacks of the past two years, but I've been encouraged by the creative ways our **#Action4Inclusion** team has kept the momentum and focus on the goal of helping students. Our Social Justice Ambassadors' enthusiasm, resilience and integrity have made me proud to be part of this initiative.

The **#Action4Inclusion Social Justice Walks** and **Mountain Hikes** and live events such as the **Comedy Night** and **Social Justice Café's** have opened up meaningful ways to reach out to communities and connect with people who support our goals.

It is only with the support and collaboration of government, civil society, big business, academia, and every ordinary South African and global citizen, that we will be able to make the ideal of social justice a lived reality for everyone in South Africa.

Looking at the wonderful support for the **#Action4Inclusion** campaign, I am confident that social justice can become a reality in our country.



Prof Thuli Madonsela
Law Trust Chair in Social Justice

Project Vision

The strategy of **#Action4Inclusion** is linked to the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice's strategic vision of resource mobilisation through civil society. The strategy aims to leverage Prof Thuli Madonsela's brand by inviting stakeholders to join in the activities with her and to encourage donations to the campaign.

Goals & Objectives

- Clearing of student debt to ensure students are able to register and continue with their studies.
- Fundraising for future student fees to avoid accumulation of debt.

Beneficiaries

- We believe that all academically qualified students deserve to be able to register regardless of their race, gender and socio-economic status. During the past two years, **#Action4Inclusion** has assisted students from diverse backgrounds.
- During the 2020 registration period, a total student debt of **R1 337 779,68** was cleared.
- During 2021, a group of **17** students were uploaded on the Feenix platform, with an accumulated debt of **R584 732,43**. The Thuli Madonsela (ThuMa) Foundation, in collaboration with Anglo Ashanti, donated an amount of **R114 804,88** to assist 9 students doing undergraduate programmes.
- In 2022, in partnership with the Student Debt Working Group and Stellenbosch University's Development and Alumni Relations Division, a total of **23** students were assisted with registration and/or accessing their academic records upon graduation.
- Prof Thuli Madonsela donated **R344 150,00** in her personal capacity in 2022.
- During 2022, donations from Stellenbosch University International, high-net-worth individuals and various other contributions were received to the amount of **R171 316,97**.
- In 2022 Ambassador Bridgette Radebe pledged an amount of **R161 274,21**.
- To date, a total of **97** students have been assisted through the project, in collaboration with our partners.



Activities

1 MOUNTAIN HIKES

Climbing with Prof Thuli Madonsela entails hiking significant mountains in the Western Cape and asking members of the public to join the walk for a fee/donation to **#Action4Inclusion**. The mountains already summited include Table Mountain, Coetzenburg's West Peak and the Dome of Helderberg Mountain.



2 SOCIAL JUSTICE WALKS

The walks, in collaboration with **Visit Stellenbosch**, is a scenic hike on an historic route from Stellenbosch to Pniel. The walk sheds light on the country's turbulent history and current social justice issues. It is widely attended by students, the public and high profile people such as the Premier of the Western Cape, representatives of the mayoral office and other dignitaries.



Activities

3 COMEDY NIGHT

The **#Action4Inclusion** comedy night was a live, hybrid (in person and virtual) event that took place on Friday 22 October 2021. The event was attended by SU staff and students with award-winning comedian Stuart Taylor being the star of the show.



4 R27 000 IN CELEBRATION OF 27 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

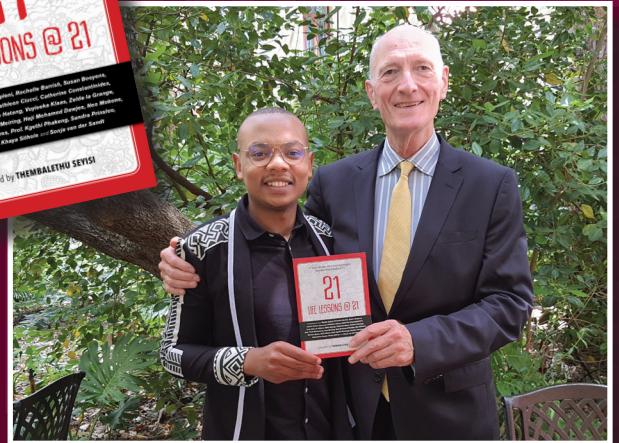
In celebration of 27 years of democracy, Prof Thuli Madonsela donated **R27 000** to **#Action4Inclusion** and challenged all SU alumni, members of the public, companies, and captains of industry to give a 'democracy dividend' to young people striving to get a university qualification. Prof Madonsela was matched by SU's Chief Financial Officer, Prof Stan Du Plessis, SU alumnus Jean Meiring, Amanda Takis as well as an anonymous donor. In 2022, Prof Madonsela was again matched by Prof Stan Du Plessis, a member of the Council of Social Justice Champions and the Stellenbosch University Registrar's Responsibility Centre.



Activities

5 21 LIFE LESSONS @ 21

When Thembaletu Seyisi turned 21 in 2020, he decided to publish a book, **21 Life Lessons @ 21**, to raise funds for good causes, including **#Action4Inclusion**. While still a third-year law student, Thembaletu approached 21 successful people he admires – some high-profile role models as well as personal heroes and family members – asking them to share one life lesson or insight they wish they'd known at 21. The result is a wonderful collection of stories by inspirational South Africans such as Justice Edwin Cameron, Prof Thuli Madonsela, Prof Kgethi Phakeng, Sello Hatang, Sandra Prinsloo, Khaya Sithole, Zelda la Grange, and many more. The book inspired an online series of interviews that appeared on the KKNK virtual platform.



6 GRADUATION PARTY FUNDRAISER

Thembaletu Seyisi, who was awarded the Rector's Award for Excellence in Social Impact 2021, raised funds for **#Action4Inclusion** when he received his LLB degree in April 2022. The event was held at Middelvlei Wine Estate in Stellenbosch and raised **R10 000**.

STELLENBOSCH GRADUATE CELEBRATES BY RAISING FUNDS FOR STUDENTS IN DEBT

Thembaletu Seyisi, 22, will be raising funds for #Action4Inclusion, a crowdfunding campaign aimed at alleviating student debt when he receives his LLB degree.



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Activities

7 JAZZ FOR INCLUSION

The **Jazz for Inclusion** concert at Die Stal on 8 June 2022 was a fun night of first-class entertainment. Music legend **Billy Domingo** and top jazz virtuoso **Don Vino Prins** were the stars of the vibey fundraiser in aid of students who struggle to settle their university fees. The concert was attended by close to a hundred people.



8 A ROSE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

In 2020 Prof Thuli Madonsela was honoured by the Vergelegen wine estate in Somerset West by adding a rose named after her to its rose garden as a Women's Month gesture. A portion of the sale of the Thuli Madonsela roses, sold at Ludwig's Roses, is donated to **#Action4Inclusion**.



In the News

Over the past two years the **#Action4Inclusion** campaign received substantial coverage from a wide range of media platforms.



SOUTH AFRICA

Thuli Madonsela to climb Table Mountain to help students struggling to pay university fees



Unathi Nkanjeni
Reporter

21 November 2020 - 11:00
BY UNATHI NKANJENI



Former public protector Thuli Madonsela is to raise funds for students struggling to pay fees.

Stellenbosch University hosted 16km walk to pay off students' debt

GroundUp Marcia Damons

SHARE

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0:00



"Stellenbosch University hosts 16km walk to pay off students' debt." Photo: Getty Images.

The **#Action4Inclusion** campaign was started in 2020 and hoped to raise R2 million by

Radio 2000
@Radio2000_ZA

COMING UP

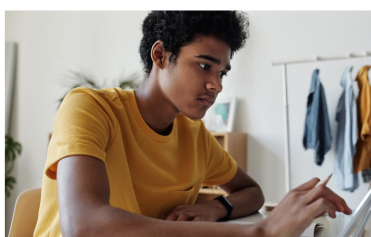
Prof Thuli Madonsela launches a fund-raising campaign to put an end to financial exclusion at universities called **#Action4Inclusion**.

The campaign will be piloted at Stellenbosch University.

[#TheGlenzitoSuperDrive](#) 3-6pm weekdays



#Action4Inclusion wants to help students overcome financial barriers



Feenix is resorting hope for students by helping students overcome financial barriers during these uncertain times. Supplied.
Published Sep 4, 2021

Newroom Afrika
@Newroom405

Stellenbosch University Professor Thuli Madonsela, says the **#Action4Inclusion** campaign aims to raise funds for students unable to pay off their historic debt. [#NewsFeed](#)



2:55 PM · Mar 7, 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.

FEEL GOOD | Stellenbosch University student raises funds to help students in debt

news24 Nicole McCain

SHARE

Listen to this article
0:00



WEEKEND ARGUS NEWS

Stellenbosch University to host a #Action4Inclusion Social Justice Walk



The 16km walk will start at Rhenish Church and finish at Die Werf in Pniel.

Published Nov 24, 2021

INTERVIEW: Stellies Student Assisting The Missing Middle



INTERVIEW: Stellies Student Assisting The Missing Middle

[View description](#) [Share](#)

Published Oct 12, 2021 5:34 PM

Crowdfunding Platforms

1 FEENIX

Feenix was launched in June 2017 as a response to the #FeesMustFall movement that spread across campuses in South Africa in 2015 and 2016. Since its launch in 2017, over R80 million has been raised on the platform towards the student debt of more than 2 131 university students. In 2021, the **#Action4Inclusion** campaign partnered with Feenix to fundraise for 17 students.



2 GIVENGAIN FOUNDATION

The **#Action4Inclusion** campaign has a **GivenGain** page where stakeholders can donate. The donations that come through this platform are not linked to any event and the page remains live throughout the year.



#Action4Inclusion

Stellenbosch University amplifies efforts to ease burden of student debt

A campaign by Stellenbosch University - South Africa South Africa

RAISED

R106,632

TARGET

R10,000,000

[Donate now!](#)

[Start fundraising](#)

[Share on Facebook](#)

DONATIONS

Stan Du Plessis
22 April R1,900.00

Nangamso Mahanjana
8 April R250.00

In 2020, we added #Action4Inclusion to our growing list of student funding initiatives aimed at ensuring academic inclusion and the scrapping of debt for all deserving students. Not all students requiring financial assistance receive sufficient funding for their studies and they often experience a shortfall, resulting in the accumulation of debt. Some students cannot register for the next academic year owing to outstanding fees, with most failing to raise the required funds by April when they are then deregistered from the University. Their plight is of great concern and the reason for the #Action4Inclusion initiative. The #Action4Inclusion initiative seeks to ensure the registration of all students by clearing their debt. If you, like us, firmly believe that no deserving student should be denied access to higher education based on their financial struggles, please contribute to #Action4Inclusion.



**#Action
4Inclusion**

CONNECT WITH US

Follow the **#Action4Inclusion**
campaign on social media



Social Justice M-Plan



Social Justice Chair @CFSJ_MPlan



@socialjusticechairsu



CISJ Social Justice Hub



www.socialjustice.sun.ac.za

MAKE A DONATION

www.givengain.com/cc/action4inclusion/

#ACTION4INCLUSION BANKING DETAILS

Bank:	Standard Bank
Branch:	Stellenbosch
Branch code:	050610
Account name:	University of Stellenbosch
Account number:	073006955
Reference:	Cost Center R9861 (please indicate this as reference)

Email proof of payment to socialjustice@sun.ac.za



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