



Bridge Builder Award

While the Constitution of South Africa enjoins us to use it as a foundation to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights and freedoms, South Africa's inherited divisions and disparities, particularly on the grounds of race, gender and nationality, seem to be increasing. As part of the Musa Plan for Social Justice:

- **The Law Trust Chair in Social Justice** at Stellenbosch University and the **Council of Social Justice Champions**, responsible for driving the implementation of the Marshall Plan styled **Musa Plan for Social Justice**, are calling for nominations from the public to help identify a natural person to be accorded the **Inaugural Bridge Builder Award**.
- The **Bridge Builder Award** recognises a person who has achieved extraordinary heights in healing the divisions of the past by building social bridges across historically divided groups in society through using their social capital and related power to heal social divisions and break walls between groups through facilitating interface between groups and advancing social justice.
- **The award was initiated in** honour of the late **Council of Social Justice Champions** Member, **Dr Beatrice Wiid**, who excelled in building bridges across communities divided by economic disparities and historical racial disparities, in pursuit of social cohesion and peace. Through leveraging her generational accumulated social power, as a member of a historically advantaged community and her academic background, she founded an organisation that has fostered social cohesion through sport and reducing legacy economic disparities. She focussed on giving a hand up, to promote

self-sufficiency among the historically dispossessed, while creating opportunities for interface between historically advantaged and disadvantaged communities to understand the link between the past and present while embracing each other's humanity. Her last good deed before passing at the age of 91 was to build a R340K worth house for a family in Khayelitsha through her Interchange Foundation.

DO YOU KNOW A REMARKABLE BRIDGE BUILDER?

A **Bridge Builder** is a natural person or organisation that is dedicated to building bridges and promoting peace, understanding and shared prosperity across communities or groups with a history of division, polarisation or inequality.

Such a person is a leader that is demonstrably anchored in shared humanity or ubuntu reflected in their embracing the humanity of all irrespective of difference related to race, gender, disability, economic status, sexual orientation, nationality, religion and any other ground in Chapter 2 of the South African Constitution, article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 2 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

She/he/it/they not only take(s) action to break barriers between historically segregated, stratified and polarised groups. They have a history of taking demonstrable action to influence and inspire others to embrace justice, including social justice, as a right deserved by and a responsibility borne by all. Their lives and footprints should be an unquestionable testimony of leading the transformation that is necessary for the emergence of the new society that is based on social justice, democratic values and fundamental human rights and freedoms while bringing historically divided groups together.

The bridge builder subscribes to the substantive notion of equality in the Constitution, which includes reparative action for victims or descendants of historical injustices, while ensuring no new injustices are created or fostered. They are demonstrably involved in building bridges of hope that anchor action to achieve the South Africa and world we want.

CRITERIA FOR THE NOMINATION OF A SOCIAL JUSTICE BRIDGE BUILDER:

To qualify for consideration, an individual or organisation must:

1. Have a demonstrable track record of resolutely standing for justice, including social justice (There is social justice when there is equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms among all groups in a society or group and between societies. This should be reflected in the just, equitable and fair distribution of all opportunities, resources, benefits, privileges and burdens in that group, society and between societies), as a guarantor of social cohesion and peace.
2. Has a history of taking measures to advance social justice and /or defend it thus contributing to reparative/restitutive efforts to address the lingering socio-economic disparities as a legacy of past unjust laws and policies.
3. Has taken concrete measures and achieved an exceptional social impact regarding healing divisions between groups identified in terms of the grounds in section 9 of the Constitution
4. Has not, in the past 7 years, been associated with proven conduct that amounts to (unfair) discrimination as envisaged in section 9 of the Constitution or violation of the rule of law.
5. Exudes ubuntu and is a role model to others regarding healing the divisions of the past and promoting reconciliation between historically divided groups through private voluntary actions leveraging own social capital or public governance initiatives to promote truth, justice, equality, reconciliation and peace.