

Our losses and gains because of Covid-19



Network Conference Southern Africa - Germany

Saturday, 8 May 2021

Solidarity Network

We are a growing community of persons working in partnership programs, be it between schools in SADC countries and Germany, universities, NGOs, church-based organizations, municipalities, etc. In one way or another, we have all been active in solidarity work over many years.

The SADC region contains a lot of multifaceted, consequential (colonial) histories that have shaped and are still shaping relations to this very day. In addition, people have experienced discrimination and exclusion during times of crisis, before and after national independence or during globalization. Bearing in mind that for the Germans among us, 8th May is an important date. It marks the end of WWII as surrender or liberation – depending on the perspective which always has influenced our solidarity work. But the historical links from Germany to Southern Africa have weakened, the Anti-Apartheid movement which united many from East and West has been superseded by subsequent movements aiming to combat other evils in German society and beyond: rightwing nationalism, xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, Zionism, etc.

SADC = Southern African Development Community

The SADC includes 16 countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Comoros, DR Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Tanzania.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of our activities, events and travels were cancelled. We have been forced to think out of the box, to explore new ways of expressing our commitment in order to strengthen and expand our activities. The different ways in which we were affected by the pandemic sensitized us once again for issues which affect our lives economically, socially and politically irrespective of the country we live in.

As SADC / Germany Solidarity Network (SGSN) we want to hold our first annual conference in May 2021 - online, due to travel restrictions.

Our losses and gains because of Covid-19

On 8 May we want to create a space for discussions and get-together in order to reflect on the losses and the gains which Covid-19 has brought about for us, but above all for our partnerships. The conference offers a (first) possibility of establishing contact and informal networking for individuals and organizations who are involved in various areas or partnerships or who promote the exchange of pupils and students.

Feel invited, if you are

- part of a South-North / North-South *partnership* or exchange program
- from a *SADC country*, living or studying in Germany and interested to be active in a solidarity network
- from *Germany*, having spent a lengthy time in a SADC country or in preparations for a long-term placement there (i.e. youth volunteer program)

...then we are looking forward to seeing you at our Online conference!

Register with a video clip (Whatsapp or the like)

In order to really see you we would love you to send us a One-Minute-video in which

- you report about yourself
- your partnership
- your losses and gains by Covid-19

The video-clip should be

- not more than 1 minute
- with us by April 16
- sent to simone.knapp@kasa.de

Program

- 10:00 AM Opening and Welcome
Introductory video clips
- 10:30 AM Impulse by Father Michael Lapsley
„Our losses and gains because of Covid-19“

Responses by Ms Colleen Cunningham
and Rev. Heike Bosien

Group discussions
- 12:30 PM Break
- 01:30 PM Workshops (please indicate your preferred choice at registration)
1. “Healing the Wounds of History” (IHOM)
 2. “Vaccination as a human right” (Medico)
 3. “From food parcels to farming projects” - A current partnership project (KASA)
 4. “Universities as change makers” (WUS)
[#Networking@Abroad@atHome](#).
 5. “How do the churches operate during the pandemic and the lockdown?” (MCSA)
 6. “Flying high again” – Air travel during Covid-19 and beyond (Amakhosi Travel)
- 03:00 PM What are the next steps for the SGSN?
- 03:30 PM End of the conference

Online conference

The event will be held in English as video conference on Zoom. Upon registration, we will send you the Zoom link during the first week in May.

Impulse by



Father Michael Lapsley, Anglican and social justice activist. He was part of the struggle against apartheid. In 1990 he lost both his hands and an eye as a consequence of a letter bomb attack. In 1998 he founded the Institute for Healing of Memories

(IHOM). His memoir *Redeeming the Past* was published by Orbis (in German: *Mit den Narben der Apartheid* by Budrich).

He has travelled the globe speaking, and leading workshops and seminars focussing on the importance of healing the wounds of history, healing, reconciliation and transformative justice.

Responses by

Ms Colleen Cunningham, Unity Women's Sub Desk Coordinator for the Moravian Women's Association in South Africa (MCSA), Regional Coordinator for Women in Church and Society for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA).



Reverend Heike Bosien, Executive Director of Service for Mission, Ecumenism and Development (DiMOE) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Württemberg, Germany, a service for global learning in congregations and schools.

Payment

If you did not register with a video clip by 16 April, and you live in Germany, we ask you to contribute **10 Euros** towards the conference **by 30 April 2021** into the account of EMS at the Evangelische Bank:

IBAN: DE75 5206 0410 0000 4076 07

BIC: GENODEF1EK1

Reference: SGSN 44009.1222.1204

Please send the **proof of payment** of your electronic transfer to plapp@ems-online.org

Enquiries

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The conference is presented by

Evangelical Mission in Solidarity

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