



OBSERVATORY

Civic Association

A Call from the Observatory Civic Association to other Civic and Ratepayer groups across Cape Town

As we see marches and mobilisation to kick foreigners out of South Africa, we call on other Civic and Ratepayer groups to take a stand against xenophobia, scapegoating and hate speech.

South Africa is a democracy which fought long and hard for freedoms that protect all who live in South Africa from prejudice, injustice and hate speech. As Civic Associations representing our communities, we value a constitution that protects human rights and affords us the opportunities to participate meaningfully in democratic decision-making. Most importantly, the rule of law is a critical underpinning of a constitutional democracy based on respect for human rights.

Therefore, we, as Civic Associations, speak out against the rabid and toxic xenophobia being fermented by individuals for political gain, with threats to expel foreign migrants in ways that has engendered fear and panic in persons whose only 'crime' is to be a non-South African in South Africa. This frenzy of accusations and misinformation directed against 'foreigners' has nothing to do with addressing crime or the crisis of unemployment that our national policies have not turned around. If anything, these lawless protests, driven by vested interests, will only exacerbate South Africa's economic malaise and hinder any economic recovery.

We say NO to attacks on foreigners; we say NO to vigilantes taking the law into their own hands under the guise of activism; we say NO to hate speech dressed up in the guise of freedom of speech.

If we believe in Ubuntu — I am because we are — then there is no place for xenophobia in our communities. Join us in protecting the values of our democracy that we cherish.

If we believe in democracy, the rule of law and human rights, join us in working towards a society free of xenophobia, misinformation and hate speech.

We invite other Civics and Ratepayer groups to take the following actions:

1. Please distribute this information to your members
2. Consider signing on to the Siyafana Sonke Press Statement by contacting the organisers via

<https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb8VmJ965yD5QZkQzn2o>

3. If your members wish to get involved in mobilising and taking action against xenophobic threats on the 30th of June and leading up to it, they can contact Ayesha Bagus: 0824210254.
4. If your members wish to make donations to families displaced by xenophobic violence in Cape Town, there are various ways this can be done.
 - a. You **can drop off** food, nappies, sanitary pads, soap, toothpaste, wet wipes at
 - i. Groote Kerk offices - 55 Kloof Street
 - ii. Christ Church Kenilworth 5 Richmond Road
 - iii. Church of the Holy Spirit Kirstenhof 38 Raapkraal Road Kirstenhof
 - b. **Mothers4Gaza is collaborating with Gift of the Givers to support Zimbabwean refugees facing hardship**

Donations of Non-perishable food items, 5L bottled water, Warm clothing, Blankets can be dropped at the Gift of the Givers Hub, Cavendish Square, Claremont, P1 Parking Level (near the former Click & Collect site).

#Mothers4Gaza #GiftOfTheGivers #CommunitySolidarity #CapeTown #RefugeeSupport
 - c. **Siyafana Sonke** is organising support for displaced Zimbabwean families (including children) currently sleeping outside the Zimbabwean consulate in the rain and exposed to cold conditions.

They urgently need tents & gazebos, blankets & warm clothing, food & drinking water. If you are able to help, please drop off supplies at the Zimbabwean consulate as soon as possible.

For further information, contact Mike Ndlovu: Mike@transforming.org.za, or Yeshelen Govender: +27 83 417 4983 or Zaki Mamdoo: +27 81 395 9738

#HumanityFirst #ActNow #CommunityCare #RefugeeSupport #CapeTown
 - d. Churches within **the RESPOND Network** have been providing humanitarian assistance and shelter coordinated in the inner city by Dominie Riaan De Villiers of the Groote Kerk Kloof Street and Rev Sikawu Makubalo from the Central Methodist Church.
 - i. They have requested a tent to pitch on the field next to the Consulate and Gazebos for those queuing for shelter from the rain; Face cloths, Hygiene soap / hand sanitiser, Hand towels, Toilet paper, Wet wipes and Shelter/accommodation at nearby churches / venues.
 - ii. If you can assist with any of these practical needs, please drop off at The Groote Kerk, 55 Kloof Street, Cape Town (not the Groote Kerk on Parliament St/ Adderley St and not at St George's Cathedral.)