



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

LSE Directorate

Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE
United Kingdom

t: +44 (0)20 7955 6259
director@lse.ac.uk
lse.ac.uk

Baroness Minouche Shafik
Director

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng
Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town

Sent via: vc@uct.ac.za

27 April 2021

Dear Kgethi,

On behalf of all at LSE I wanted to let you know that our thoughts are with you and all the members of the UCT community impacted by the terrible fire on campus. I can only imagine the heartache and immense challenges you and the leadership team face at this time.

This year has been challenging for all institutions and our communities have come together to support our efforts to continue to educate and shape the future throughout the pandemic. We may not be able to travel to help you on the ground like the Gift of Givers, but we would like to assure you of our determination to support you in these challenging times.

Our faculty and scholars who regularly collaborate with UCT are shocked and saddened by the loss of invaluable resources in the Jagers Library and are considering ways to support UCT colleagues. We are aware that a webpage was set up to gather photocopies or digital scans of the special collections and we hope this will mitigate against the terrible loss. We appreciate the great efforts that Ujala Satgoor will need to deploy to assess the damage and salvage what is possible. We will share the information on the emergency fund you have set up to support UCT at this time with past students on LSE-UCT programmes.

I am certain that, right now, the safety of your community is your immediate priority. Once the campus re-opens and academic programmes start again, the continuity of learning will be a key concern. Appreciating many resources may not be accessible for a while, we would like to offer you the opportunity to liaise with our Head of Library, Nicola Scally, and her colleagues who would be glad to help. Nicola can be contacted at nicola.scally@lse.ac.uk.

As you will be assessing the extent of the damage and losses, and dealing with short and long term issues, please rest assured that we are willing to support UCT during this challenging time.

With warmest regards,

Baroness Minouche Shafik
Director, London School of Economics and Political Science