

NEWS FROM:



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UCT to host public dialogue on women's struggles

Women of all communities and age groups are invited to add their voices to a stimulating conversation on "Women's Struggles: From the Political to the Personal, the Global and Local", on Thursday, August 5, 2010, 17h30-19:30, at The Quad in the Kramer Building, Middle Campus at UCT. Entrance is free.

Featured guests will include UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Jo Beall; Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, head of the Coalition against Trafficking in Women; Dr Sindiwe Magona, author, poet and playwright; Professor Jennifer Fish, Chair of the Department of Women's Studies at Old Dominion University in Virginia, USA; and Wounded Healers of Sisters for Sisters, a support group for local and refugee women who have survived domestic and political violence. The event will be moderated by UCT Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela.

Panelists of the younger generation will include: Mpumi Tshabalala, a Politics and Law student at UCT who co-organised the recent highly acclaimed open forum, "Black Rights: White Fears in the New South Africa"; Rumbi Goredema, a member of the Community of the Mandela Rhodes Scholars; and Samantha van Schalkwyk, a PhD student who is researching gender-based violence.

About the speakers

Professor Jo Beall. Before she joined UCT in April 2009, she was Professor in Development Studies in the Development Studies Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), which she directed between 2003 and 2006.

She was the lead academic on the LSE's Africa Initiative and remains active in research through the Crisis States Research Centre at the LSE. She has advised UN and other multilateral and bilateral international development agencies and national governments. She holds several positions in external associations such as the Foundation for Urban and Regional Research and the Overseas Development Institute.

Professor Jennifer Fish is Chair of the Department of Women's Studies at Old Dominion University in Virginia, USA. Her research centres on gender and post-conflict development. She has published two books on these themes: *Domestic Democracy: At Home in South Africa* (2006), and *Women's Activism in South Africa: Working Across Divides* (2009). She has established partnerships with nonprofit organisations in Cape Town to provide opportunities for US students to engage with partners in South Africa. This year, 14 students from Old Dominion University are engaging in research and community-based initiatives in Cape Town from July 18 to August 7. They will join in this public dialogue.

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, a former Member of Parliament, is now leading the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. She was a founding member (with Professor Jo Beall) of the Natal Organisation of Women, which was affiliated with the UDF. She was Deputy Minister of Defence from 1999 to April 2004, and Deputy Minister of Health from April 2004 to August 2007. She served as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly from 2008 until 2009. She is well known for helping to combat AIDS and her resistance to government denial of the severity of the epidemic during the presidency of Thabo Mbeki. She also opposed the use of alternative medicine treatments of HIV in place of scientifically tested methods. She was recently featured in Lifetime Television's *Peacemaker in Action as one of its "Remarkable Women!"*, along with US Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton, US First Lady Michelle Obama, and US Supreme Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor.

Dr Sindiwe Magona is a graduate of Columbia University in the USA, the official biographer of Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane (*From Robben Island to*

Bishopscourt will be published in April 2011 by David Philip Publishers/New Africa Books) and the recipient of numerous awards and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters conferred by Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. This author, poet, playwright, story teller, actor, and inspirational speaker retired in 2003 from the United Nations. During her career there she helped develop the Anti-Apartheid Radio Programmes until June 1994. After twenty-five years in New York, Magona now lives in her home country, South Africa. She is the founder of the Gugulethu Writers' Group, which she runs on a voluntary basis, to encourage women who might not otherwise write their stories. Her published works include: Two autobiographies: *To My Children's Children* and *Forced to Grow*; two collections of short stories: *Living, Loving, and Lying Awake at Night* (voted one of Africa's 100 Best Books); *Push-Push and Other Stories*; two novels: *Mother to Mother*, based on the life of Amy Biehl and optioned by Universal Studios; and *Beauty's Gift*, shortlisted for the 2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize and winner of The White Ribbon Award from Women Demand Dignity; a book of poetry: *Please, Take Photographs!*; a book of short stories: *Awam Ngqo*, prescribed for Grade 8 in 2011; a compilation book: *You Pay For The View*; more than 100 children's books, 40 of them available in all 11 of South Africa's official languages; several radio plays that have been broadcast in English and isiXhosa; and *Vukani!* – an Aids play that has been performed across the USA as well as in South Africa.

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