

Anti-Racism Network South Africa

ARNSA

ARNSA's ultimate **vision** is of a South Africa free from racism. We derive our vision from that of South Africa's Constitution: dignity, equality and freedom for all. We dream of a South Africa in which each person's dignity is equally valued and respected. In pursuing this vision, ARNSA will coordinate and strengthen the multifaceted efforts of NGOs, NPOs, CBOs, faith based organisations, sports bodies, educational institutions, government institutions, labour unions, foundations, business entities and individuals. ARNSA believes that this sort of coordination is vital to the fight against racism¹ and related forms of discrimination – using the collective weight of multiple organisations and individuals and making local efforts national and bringing national efforts to a local level.

ARNSA's **mission** is to foster a collective South African voice and to influence decision making in South Africa in order to:

- Facilitate and pioneer responses, both pro-active and reactive, to the presence of racist actions and ideas wherever they are
- Redress the negative consequences of racism and all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, ethnicity, national origin, religion and culture
- Ensure that anti-racism and anti-discrimination are mainstreamed across all sectors of South African life
- Influence policy and decision making in South Africa
- Become a critical voice that is not partisan on issues of racism and related forms of discrimination where they emerge without fear or favour

¹ Our definition of racism is informed by that of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as presented in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001) where it is stated that: 'We recognize that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance occur on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin and that victims can suffer multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds such as sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth or other status'. ARNSA recognises that there may be different manifestations of racism which 'continues to result in violations of human rights, suffering, disadvantage and violence'. These manifestations may be institutional, structural, interpersonal, or be expressed or experienced by collective groupings. The Durban Declaration notes with concern 'the continued and violent occurrence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that theories of superiority of certain races and cultures over others, promoted and practised during the colonial era, continue to be propounded in one form or another even today'. Drawing on these statements, ARNSA is similarly 'alarmed by the emergence and continued occurrence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in their more subtle and contemporary forms and manifestations, as well as by other ideologies and practices based on racial or ethnic discrimination or superiority'. <http://www.un.org/WCAR/durban.pdf>

Objectives of ARNSA

- To act as a coordinating, driving entity for organisations interested in anti-racism work
- To unite in a common front in combatting racism in order to share experiences, best practices and expertise in the fight against racism and discrimination and thus build collaboration
- To launch initiatives to revitalise action, strengthen networking and mobilise partners through advocacy and other efforts with the aim of combating racism at the local, regional, national and international levels
- To Support national and international anti-racism strategies and to undertake programmes of public education and awareness
- To create space for dialogue and conversations which will contribute to inter-network learning and harnessing the collective wisdom in this network

ARNSA is informed by the following core principles:

- **Inclusivity:** Bringing together South African organisations who add value in combating racism in South Africa
- **Sharing:** of resources, best practice and expertise
- **Collaboration:** Including coordinating the collaboration in the work of like-minded organisations, support of the efforts of individual organisations and replicating the best of it in different places, nationally and internationally.
- **Participation:** ensuring that members actively participate in decision-making
- **Transparency:** ARNSA will ensure sound governance and reporting processes to the

ARNSA operational structure:

Trustees – Subsequent to a preliminary period of 2 years a decision will be made as to whether to register ARNSA, at such a time it will become necessary to select a board of trustees.

Steering Group – ARNSA will be guided by a steering group made up of members of the network. Members will be chosen at the annual conference of the network and will meet quarterly. Members of the steering group will be expected to attend at least 2 of these meetings in the year. This group will take reports on finances, activities and plans acting as an oversight group as well as a consultative and decision making entity.

Secretariat – These will be the conveners of the network who will work to coordinate and facilitate members' efforts, raise funding for the network operations and related day-to-day work. For the preliminary period of 2 years this function will be filled by the Ahmed Kathrada and Nelson Mandela Foundations

By the end of the two-year period, the responsibilities of the Secretariat will be evaluated. We will seek to assess the impact of our work by looking at the extent to which we have fulfilled our core objectives, and by reflecting our critical stories of change and reports of value to the work of our members.

ARNSA scope of work:

1. Coordination:

- Annual conference (which will help to decide on other elements below). The first of these will serve as the initial launch of the Network in November 2015.
- Identification of core sectors of work for members
- Identification of areas of collaboration across ARNSA
- Deciding on ARNSA interventions, e.g.: policy interventions, national dialogue campaigns - Sharing of best practice methods, activities, training material etc.

2. Initiating Campaigns and Marketing of Anti-Racism:

- Production of an Anti-Racism Week (popularisation and expansion of the struggle).
- The first of these will also serve as a series of official ARNSA launches in different parts of the country.
- Production of an Anti-Racism Charter – where a charter is a document that clarifies direction and focus, educates others in terms of the direction network. It is intended to reduce confusion about the network's objectives.
- This will form a part of the activities in the Anti-Racism Week.
- E.g., Campaign to popularise the use of the equality courts

3. Research:

- Identification of interested research organisations and potential partners
- Development of and building on existing tools to measure the extent/intensity of the problem (e.g.: attitude surveys)
- Facilitating an understanding of the nature and place of racism in post-Apartheid South Africa
- Identifying good practices and effective interventions

4. Advocacy and Lobbying Interventions

- Institutional policy interventions (e.g.: state, corporate, civil society policies)

- Includes pressure for and contributions to the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance
- Interventions in practices of institutions
- Direct interventions in society particularly as we see new manifestations of racism
- Protect activists and promote activism
- Provide an outlet for reporting racism

5. Education and Training internally and to the public

- Capacity Building
- Role of internal relationships in the network
- Mentoring and guided discourse
- Production of training and education material
 - for anti-racism work (e.g.: on conflict resolution/mediation, education efforts, dialogue work)
 - with anti-racist content for the public
- training in methods of Anti-Racist action (including further training and education for organisations and the public)
- Leveraging resources for the bigger project
- Programmes/interventions in schools