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# The Inkathalo Conversations Dialogues on Strengthening Public Democracy



Release of the Prelude Report to  
The Inkathalo Conversations on Homelessness: Phase 1 Comprehensive Report

**O**n July 31 2020, the City of Cape Town, through the office of Councillor Zahid Badroodien, requested The Inkathalo Conversations to facilitate an independent process to provide recommendations for improving the City's policies to address homelessness in Cape Town.

The Inkathalo Conversations is a dialogical platform aimed at advancing a safe, just, inclusive, equitable and prosperous democracy, by giving all stakeholders the opportunity to have their opinions heard in open forums, and to have them considered in the design of alternate and inclusive ecosystems.

Designed by Community Chest, in partnership with Women Lead Movement, the process seeks to strengthen the frameworks of constitutional democracy in South Africa.

The Inkathalo Conversations are guided by the Preamble to the South African Constitution, which states that we all have a duty to "heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights".

The first of The Inkathalo Conversations delved into the complexities of homelessness. Structured around a probing engagement methodology, it aims to create safe, honest and reflective dialogues among civil society. This includes the homeless, who are often excluded from the definition of "civil society".

The stated outcome is to make direct and meaningful inputs into future decision-making processes pertaining to the review of the City's Street People Policy (2013), as well as to table recommendations that will help to shape a humane, rights-based, citywide strategy to address homelessness in Cape Town.

Using this dialogical approach, several lived experiences surfaced from the conversations with the marginalised, as well as those working alongside homeless individuals, that revealed trauma, abuse, human rights violations and ongoing violence against these individuals.

These are deeds perpetrated against homeless people by various law enforcement structures, as well as inter-community violence and abuse.

Narratives emerging from this process were translated into recommendations for amending the Street People Policy and for developing strategies founded on care, human rights and justice.

### Two phases

The process was divided into two phases, with Phase 1 from August 19 2020 to October 10 2020, comprising:

- Public submissions, pre-public hearings, in-person interviews, site visits.
- Three Focus Group Discussions held with homeless individuals.
- Two Workshops held with broad stakeholders, including homeless people.
- Six Public Submissions received.
- 35 In-person Presentations and interviews completed.

### Participants delivering their powerful presentations during The Inkathalo Conversations



● Site visits and street level engagements at:

- i. Van Riebeeck Park
- ii. The area around Robbie Nurock
- iii. Bellville Haven
- iv. MES Bellville (Mould, Empower, Serve)
- v. Paint City Safe Place
- vi. Informal settlement under the Bellville Bridge.

The findings of Phase 1 will be published in a report titled The Inkathalo Conversations on Homelessness: Phase 1 Comprehensive Report, for release to the public on November 30.

The Prelude Report to the above provides insight into how the data gathered will be structured into the final report.

Given the over 100 hours of interviews and the more than 150 pages of documented data and inputs, the Phase 1 Report will provide significant insight into the challenges of being homeless.

The Report will detail several pages of rec-

ommendations directly taken from the various role-players — most notably the homeless themselves — on improvements to the policies and strategies governing the sector. It will also benchmark existing policies against global best practices.

Following the release of the Phase 1 Report, Phase 2 will launch, taking the issues contained in the report and subjecting them to further research.

Phase 2 will start on November 10 2020 and is set to conclude on January 29 2021, with a further report to be released on March 3 2021.

Once the Phase 2 Report is released, it will provide the State and civil society with comprehensively researched data that can be used to design alternate and inclusive ecosystems based on human rights and empathy.

We salute the many brave homeless people who courageously told their stories during this process.



## VACANCY

### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER (REF: HRM)

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) has adopted a Vision and Mission statement and a new Work Programme for promoting sustainable development and deeper integration within the SACU region. The SACU Secretariat hereby invites suitably qualified and experienced citizens of the SACU Member States to submit their applications for the position of a Human Resources Manager.

Visit our website at [www.sacu.int](http://www.sacu.int) to get a full advert for this position. The closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Should you have received no response within 4 weeks of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful in this instance, as correspondence will be limited to shortlisted candidates only.



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