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The University of KwaZulu-Natal
cordially invites you to a

PUBLIC LECTURE

COMMEMORATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Topic: Contemporary Conflicts: A Rights-Based Approach towards Management?

Date

Friday, 29 March 2019

Time

12h30 – 14h30

Venue

UNITE Lecture Theatre | Howard College campus
Entrance Gate 8 | Old Francios Road | UKZN



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KWEZI MNGQIBISA, a Conflict Practitioner who has been with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) over the last 20 years, will share some perspectives on the existing constitutional order which is centred on coexistence and management of disputes.

South Africa will be celebrating 25 years of democracy in 2019. The euphoria of the promise of 1994 has seemingly run out of steam. The country's Constitution is lauded as one of the most progressive in the world, yet crime persists, protests are becoming increasingly violent, corruption is far entrenched, and we have not adequately addressed the racially driven structures and atrocities of our nation's past such as racism and sexism, to name but a few. The preamble of our Constitution enjoins us all to a democratic order so as to:

- Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;
- Lay the foundation for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by the law;
- Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and
- Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

How far are we from the society envisaged by the Constitution? How can we reset our social relations by addressing our contemporary fault lines, disagreements and disputes? How can we work towards addressing the underlying drivers of conflict in our society, namely: poverty, unemployment and inequality?