

# #Unite Behind

**#UniteBehind** a just and equal South Africa. To achieve this, the ANC must recall President Zuma. The nuclear deal must be scrapped. **#UniteBehind** rooting out corruption in government and business.

**Forward to a South Africa where the people share in the country's wealth!**

**#UniteBehind** welcomes all people irrespective of race or class who support our demands. **#UniteBehind** prioritises Black (African, Coloured and Indian) working-class youth and women's leadership.

**#UniteBehind** what matters most to you.

 @UniteBehind  UniteBehind  #UniteBehind



## #Unite for a Just and Equal South Africa

Our struggle is for a just and equal South Africa - a democracy in which people participate in decisions affecting their lives.

Government must be elected, open, accountable, ethical and effective. They must put the needs of the people first. This applies to anyone who exercises responsibility or power in society. But, government commands resources on our behalf and therefore it must set the example.

Over the years, our organisations, movements, unions and communities, including faith communities, have called for a different society, culture and economy based on these demands:

Competent, honest government is necessary to ensure that:

- Every person in our country feels and is safe from all forms of violence, including hunger.
- Education from early childhood to tertiary level is free, decolonised, equal, public and of high quality.
- The health system is integrated to guarantee every person quality health care as a right with the prioritisation of TB, HIV, mental health and all chronic and life-threatening conditions.
- Free childcare facilities are available for all who need them.
- Every woman, girl and boy is safe from rape and all forms of gender-based violence.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people enjoy freedom and equality.
- Racism whether structural or personal is confronted and rooted out.
- Immigrant, refugees and asylum seekers live in dignity.
- All youth have access to culture, recreation and sport as a right.
- Cities employ just land policies aimed at ending race and class-based apartheid segregation.
- All land policies, urban and rural, are based on justice and redress for Black African, Coloured and Indian people, particularly working-class and poor people.
- Informal settlements are upgraded and residents have a guaranteed right to a home.
- Our natural environment and its biodiversity is protected so as it may continue to guarantee ecosystem functioning and the continuance of life.

Our society is the most unequal in the world with the highest reported rate of unemployment, particularly Black African and Coloured youth unemployment. Our households and individuals carry a crippling debt burden. Every one of these demands requires both radical economic wealth creation and redistribution.

We understand that our economy is subject to global market forces and powerful global companies. These forces can be overcome but government, unions, social movements and political parties must unite with our allies internationally to ensure a just, fair and equal world economy.

As a part of this struggle government and business in South Africa must ensure that:

- Workers earn a living wage and more jobs are created.
- As jobs are replaced by machines, we move progressively towards a universal income grant and universal dividend.
- We have a just and sustainable energy future based on solar, wind and other renewable sources.
- Government is freed from the grip of public and private sector corruption.
- Taxes on super-wealth and international financial transactions increase the state's income to reduce its debt and create wealth.
- Criminal and corrupt transfers of money from South Africa by companies or individuals are punished.
- Racial and class domination is eradicated through a just redistribution of wealth.

Our responsibility as individuals, households and organisations require building:

- Families where every child, woman and man is equally valued and respected.
- Our homes, schools, workplaces, streets, recreation, sports, culture, places of worship and social media are freed from anger, injustice, inequality, racism and the rule of men.
- A society where individuals and specifically leaders recognise our privilege and power in every form. Domination through race, gender identity, class, nationality, sexuality, ability, language, education and sex must be resisted by all of us.

We want to discuss and improve this vision. Divided movements cannot overcome these powerful obstacles. **#UniteBehind** must be a space for organisation and action but equally also to discuss and disagree with dignity.

## Stop The Nuclear Deal

A secret nuclear deal between President Jacob Zuma and Russia was blocked in our courts thanks to the work of EarthLife Africa and the Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute. The Western Cape High Court ruled that the deal was unlawful and unconstitutional because the wrong procedure was followed. However, this is not the end of the story. The government said that it will restart the process and follow the "correct" procedure.

The eight planned nuclear power stations will cost more than R1trillion and bankrupt the country through debt. We will owe money to international banks and institutions for many generations. All of government's own studies have shown that the nuclear deal is not necessary.

**The evidence shows that nuclear power is too expensive and that alternative clean, safe and renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind will benefit the local economy.**

Why does President Zuma want the nuclear deal with Russia? The secrecy around the deal means that President Jacob Zuma, corrupt ANC leaders, his friends and family will be bribed. Zuma and his Ministers together with Guptas have already misled Parliament, the ANC, Cosatu and the SACP on the nuclear deal. Two Finance Ministers, Nhlanhla Nene and Pravin Gordhan together with others have been fired because they said the country could not afford the deal.

If the President is allowed to go ahead with the deal, there will not be enough money to meet all the basic needs and rights we agree on and every government programme from health to street-cleaning, grants, education and many more will be cut. The government will increasingly rely on police to maintain order. Therefore, every political party including the ANC must warn investors that we will not have money to pay them back after the 2019 election.

## We want to discuss and improve this vision.

**Divided movements cannot overcome these powerful obstacles. #UniteBehind must be a space for organisation and action, but equally also to discuss and disagree with dignity.**

The **#UniteBehind** Coalition consists of the following organisations:

Alternative Information and Development Centre, Centre for Environmental Rights, District 6 Working Committee, Equal Education, Equal Education Law Centre, Environmental Monitoring Group, Financial Sector Campaign Coalition, Ndifuna Ukwazi, PHA Food & Farming Campaign, Right 2 Know, SAFCEI, SA First Forum, Save SA, Section 27, the Social Justice Coalition, Sonke Gender Justice, the Treatment Action Campaign, Triangle Project, Trust for Community Outreach and Education, the Women and Democracy Initiative and the Women's Legal Centre

# Redistribute wealth

A small number of South Africans are very rich and most are very poor. Ten percent of the population owns around 95% of the country's wealth. Most of the 10% are white. A quarter of households don't get enough to eat and many struggle with debt. Such inequality is bad for a country.

**In unequal societies such as ours, there is more physical and mental illness, violence, low maths and literacy scores among young people, more drug abuse, more pregnant teenagers and more people in jail. Communities do not trust each other and find it harder to set common goals that everyone can work towards.**

Jacob Zuma is an obstacle to wealth creation and wealth redistribution. An inclusive economy requires the will to regulate global banks, financial institutions and companies. These companies extract resources and wealth of countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America with wealth built through European slavery, colonialism and globalisation.

White dominated South African corporations are today completely enmeshed with the state and trade union investments. A radical transformation of these companies must ensure that they continue to create wealth because they provide work and taxes. The pensions and provident funds of the middle- and working-classes are invested in these corporations and transformation must guarantee their security.

Land must be redistributed in rural areas. When land is transferred from White to Black farmers, money is required to produce and distribute agricultural produce. Most Black people do not have the capital to do this. Government support will be needed. When urban land is redistributed to ensure socially integrated and economically viable, safe and happy cities, billions of rands will be required to build decent homes, clinics and schools. Government can only do this if it has access to income. Junk status and President Zuma's state capture will destroy wealth and income.

We need to redistribute wealth to create a fairer society in which every person in South Africa has equal opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

# Free, decolonised, public, high quality and equal education

Six-year old Michael Komape died when he fell into a pit toilet at school in Limpopo and across our country millions of students struggle with access to clean toilets. In Kwazulu-Natal hundreds of thousands of learners walk for more than an hour to school. Two thousand schools in the Eastern Cape either have no water or an unreliable supply. 80% of girls in Gauteng schools do not have regular access to sanitary products at school. In the Western Cape about 90% of learners experience some form of violence. Most teachers, who are decent, struggle to do their jobs in these conditions while their unprofessional colleagues thrive. At our universities, working-class students go hungry, study without textbooks and sleep in libraries.

**Our demands for free, decolonised, public, high quality and equal education is the most important struggle for all Black African, Coloured and Indian children but especially working-class families.**

A corrupt and captured state led by President Zuma and his faction in the ANC will fail us and dispossess many more generations of knowledge and justice.

# Safety, Policing and Justice

Our homes, streets, places of worship, taxis, trains, places to shop or run a small business and many spaces in Black African and Coloured townships are dangerous. We are demeaned and unsafe when using informal settlement toilets or bushes. The absence of streetlights, roads, housing, sports and all facilities that builds a happy community is unconstitutional.

**The 2014 Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry into Police found that "residents of the poorest areas of Cape Town that bore the brunt of apartheid are still woefully under-policed 20 years into our new democracy".**

The Commission's finding are being ignored. The South African Police Service announced that it wants to spend R100million on building a new police station in Muizenberg, a mostly white, relatively crime-free suburb but not nearby Capricorn or Vrygrond (the oldest informal settlement in Cape Town). We are resisting this.

President Zuma has destroyed the crime-fighting leadership in SAPS, the former Scorpions, the Hawks, the entire National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and the SA Revenue Service (SARS) to protect himself, his rich friends, and his corrupt faction in the ANC. They have over the years stolen or wasted billions in SAPS and the NPA. Allowing his corruption to continue will make us all much more unsafe.

# Urban Land Justice

Colonialism and apartheid dispossessed Black African, Coloured and Indian people. Today, our cities remain divided and working class people live further away from their places of work without basic services.

Access to, ownership and occupation of land in the CBDs of major cities and suburbs remain largely in the hands of White people. The majority live in informal settlements, backyards and inner city basements without the right to land or homes.

**Our broken and divided cities promote economic pain for people, waste government resources and destroy the environment and the promise of a dignified life for all.**

Land owned by government in Sea Point, the Waterfront and the City is being sold off to the wealthiest mainly White companies. National, provincial and city government are all guilty of not making land available to those who need it. Property deals that smell of corruption or super-wealth in Cape Town occur regularly, as they do elsewhere. Recently Premier Helen Zille spat in the face of working class Black African and Coloured people when she refused to allow the Tafelberg School site in Sea Point to be used for affordable housing. Let Tafelberg represent the lack of leadership, vested interests and arrogance of those in power. Tafelberg reinforces colonial and apartheid land ownership and is a scandal that Premier Helen Zille should never be allowed to recover from.

# Rape Culture

**The rape culture of our society destroys lives. Nearly one in two women is likely to be raped during her lifetime. 55,000 sexual offences are reported by women and children each year. Researchers say the real number could be nine times higher.**

Most rapists will not go to jail. Many women will be beaten up or killed by their partners. 40% of South African men say they have been violent towards their partner and up to 55% of women report have being beaten by their partners. The number of women killed by their male partners is six times higher than the world average. Police cannot prevent rape but they fail to investigate and most rapists escape justice.

Government has a huge role to play. First, it must provide resources that assist survivors to overcome trauma. Second, government must ensure that awareness and education at every level of society is supported. Patriarchal laws and customs that undermine the freedom, security and psychological integrity of girls and women must be removed. This includes the unearned authority of traditional leaders who don't treat women as equals. Justice for rape survivors can only be achieved with quality, gender-sensitive police and prosecutors.

All this requires a national strategic plan that is well-conceived and effectively implemented through the participation of society. The duty of society is to end the silence around rape culture and help men, women and children to have healthy, equal relationships.

# Junk Status Means Blacklisted for Debt

**Debt brings suffering to people as they are enslaved to the mashonisa, banks and loan sharks. We cannot afford decent food, homes, clothing, health and all the needs people have to live a life with dignity. Homes can be taken away, social security cards stolen by lenders and everyone from farm and domestic workers to teachers and nurses end up working to pay debt. Students who may never find work end up with debt.**

If we cannot pay, we end up being blacklisted – our personal financial status becomes junk – a status that means we cannot borrow or we go to the mashonisa who will take food off the table or commit violence.

Government also borrows and generally, this can be a good thing if the debt is well-managed and used to invest in infrastructure including roads, housing, schools, transport and clean, renewable energy. Since, the 2008 economic crisis when people lost jobs government correctly borrowed to invest in infrastructure. At the same time billions have been stolen by big companies and tenderpreneurs. Debt repayment is now the largest item in our national budget.

Local and international banks or financial institutions that have provided government with loans have increased interest rates because South Africa has become a debt risk. President Jacob Zuma has demonstrated that his ANC faction is using the Treasury and state-owned enterprises as their personal property. He has fired responsible Ministers and public servants who resisted this corruption and defiantly insisted on going ahead with the R1trillion Russian nuclear deal. Now, international institutions that government borrows from are blacklisting South Africa and we have to pay. The rand has lost value and this has increased inflation.

Inflation means price increases for everything from petrol and bread to machines South Africa imports from other countries. The millions of unemployed will be joined by workers who will lose their jobs. People who have loans will have to pay much more interest. In this way President Zuma has sabotaged our economy and tries to cover it up by preaching "radical economic transformation". South Africa is blacklisted.