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UCT public lecture to discuss free speech and identity politics

***Free Speech in the Age of Identity Politics*, Thursday, 13 August 2015, at 13h00
in Smuts Hall, Upper Campus**

The University of Cape Town will host world renowned writer, lecturer and broadcaster Kenan Malik to deliver the annual TB Davie Memorial Academic Freedom Lecture. Malik will, discuss *Free Speech in the Age of Identity Politics*.

By identity politics, Malik refers to the tendency for people who identify with a particular religion, race, social background, etc. to form exclusive political alliances, thus moving away from traditional, broad-based party politics.

Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor of UCT, said: "This is an important topic that touches on recent events around the world, including at the University of Cape Town, where we uphold academic freedom as a foundational value for building knowledge and conducting research."

The Annual TB Davie Memorial Academic Freedom Lecture is held in honour of Thomas Benjamin Davie, UCT Vice-Chancellor from 1948 to 1955. Dr Davie was a fearless defender of the principles of academic freedom and university autonomy, defining academic freedom as the university's right to determine who shall be taught, who shall teach, what shall be taught, and how it should be taught, without regard to any criterion except academic merit.

Notes to editors:

Malik is a columnist for the International New York Times and the Göteborgs-Posten. He has made a number of radio and TV documentaries on scientific, moral and political issues. He blogs at Pandaemonium. After studying neurobiology at the University of Sussex, and history and philosophy of science at Imperial College, London, he worked as a research psychologist at Sussex University's Centre for Research into Perception and Cognition. For the past 20 years he has combined academic research with popular writing and broadcasting. His main areas of interest are the history of ideas, the history and philosophy of science, the history and philosophy of religion, theories of human nature, political philosophy, ethics, and the history and sociology of race and immigration.

Malik's latest book is *The Quest for a Moral Compass: A Global History of Ethics*. He has also written *From Fatwa to Jihad* (2009), shortlisted for the 2010 George Orwell Prize; *Strange Fruit: Why Both Sides are Wrong in the Race Debate* (2008), nominated for the 2009 Royal Society Science Book Prize; *Man, Beast and Zombie: What Science Can and Cannot Tell Us*

about Human Nature (2000) and The Meaning of Race (1996).

END

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