



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD  
HEALTH SCIENCES

**SISULU**  
FOUNDATION FOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE

**28 October 2024**

## **UCT co-hosts inaugural Albertina Sisulu Memorial Lecture to illuminate social justice for future generations**

**31 October 2024 | 18:00 | Graduate School of Business, Breakwater Lodge, V&A Waterfront**

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) [Faculty of Health Sciences](#), in partnership with the Sisulu Foundation for Social Justice, will host the inaugural Albertina Sisulu Memorial Lecture on Thursday, 31 October 2024 at UCT's Graduate School of Business. The lecture seeks to amplify the rich tradition of social justice embodied by Sisulu's life. It is titled "The Sisulu Legacy and the Future of Socio-Economic Justice in Africa."

Ambassador Arikana Chihombori-Quao – a Zimbabwean-born medical doctor, activist, public speaker, educator, diplomat and entrepreneur – will deliver the lecture.

Albertina Sisulu (1918–2011), affectionately known as "Ma Sisulu" or the "Mother of the Nation", was a trailblazing South African anti-apartheid activist and nurse who dedicated her life to fighting socio-economic injustices and championing human rights. Her selfless service to others was evident in her work at the then Johannesburg General Hospital, where she witnessed first-hand the brutal effects of apartheid on black South Africans. Her experiences sparked outrage and evoked a strong sense of responsibility to act, leading her to become involved in the anti-apartheid movement alongside her husband, Walter Sisulu.

UCT Faculty of Health Sciences dean, Associate Professor Lionel Green-Thompson, said: "The legacy of Albertina Sisulu as a primary care nurse epitomises the servant leadership, which is an integral feature of service at the first contact with people. Ma Sisulu's dedication to social justice resonates with our values as a health sciences faculty that seeks to igniting agency among its staff and students to working towards a just and inclusive society built on health equity. Ma Sisulu's partnership with Dr Abu-Baker Asvat in the Soweto area ensured care for many at the margins of society, often at risk to their safety."

CEO of the Sisulu Foundation for Social Justice, Mphumzi Mdekazi, said: "The purpose of this memorial lecture is to sustain Albertina Sisulu's legacy of promoting socio-economic justice and human rights; supporting initiatives that address socio-economic inequalities; and educating future generations about her ethical leadership, to ensure that her story inspires continued action towards a more just and responsive society."

Sisulu was born in the Eastern Cape and grew up in a family that instilled in her the values of compassion, justice, and equality. The only woman at the launch of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League in 1943, she became an ardent member, joining the Women's League. She was among those who led the 1956 march of 20 000 women on the Union

Buildings to protest against pass laws. She was to endure a 90-day detention on four occasions.

The lecture in her name commemorates Albertina Sisulu's life and legacy. It honours her contributions to South Africa's struggle for freedom and justice, inspires future generations to continue fighting for socioeconomic equality, and reflects on the progress made and the challenges still to be overcome.

"The foundation, by embracing Albertina Sisulu's spirit and values, can only create a brighter future for all. Her legacy serves as a powerful reminder towards the importance of perseverance, ethical virtues and collective action in overcoming socio-economic injustices. Weaponising her paradigm, memory and lenses therefore becomes paramount," added Mdekazi.

Foreign dignitaries, politicians, former presidents, and numerous anti-apartheid activists will attend this landmark event, which commences at 18:00 on 31 October 2024 at the Graduate School of Business, Breakwater Lodge, V&A Waterfront.

Members of the media are requested to [RSVP](#) no later than Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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