



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

Institute of  
**African Studies**

**Institute of African Studies**

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May 13, 2021

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng

Vice-Chancellor

University of Cape Town

South Africa

Dear Professor Phakeng and UCT Colleagues,

**Letter of support for the University of Cape Town**

As faculty, staff, students, and community members affiliated with the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, we are reaching out to you to express our deep sadness at the loss of so much of the African Studies Collection in the fire on April 18th that destroyed the Jagger Reading Room at UCT. Recognizing the vital role the collection plays in the work of so many of our colleagues and students, we stand in solidarity with you and the global African Studies community to grieve this devastating loss.

We understand that while there remains much work to be done in assessing the damage and identifying lost artifacts, there are efforts already underway to rebuild as much of the collection as possible. The Institute of African Studies is in possession of a modest collection of print and audiovisual materials. We commit to doing our utmost to identify and share any relevant holdings with UCT. If Africanists worldwide do the same, the impact can be immense.

We will stay apprised of initiatives to help support you in the important work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Christine Duff, PhD  
Director, Institute of African Studies

## CO-SIGNED

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