

# **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUMMIT ON XENOPHOBIA TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS**

**Organized by Africa Unite**

We, the learners from the following schools assembled on 31 July, 2010 at 47 Commercial Street in Cape Town to strongly condemn discrimination, racism, and xenophobia within our schools and throughout our country. We urge our teachers, principals and political leaders to recognize their words in our classrooms and to appreciate the impressions their words have on us in our lifetime.

We believe that we can no longer stand by while our fellow African learners are threatened with violence and hatred within our schools. We refuse to participate in these actions and condemn the perpetrators.

As learners we're taught that the South Africa Constitution stipulates that our country belongs to all those living within it. We believe strongly in these words and we submit these recommendations to combat discrimination from our schools to the Department of Education.

We call on the Department of Education to do the following:

- Must declare all our schools free from discrimination, racism and xenophobia.
- Must have posters presenting the ideals of social cohesion, anti-xenophobia, and anti-racism in each classroom of every school.
- Must insert the South African Constitution education programme within the current curriculum.
- Must implement programs on social cohesion in Life Orientation (from Primary to Tertiary level) i.e. racism, discrimination, Xenophobia, Human Rights,
- Must have consistent education and monitoring of racism, throughout South African schools.
- Must review the current curriculum in History and Geography classes to better represent the African continent.
- Must have Peer Educators in schools to focus on Human Rights similar to the HIV/AIDS programme.
- Must have a special date to raise awareness and reflect on the May 2008 xenophobia attacks. ( Never again)
- All international agreements and treaties signed by the SA Government must be taught and reflected at grassroots' level, in schools.
- Must incorporate materials on anti-xenophobia in new educational text books and other educational materials.
- Must have more school social dialogues among learners from different backgrounds including foreign nationals.
- Must have an early warning system to combat xenophobia at all schools
- Should work in partnership with NGOs and community based organizations to help learners further their development.

Signatories:

Cravenby High School, Sithembele Matiso High School, New Eislenben High School, Nelson Mandela High School, Cape Town High School, Buren High School, Milnerton High School, Zonnebleom Secondary School, St. Francis High School, Christian David- Lavender Hill High School including Inkamva Youth and Africa Unite Youth Peer Educators.