

The Edmund Rice Justice Desk



Welcome to the July Newsletter of the Edmund Rice Justice Desk

The Edmund Rice Network

The Edmund Rice Network is a global movement of people who have been inspired by Blessed Edmund Rice and wish to be part of his dream for a more just and equitable world. For us in Southern Africa, we particularly commit ourselves to Social Justice, Advocacy and Volunteerism.

We have a number of groups in Southern Africa. Some are comprised of older folk, some cater to the needs of university students while others are made up of Edmund Rice Society school-leavers.

Some of the groups have a strong spiritual growth focus while others are more committed to works of social justice.

Edmund Rice Justice Desk

ERNSA's Justice Desk was launched in 2013.

Our yearly developed Formation Programme serves to educate and equip the general public with skills that focus on Social Justice and Advocacy issues.

The Desk coordinates Social Justice Programmes, Eco-Justice Presentations, Eco-Retreats, Skills Courses for vulnerable young adults, as well as volunteer projects such as, The Umoya Project in Khayelitsha.

The Desk also advocates on behalf of local and international groups that suffer infringements on their Human Rights.



Mandela Day!

Our Youth Ambassadors across South Africa joined forces to run various exciting justice campaigns in their school for Mandela Day!



ADV Training

In partnership with the Justice & Peace Commission we are working to train over 720 women in anti-domestic violence!

EREBB Global HIV Campaign

In honour of Mandela Day, The Advocacy Group of Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders launched their Global HIV Campaign; where youth from across the world will spend the next few months advocating for an end to HIV stigma, and for equal access to healthcare.

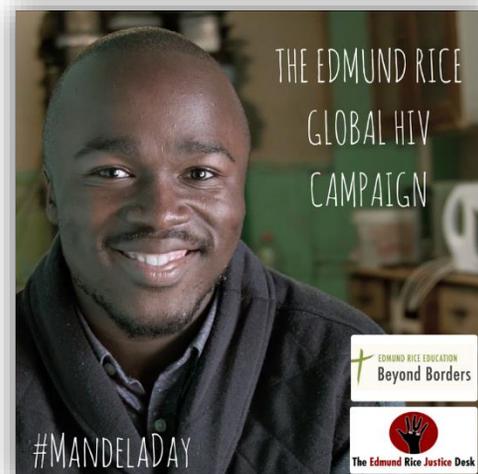
As a member of this group, The Edmund Rice Justice Desk filmed a video to launch the campaign across the globe. The video introduces you to two phenomenal South Africans,

fighting against HIV/Aids stigma and the unequal accessibility of health-care in many African countries. Our very own In-Reach student Loyiso, was the face of the video, sharing his own struggles as an HIV+ youth living in a township.

Loyiso has also been video conference calling schools and network people in different parts of the world, answering questions and encouraging others to join the campaign.

To see the video, go to the following

link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goW6y46q124>



ERJD awarded Lead SA Award

It is with great excitement that we announce that the work of our organisation has yet again been recognised, this time from Lead SA! Our Director, Jessica Dewhurst has been named the Lead SA Hero of July and will receive the award on behalf of the ERJD at a breakfast this week. We thank Lead SA, Cape Talk Radio and Primedia Broadcasting for celebrating our work in human rights throughout South Central Africa!

LEADSA



Human Rights Fun Day!

This month our organisation hosted a human rights themed fun day for 120 vulnerable children and youth from the Bonteheuwel Community. Over the past few months, our organisation has been training students and community members in both Children's Rights and Human Rights, through the invitation of The Amy Biehl Foundation's programme at Mimosa Primary School. The day was a lovely success and we are proud to work in partnership with such a phenomenal organisation. A very special thank you to The Christian Brothers' Centre for your generosity in allowing us to use your grounds.



The Umoya Project

The Umoya project was co-founded by The Edmund Rice Justice Desk and St Michael's Catholic Church in 2013. It takes numerous volunteers to a Missionaries of Charity home in the township of Khayelitsha on weekends in order to interact with the many residents in the home.

The 75+ residents have various mental and physical disabilities and have little or no contact with their families. The project plans fun activities in order to provide a space for 'our family' to have fun and form positive relationships with volunteers.

This month we celebrated Mandela Day by hosting an early morning dance and work-out session, followed by the creation of Mandela murals, masks and posters. Our next session will be on the 13th August, why don't you join us?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to volunteer, and live in the Cape Town area, register via our website: www.theumoyaproject.com



Mandela Day!

On the 18th July, South Africa and the world celebrated Mandela Day, a day of festivity and thanksgiving for former South African president Nelson Mandela. Across the globe people are encouraged to do something for their community for 67 minutes – one minute for every year Mandela was imprisoned for fighting against the apartheid regime of South Africa. During this month we challenged our Youth Ambassadors to come up with an exciting way to get their schools to complete their 67 minutes. Here are some of the results!

The Youth Ambassadors of CBC St Patrick's Kimberley joined their prefects in organising a fun day in which 70 youth from Thutong ya Bana came. They played games, sports activities, and organised a meal for the children. Thutong ya Bana is a school run by the Christian Brothers in Kimberly, which caters for vulnerable children and youth in the community.



The Youth Ambassadors of CBC St John's Parklands honoured Madiba by joining their Edmund Rice Society in organising a vegetable drive and soup kitchen for the differently-abled community of Cheshire Home in Milnerton.



The Youth Ambassadors of St Dominic's College Welkom, hosted a 67 minute-long "walk for warmth" around their school fields. The purpose of the walk was to get all students to contribute a fee towards their entry, and in the process fund the buying of blankets for a nearby hospice.

Well done to all our Youth Ambassadors across the country who did such amazing work this month! We look forward to seeing your many campaigns in August!

If your school would like to join our Youth Ambassadors programme, feel free to contact us on info@ernsa.org



St John's Secondary School - Zambia

The Edmund Rice for Change (ERFC) group of St John's Secondary School in the Mongu District of Zambia has been doing phenomenal work in their community! The group of students, inspired by Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (EREBB), meet twice a week to plan various campaigns and activities aimed at raising awareness to human rights and injustice in their communities. The group has coordinated weekly community clean-ups, and spent time with over 200 vulnerable students from Ilute Community Primary School, encouraging students to stay in school through music, drama and the donating of stationery. The ERFC students of St John's have also each 'adopted' an elderly member of their community to care for, by spending time delivering them food, as well as visiting them regularly. The group is also known for assisting the Christian Brothers in the area as they deliver food items to vulnerable people through the Mongu District.

St John's Secondary School has also been busy hosting a teacher's exchange programmes in their school, where they welcomed teachers from St Columbus Secondary; as well as the National EREBB Schools meeting. The entire school got involved in hosting a talent show, where all funds raised went to supporting the schools various outreach projects.

The school also recently celebrated the works of their founder Blessed Edmund Rice by coordinating a day of celebration and unity in their community. The day consisted of a big celebration and meal, followed by a community march for peace, justice, and human rights. The local business centre came to a stand-still as students, teachers, staff and the general public joined the march. This was then followed by mass, celebrated by Fr Mate of Katongo, as well as outdoor games and a braai.

St John's Secondary School in Mongu is dedicated to working hard alongside their sister school St Columbus, to create positive change in western Zambia. We congratulate the school and their ERFC group on their amazing work!



Profile of the Month: Nthabeleng Ramongalo

Our profile of the month is one of our very own Youth Ambassadors, Nthabeleng Ramongalo, a grade 11 student from St Dominic's College, Welkom.

What do you hope to do when you finish school and why?

I would like to study subjects such as philosophy and psychology to further understand the full depth of humanity.

What motivated you to be a Youth Ambassador and what would you like to achieve?

I would like to be the voice of the speechless out there in the world. I just want to bring real social problems to light and I wanted to be a part of a greater cause, a cause which is bigger than myself. I would like to enrich the minds of the others by making them aware of serious social problems in the world out there.

What campaigns are you doing this year? What are you most looking forward to?

This month our school will be doing the following ERJD Campaigns: The month of the child, Autism Month, Women's Month (Stella Fella Campaign), Eco-Justice Month, Anti-Human Trafficking Month, as well as Water for life/Operation Hydrate in which our students donated 2500 litres of water to drought-stricken areas. We will also be doing Santa Shoe box this year for Christmas. The campaign I am most looking forward to is Women's Month because it is something I think the rest of the school would be very much interested in.

Who is your role model and why?

Aristotle was a great man who devoted his life to teaching minds about the world out there and also what it means to be a better person and how to further improve yourself as a human being. What I find most remarkable about him is that he not only sought out to acquire knowledge about himself as person, he shared it with others as well.

What motivates you to work towards a better South Africa?

There is a man in the area that I live in, he has no legs and walks on his hands begging people for money all day. It breaks my heart that I cannot do anything else for him besides giving him a R5 whenever I have spare change in my pocket and watch as people mindlessly walk past him. I would like to do more than just give him a coin out of my pocket. He is my motivation for change, for a more understanding and caring South Africa.



Welcome to the team, Kayla!

A very warm welcome to Kayla Brittan, who has joined our team as our Education and Awareness Coordinator. Kayla is a past pupil of CBC St John's in Parklands South Africa. She has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Philosophy, an Honours Degree in Psychology, and is busy completing her Master's Degree in Social Anthropology.

She is passionate about creating educational materials, as well as breaking the barrier between academic research and implementation on the ground.

Should you wish you contact Kayla, you can email her on kayla@ernsa.org



In-Reach Update

Two of our In-Reach students, Asiphe and Xolile, are inspiring vulnerable children through their love of magic! Both students are completing a yearlong internship at The College of Magic, and perform and run an interactive magic shows, which the college opens up to children from various schools across the Western Cape. Pictured below are both students during one of their inspiring performances.



ERJD at Centre for Constitutional Rights

Our Director was recently invited by The Centre for Constitutional Rights and the FW de Klerk Foundation to be one of two panellists to address youth from various schools across the Western Cape on democracy, constitutional rights, and the South African provincial elections. Alongside Chaeli Mycroft of The Chaeli Campaign, Ms Dewhurst spoke about social responsibility, the power of youth, and the importance of fighting for the rights of differently-abled people. Here are some exciting photos from the panel discussion.



Anti-Domestic Violence Training

Our organisation, in partnership with The Justice and Peace Commission have run seven Anti-Domestic Violence workshops for The City of Cape Town with numerous women from throughout the Western Cape. Due to the desperate need for such workshops, we will continue to work in partnership to ensure that 18 workshops take place, training over 720 women over the next month.



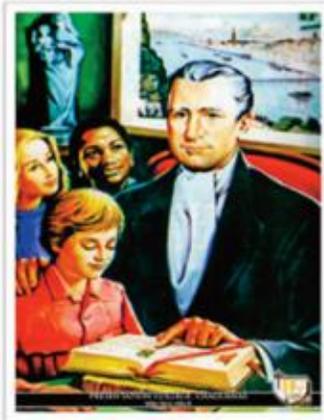


Congregation of Christian Brothers

WHO WE ARE – an international family of brothers, celibate and living as communities.

OUR VISION – to be brothers to all, modeling our dream for a world of justice and love.

OUR MISSION – to be and bring Jesus' good news on the margins, especially through education and care of youth.



DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO BE A CHRISTIAN BROTHER?
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DARE TO BE A CHRISTIAN BROTHER. BECOME HOPE FOR THE WORLD.



info@ernsa.org

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Edmund Rice Development, Edmund Rice Foundation

& Misan Cara

A huge thank you to our funders Edmund Rice Development (www.edmundricedevelopment.org), Edmund Rice Foundation (www.erf.org.au) and Misan Cara (www.misancara.ie) who have assisted us in making sure that the work of The Edmund Rice Justice Desk for South Central Africa is possible. Without you, we would not be able to do what we do, and for that we are truly grateful.