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Reconciliation Awards  
2011–2012

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation  
proudly presents the

## Reconciliation Awards Ceremony

District Six Homecoming Centre  
21 November 2012

### The IJR Reconciliation Award for 2011

is presented to

**Ms Olga Macingwane**

*for her continued commitment to community reconciliation.*

For the first time this year, the Institute also presents the

### Youth Reconciliation Arts Competition

titled “Coming of Age with South Africa: (Y)our Story of Reconciliation”

Winners in the various categories are:

**Bertus van Schoor** (canvas art)

**Andisiwe Tsobo** (creative writing)

**Linda Velapi** (photography)



### ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION (IJR)

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation was launched in 2000 in the aftermath of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The aim was to ensure that lessons learnt from South Africa's transition from apartheid

to democracy were taken into account as the nation moved ahead. Today, the Institute helps to build fair, democratic and inclusive societies in Africa through carefully selected engagements and interventions.

### IJR RECONCILIATION AWARD

The Institute affords an annual Reconciliation Award to an individual, community or organisation in South Africa that has contributed towards reconciliation. Through this award the Institute would like to acknowledge and showcase the recipient's approaches and strategies to enabling reconciliation, whether these efforts originate in the spheres of politics, media, business, culture, sport, academia or community service.

Reconciliation is a broad term which the IJR defines as follows for the context of the award:

*“Reconciliation strives to go beyond the normal, recognising that a failure to set in motion programmes to address sources of conflict which include the demand for retribution, acknowledgement, reparations, poverty relief and access to land will result in little more than delayed violence. It therefore involves taking the first steps to achieving the higher goal of sustainable peace. Reconciliation requires restraint, generosity of spirit, empathy and perseverance. This difficult task is sustained and energised by concrete goals, and a shared vision of what can and might yet be accomplished.”*

*“Reconciliation is the art of turning the possible into the real and is driven by a desire to stretch the limits of what seems possible at a given time.”*

(From the IJR publication, *Pieces of the Puzzle*)

# Previous Reconciliation Award Recipients



**2000** Tim Modise  
*for getting the nation talking*



**2001** Pieter-Dirk Uys  
*for enabling us to laugh at ourselves*



**2002** PJ Powers and Sibongile Khumalo  
*for singing one another's songs*



**2003** Dullah and Farieda Omar  
*for their contribution to the TRC process*



**2004** Mary Burton  
*for her work in the Black Sash and elsewhere*



**2005** Brigalia Bam  
*for her role in enabling peaceful democratic elections*



**2006** Ouma Grietjie Adams  
*for holding the community together in mourning, conflict and celebration*



**2007** The community of Masiphumelele  
*for setting an example in promoting tolerance towards foreign nationals and in striving to ensure dignity and justice for all in their community*



**2008** Shine Centre  
*for helping, through volunteerism, foundation-phase learners with literacy*



**2009** Judge Albie Sachs  
*for realising reconciliation through his life and work*



*for her continued commitment to community reconciliation*

Olga Macingwane (53) was one of the 67 direct victims of the Worcester shopping mall bombing that took place on Christmas Eve in 1996 – a horrific event which would forever change the fate of all involved. The injuries that Olga sustained (including a permanent limp) have prevented her from being able to assume regular employment as she is unable to stand for extended periods of time.

In 2010, a coalition of organisations working for post-conflict justice in South Africa, including Khulumani Support Group, won an interdict against the President preventing him from issuing special Presidential Pardons to a group of 149 perpetrators of serious crimes, including murder and bombings. Amongst this group was the Worcester bomber, Mr Daniel Stefanus Coetzee (Stefaans), who had committed his crime when he was just 18 years old, in the name of the Israel Vision extreme right-wing organisation.

Some 13 years into his imprisonment, Stefaans contacted Khulumani Support Group and asked if it would be possible to organise for victims of his attack to meet with him in Pretoria Central Correctional Facility. Khulumani secured a small budget to transport four of the affected members of the Worcester community, including Mrs Macingwane, who made the

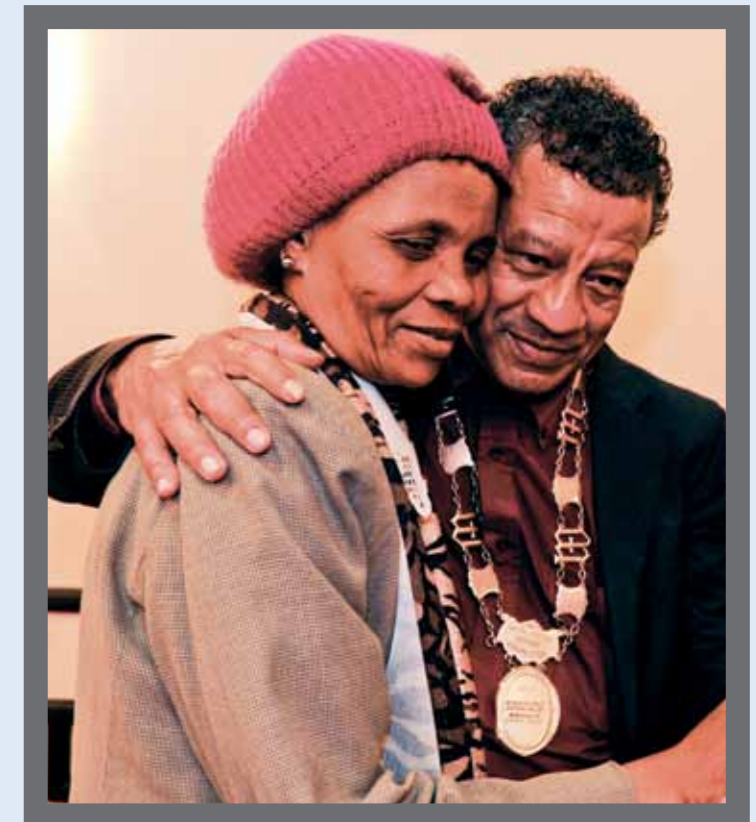
long trip by car to meet Stefaans. At their meeting, Stefaans explained to the small group that he had come to feel deep regret that many women and children had been victims of his bomb. He said he wanted to take responsibility for causing so much harm and that he wanted to make himself available to his victims to answer any questions they might have. In the room provided for the encounter in Pretoria Central Correctional Facility, Mrs Macingwane listened intently throughout the interaction with Stefaans. She had told him simply at the start of the visit that it was not in her power to grant him forgiveness and that she only wanted to hear his story. As the visit drew to a close Mrs Macingwane asked Stefaans to stand up in front of her. She told him that she had listened to him and that she had understood everything he had said. She put her arms around Stefaans and told him simply, “When I see you, I see my sister’s son. That is how I will take you from now on.”

This moment led to the growing of a movement for reconciliation in Worcester, based on hearing each other and finding ways to make restitution for the harms done to each other. The movement is called the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process, which Mrs Macingwane steers both symbolically and actively, as a central figure in her steadfast

commitment to bringing the people of the town together in growing numbers, with the goal of exploring actions that could help to bridge the divides across the still geographically and psychologically separated communities of Worcester.

This process is modelling how South Africans can find their own resources and capacities to “set in motion programmes to address sources of conflict which include the demand for retribution, acknowledgement, reparations, and poverty relief” based on the qualities of “restraint, generosity of spirit, empathy and perseverance” that Mrs Macingwane so explicitly models as the basic requirements for a genuine reconciliation – one based on full disclosure between perpetrator and victim, one in which relationships of reciprocity and mutual trust are developed over time, one that is characterised by an experience of a shared humanity. The example modelled by Mrs Macingwane is one that we hope will inspire small towns across our country, to take the risk to become known to each other and to become reconciled.

*This excerpt is taken from Dr Marjorie Jobson’s nomination of Olga Macingwane to receive the IJR Reconciliation Award for 2011. Dr Marjorie Jobson is a human rights activist who serves as the director of Khulumani Support Group.*



Olga Macingwane with mayor Basil Kivedo, at the launch of the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process. Picture: Jaco Marais

# IJR Youth Reconciliation Arts Competition

## Coming of Age with South Africa – (Y)our Story of Reconciliation



The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation takes great joy in bestowing its annual Reconciliation Award to deserving recipients who are helping to right the wrongs of South Africa’s unjust past. The year 2012 is a significant one for South Africa as it marks the country’s entry into adulthood as a democratic nation, and while much work towards reconciliation still remains, we also have much to celebrate.

For the first time this year, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation set out to engage 18-year-olds who are celebrating their rite of passage into adulthood along with South Africa, to engage with the

concept of reconciliation. However, in an effort to make this weighty concept more relatable for the youth, the Institute framed this engagement within a creative arts competition. Eighteen-year-olds from across the country were invited to submit their creative writing, photographic or canvas artworks portraying their (hi)story of reconciliation.

The entries submitted were reflective of how far South Africa has come, but also of how much work is still left to do – much of which will be the quest for equality which the country’s youth will continue.

### Selected entries submitted to the Youth Reconciliation Arts Competition

- This page:
- 1 Danrico Davids

2 Sweetness Motobuqi

3 Bulelani Magubudela

4 Morasha Phindeka

5 Nomthandazo Sithole

6 Pheletso Nketu
- Opposite page:
- 7 Christoff Geldenhuys

8 Jillian Lawrence

9 Mark Oppelt

10 Joseph Robertson

11 Hlanganani Mayakhe



# Winner in the Creative Writing Category



## Andisiwe Tsobo for *Poem of Reconciliation*

Better future  
No jobs here  
Come with me please  
I want to pass grade ten

No jobs here  
I don't have a pen  
I want to pass grade ten  
I want to go to school

I don't have a pen  
Me, I go out  
I want to go to school  
Forgive me please

Me, I go out  
Come with me my friend  
Forgive me please  
Because of my behaviour

Come with me my friend  
Come with me please  
Because of my behaviour  
Better future

Come with me please  
If you respect yourself  
Better future  
I am so excited

If you respect yourself  
Better education  
I am so excited  
Dreams

Better education  
I see that girl so successful  
Dreams  
Forgiveness in my country

I see that girl so successful  
Because of my behaviour  
Forgiveness in my country  
Come with me my friend

Because of my behaviour  
Make sense in your mind  
Come with me my friend  
It is important because of you

Make sense in your mind  
Drown violence deeper  
It is important because of you  
Poverty is not right

Drown violence deeper  
Peaceful  
Poverty is not right  
A change happens because of you  
Peaceful  
Forgiveness in my country  
A change happens because of you  
I see that girl so successful

Forgiveness in my country  
So very proud  
I see that girl so successful  
Enjoy our community

So very proud  
Because of your problem  
Enjoy our community  
I was beat by children

Because of your problem  
Abuse drugs rape crime  
I was beat by children  
I promise

Abuse drugs rape crime  
A change happens because of you  
I promise  
Peaceful

A change happens because of you  
Better future  
Peaceful  
Because of my behaviour

Better future  
I want to go to school  
Because of my behaviour  
I don't have a pen

I want to go to school  
I want to pass grade ten  
I don't have a pen  
No jobs here

I want to pass grade ten  
I promise  
No jobs here  
Abuse drugs rape crime

I promise  
I want to go to church  
Abuse drugs rape crime  
I want to teach after three years

I want to go to church  
No space here  
I want to teach after three years  
I want to read my textbook

No space here  
My sister was dead  
I want to read my textbook  
No food here

My sister was dead  
No jobs here  
No food here  
I want to pass grade ten

No jobs here  
I don't have a ruler at school  
I want to pass grade ten  
I want to support my children after five years

I don't have a ruler at school  
No crime here  
I want to support my children after five years  
I don't have children

No crime here  
I want to pay school fees at my school  
I don't have children  
My mother is gone

I want to pay school fees at my school  
No food here  
My mother is gone  
My sister was dead



Andisiwe Tsobo lives in the Masiphumelele community of Fish Hoek, in the Western Cape, where she attends Masiphumele High School as a grade ten learner. She often helps her younger siblings with their homework – a task most teenagers may not be as excited about as Andisiwe, who dreams of becoming a teacher to positively impact more young people's lives.

As the winner of the creative writing category, Andisiwe is glad for the opportunity to express herself creatively and hopes that her work will help inspire others to share their own stories, so that we can learn to better understand each other.

With her mother as her role model for the invaluable life lessons she imparts, Andisiwe's message to the youth of South Africa is to maintain good relationships with family and build relationships with people from different walks of life, which will in turn help to build a more unified society. Her dream for this country is for all young South Africans to have access to a good education and be raised in a crime-free environment.

# Winner in the Canvas Art Category

Bertus van Schoor for *Our Colourful Nation*



Lambertus (Bertus) Lochner van Schoor lives in Sasolburg in the Free State. He is a Matric learner at Sasolburg High School and hopes to pursue a career as an artist, describing art as his life. This is what he had to say about his work:

*My painting reflects my thoughts on how South Africans have moved from the oppression of the apartheid regime to come together as one rainbow nation. Due to the fact that the first democratic election was held in the year I was born, I feel almost responsible to have an open mind and heart when it comes to the people of our beautiful country and to accept others as they have accepted me.*

*We all form part of this colourful nation and my artwork's main focus is colour. I chose to incorporate the colours of our flag into the faces of the people. I also used very crisp colours when painting the skin tones... I kept the use of black paint to an absolute minimum as it dulls a painting and our people are anything but dull... I also chose to paint all different races and ages to show that I do not discriminate. We as South Africans should erase*

*the racial boundaries that keep us from being the best possible people we can be. The different ages are also a reminder that reconciliation doesn't just start with the new generation, but affects everyone living here... I truly hope to inspire others with my paintings as this is a platform I need to use to grow and to show others a love of this wonderful country.*

# Winner in the Photography Category

Linda Velapi for *The Landscape*



Linda Velapi lives in the Masiphumelele community of Fish Hoek, in the Western Cape. She is a grade ten learner at Masiphumelele High School and plays soccer for her community team.

Blessed with creative and analytical talents, while Linda enjoys photography, she also has a great passion for numbers and would like to become an accountant.

Linda recognised this competition as the opportunity to not only showcase her photography, but to also share her personal interpretation of reconciliation as the realisation of freedom. Her winning photograph showcases more expensive houses in the distance, contrasted against low-income housing, both of which are set against a breathtaking natural backdrop. Linda explains that she captured a landscape because she feels that "it expresses freedom and the changes that have taken place in my community since 1994".



# A heartfelt *thank you* from IJR!

To everyone who participated in the nomination process for the 2011 Reconciliation Award – thank you for highlighting the outstanding work of so many individuals and organisations who are working towards justice and reconciliation in South Africa.

To the 2011 Reconciliation Award panel – Lucretia Arendse; Louise Asmal (IJR board member); Friederike Bubenzer; Zyaan Davids; Carolin Gomulia; Lameez Klein; Margo Newman; Juzaida Swain and Rev. Spiwo Xapile (IJR board member) – thank you for your time, insight into what it means to bring about reconciliation in South Africa, and for your conscientious efforts towards reaching a consensus on the recipient of the Reconciliation Award for 2011.

Thank you to all the participants of the Youth Reconciliation Arts Competition for the time and effort taken to produce works which truly showcase your tremendous talents. Thank you also for so honestly sharing with us what reconciliation means to you.

To the IJR Youth Reconciliation Arts Competition panel – Prof. Jaco Barnard-Naudè (IJR board member); Zubeida Jaffer (journalist

and author); Rashid Lombard (photojournalist and CEO of espAfrika); Riason Naidoo (Director of the Iziko South African National Gallery) and IJR staff members, Jan Hofmeyr and Eleanor Swartz – thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules and drawing on your expertise to select winners in each of the competition's three categories. Your input into this project is deeply appreciated!

To our core donors – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Danish International Development Agency – thank you for your continued support of the Institute's work.

To the sponsors and supporters of the Youth Reconciliation Arts Competition and the awards ceremony – DLA Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr; Distell Foundation; City Varsity; espAfrika; Olive Pictures; Parliamentary Millennium Project; Lalela Project; and Exclusive Books – thank you for your generous support! Your contributions will help encourage the winners of this competition to pursue their passions.

