



IJR

THE INSTITUTE
FOR JUSTICE AND
RECONCILIATION

**Reconciliation Award
2014/2015**

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation proudly
presents the 2014/2015 Reconciliation Award to the

Ruben Richards Foundation

*for enabling communities to overcome
gangsterism and organised crime*



At the District Six Museum Homecoming Centre
15 Buitenkant Street
Cape Town
Thursday, 26 November 2015

© FRONT COVER: Gantane Kusch (left) and Daniel Richards (right) in their roles as 'Glas' and 'Draad' in the play *Die Glas Ennie Draad*, based on a true story of two gangsters who worked with the RRF. Photo by Ashraf Hendricks.

© IMAGE OVERLEAF: Daniel Richards (left) and Gantane Kusch (right). Photo by Bronwyn Lloyd.



The Ruben Richards Foundation works to reduce both the causes and effects of gangsterism on the Cape Flats. This non-profit organisation was founded in 2012 and became involved in mediation in Lavender Hill. Community leaders and religious leaders came together with senior gang leaders and negotiated the longest ceasefire in Lavender Hill's history. The Foundation has helped many reforming gang members to abandon a life of crime, including Rashid Staggie, once a leader of the infamous 'Hard Livings'. Out of this experience the Ruben Richards Foundation has sponsored a play *Die Glas Ennie Draad*, which aims to bring the stories of this marginalised world to mainstream consciousness. The character 'Marlin' reveals his life story to 'die kopdoctor', a psychologist. 'Marlin' is based on two real characters who worked with the Ruben Richards Foundation. One of them is a reformed gangster who is with us tonight.

The Ruben Richards Foundation aims to address the underlying causes of gangsterism by integrating reformed gang members into the mainstream economy, an initiative the Foundation calls 'industrial consciousness'. This outlook of dialogue and 'economic reconciliation' gives South Africa a much-needed alternative to negotiation models based on policing.

The Foundation also works to address other forms of social exclusion such as teenage pregnancy in schools. The aim is to de-stigmatise the pregnancy and motivate the girls to complete high school.

ABOUT THE IJR RECONCILIATION AWARD



Each year the IJR confers the Reconciliation Award upon an individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to nation-building and reconciliation in South Africa, whether these efforts originate in the spheres of politics, business, culture, or community service.

This year's theme of **Confronting Exclusion** strives to highlight the connection between reconciliation, inequality and economic exclusion.

Reconciliation and confronting exclusion is about recognising that a failure to set in motion programmes to address sources of conflict – including the demands for retribution, reparations, poverty relief and access to land – will result in little more than delayed violence. Reconciliation requires restraint, generosity of spirit, empathy and perseverance.

Nominations for the IJR Reconciliation Award **open in June** annually.

Visit www.ijr.org.za/rec-award.php for more information and to see previous winners.

HONOURABLE MENTION

As part of the selection process, three candidates are shortlisted and, through a public endorsement process as well as in-depth research by the award panel, the finalist is selected. Alice Wamundiya and amandla.mobi were the two inspiring runner-up candidates.



Alice Wamundiya

Alice Wamundiya's family fled the Rwandan Genocide in 1994, settling in South Africa with nothing but 'our brains, our passion, and our determination'. She found SA's tertiary education difficult to access for refugees, and so co-founded the Unity for Tertiary Refugee Students (UTRS) organisation. During this time Wamundiya worked part-time as a car guard, using the small income to help her family, further her education, and give the UTRS a small emergency kitty.

The UTRS has helped more than 1 200 students with documents, institutional know-how, bursaries and internships, and has sought to influence national refugee policy. Wamundiya is currently working on a policy document alongside a PhD and the day-to-day help she provides to refugee students, from extra food to filling out a form.



Amandla.mobi

Amandla.mobi is a community advocacy organisation, although the team prefers to identify its NPO as 'a social movement, first and foremost'. Campaigns run in multiple languages and take the form of a petition. People show their support by sending a message, WhatsApp message, or a 'Please Call Me'. Rather than speaking *for* the marginalised, this innovative approach gives amandla.mobi ground-breaking reach to amplify the voices of those most excluded from the decision-making process: rural black women.

Amandla.mobi currently links 13 000 people together, and the numbers are growing. Their campaigns are chosen to resonate with their core member base, and have touched on freedom of speech, corruption and access to electricity. Most recently, amandla.mobi has launched petitions supporting the nationwide student protests.

FEATURING THE FOLLOWING ARTISTS



Daniel Mpilo Richards is an actor, writer, dancer, singer and musician. He has performed in festivals in Grahamstown, Zimbabwe and the Czech Republic. His most recent local performances include a one-man show called *Born Free*, as well as the role of Lodovico in Shakespeare's *Othello* and the role of Chino in the Fugard's musical production of *West Side Story*. Daniel started the #LiveYourDreamCampaign, which aims to motivate learners at school to live their dreams by pursuing a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

Die Glas Ennie Draad was written and performed by Daniel Richards and Gantane Kusch. In collaboration with the Ruben Richards Foundation. Project10 000 in turn aims to bring 10 000 Cape Flats residents into the theatre to view the production.



Performance poet, facilitator and theatre practitioner, Koleka Putuma studied Theatre and Performance at UCT. Her poetry has taken her to New York and Scotland as well as around South Africa. In 2014 she was nominated to represent the Western Cape in the 'Slam For Your Life' competition at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, where she was crowned South Africa's first National Slam Champion. In 2015 she was nominated for the Rosalie van der Gucht Prize for New Directors at the annual Fleur Du Cap Theatre Awards. She has recently been named one of Africa's top ten poets by *Badilisha*.

She is a resident poet of the collective Lingua Franca and co-founder of theatre companies *Velvet Spine* and *The Papercut Collective*.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM THE IJR

Special thanks to the 2014/2015 Reconciliation Award panellists, Zuko Mnyonyo, Louise Asmal, Carolin Gomulia, Juzaida Swain, Ayanda Nyoka, Anthea Flink, Nawaal Essop, Megan Robertson, Stephen Buchanan-Clarke and Nosindiso Mtimkulu. Thank you for giving your time and insight.

To our donors who made this possible – the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria, the Embassy of Finland in Pretoria, and Australian Aid – thank you for your continued support of the Institute's work.

To everyone who participated, everyone who nominated, everyone who voted, and everyone who is working to confront exclusion and promote justice and reconciliation in South Africa:

THANK YOU



© BACK COVER: Emblematic of the forced removals that created the Cape Flats, the apartheid-era apartment blocks of Manenberg constantly struggle with gangsterism and organised crime. *Photo by Henk Kruger, courtesy of Independent Media.*



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