

Organisers

Tertiary Peace Forum (TPF)

The TPF vision is a peaceful society in which the oppressed and marginalized peoples are emancipated from the manacles of social and economic inequality and where the core values of UBUNTU are adhered to. In this society, the education system will be free from the ideological stranglehold of any class or group.

Objectives

- To promote the integration of diverse groups
- To campaign for equal access to and opportunities in institutions of higher learning regardless of financial standing
- To build a culture of brotherhood and sisterhood amongst students
- To inculcate the values of community service and volunteerism
- To create a peaceful environment by fighting racism, sexism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination
- To develop and enhance leadership skills within our ranks

The TPF was initiated on different campuses around the country by former members of the Umtapo-driven Peace Clubs in secondary schools.

Within two years, the TPF has managed to achieve recognition at eight (8) university campuses and continues to grow. It is expected that by the end of 2013, there will be TPFs officially recognised at 12 universities nationally.

The TPF represents a new brand of student activism in the struggle for a more just society.

The Umtapo Institute of Popular Education & Transformation

Umtapo's vision is a society that will be characterised by political, social and economic justice, and values that are consistent with the spirit of Ubuntu, an African philosophy.

Its mission is to empower and enable people, particularly youth and women, through popular education and participatory development, to take control of their own lives in the struggle for peace, human rights, justice, and self-reliance.

The Umtapo Institute for Popular Education & Transformation is the training and educational unit of the Umtapo Centre. Based on the popular education methodology of Brazilian revolutionary educator, Paulo Freire, Umtapo's people-centred developmental work extends from children in primary schools to youth at tertiary institutions. This includes out-of-school youth in communities. Focusing on the marginalised and disadvantaged, particularly in the provinces of Limpopo, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and KwaZulu Natal, Umtapo's training includes peace, human rights, and anti-racism; women & development; literacy; community development & self-reliance; youth leadership; and Ubuntu for Radical Change.

This unit also produces popular education materials and provides public platforms for discourse and debate.

This unit complements the Umtapo Forum for Social Activism and the Umtapo Unit for Community Development.

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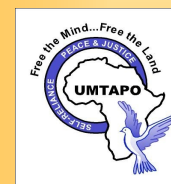
TERTIARY PEACE FORUM

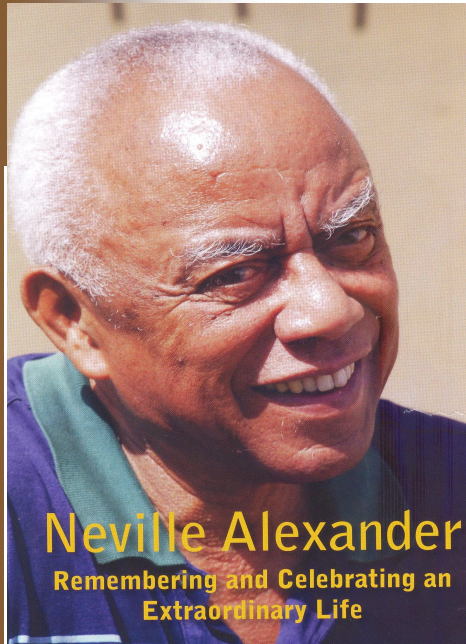
UMTAPO CENTRE

The Tertiary Peace Forums & The Umtapo Institute for Popular Education & Transformation

Presents

THE NEVILLE ALEXANDER POLITICAL EDUCATION (NAPE) PROJECT





The Umtapo Centre has initiated a national political education project throughout the country including at campuses where Tertiary Peace Forums (TPFs) exist. The project is in memory of the late educationist and political activist, Dr Neville Alexander, who passed away on 27th August 2012.

Neville Alexander was a radical socialist, born in the Eastern Cape and who later studied and taught in Cape Town. In 1963, he was arrested and convicted for conspiracy to commit sabotage and sentenced to ten years on Robben Island followed by five years of house arrest.

Dr Alexander was responsible for the founding of several educational and

political formations from the late 70's until his death, when he was actively involved in the Truth Movement. He has also written many books.

Professor Jonathan Jansen, vice chancellor of the University of Free State, had this to say:

"Most of all, SA has lost a great scholar, a principled activist, a generous humanitarian and a formidable intellect; the last of the true revolutionaries".

Dr Alexander was closely associated with Umtapo Centre since 1988 and, in February 2012, he was appointed a Patron of Umtapo.

The Neville Alexander Political Education (NAPE) Project on campuses are expected to be hosted by the Tertiary Peace Forums to foster broad discussion/dialogue on education and the state of the nation in general which Dr Alexander was so passionate about. Key academics/activists will be invited to deliver relevant inputs on the overall theme of ONE PEOPLE ONE NATION and the sub-theme of SOCIAL ACTIVISM FOR RADICAL TRANSFORMATION.

It will give the TPF an opportunity to engage with the general university population, to spread its message, and to expand its visibility.

Similar discussion forums will be organised outside university campuses and at the end of the year, a publication of all the inputs will be compiled and produced as an educational tool, particularly for young people.

"Enough is as good as a feast"

Neville Alexander

Neville Alexander on RACE & RACISM

"The terribly simple fact is that "race" is not real; it is racial prejudice and race thinking that are real. ...By compelling us to declare whether we belong to this or that so-called "race", the state forces us into a racial mould, whether we like it or not. Eventually, a racial habitus takes hold of us so that we take it for granted that we belong to this or that so-called "race" and we assume the relevant racial identity. This is what happened during the colonial-apartheid era and this is, preposterously, what continues to happen in post-apartheid South Africa...."

Neville Alexander on POST-APARTHEID SA

".. the worst approach to any serious conversation is one of grandstanding, one-upmanship, smart-aleckness and mere fault finding. A dialogue between people who approach things in this way will invariably degenerate into a dialogue of the deaf. Instead, we need to accept that, unless the contradictions involved are of an antagonistic nature, we have to listen carefully, respect one another's integrity and good faith even as we realise that we are approaching the issues at hand from very different positions."

Neville Alexander on the FUTURE

- Give real meaning to the notion of ubuntu, i.e., realize that life is not simply about each of us as individuals but very much about the "great chain of being", where everyone and everything is dependent on the other;
- Curb individualism without smothering the creative potential that each one of us has;
- Establish in practice the principle that "enough is as good as a feast" while at the same time producing the means of life with maximum efficiency;
- Establish different role models for our youth. We have to discard the empty show of Mercedes-Benz or BMW motorcades of the rich and powerful, the dark suits and dark glasses of the mafia-style "leaders" who stalk across our TV screens .."