

# **National Campaign Launched to Confront Xenophobia, Defend Unity and Redirect Anger Against the Real Causes of the Crisis**

**Community organisations, trade unions, civil society formations and concerned members of the public draw the line against xenophobia, scapegoating and division**

**For immediate release: 15 June 2026**

Following a public online mass meeting held on Tuesday, 9 June 2026, attended by more than 300 people representing a wide range of organisations, social movements, trade unions, community formations, activists and concerned members of the public, a national campaign has been initiated to confront the rising tide of xenophobia, Afrophobia, ethnic chauvinism, right-wing reaction and organised hate in South Africa.

The meeting was convened in response to escalating threats against migrants and vulnerable communities, including threats of coordinated action leading up to, on and after 30 June by right-wing and xenophobic formations. Participants expressed deep concern at the growth of organised street intimidation, online hate campaigns, vigilante activity and the increasing normalisation of hateful anti-migrant politics in public discourse.

This campaign, endorsed and supported by over 120 organisations, emerges from the urgent necessity to confront xenophobia, Afrophobia, ethnic chauvinism, reaction and fascist intimidation; to defend working-class unity; and to ensure that the legitimate anger of our communities is directed not against migrants and the poor, but against the political and economic elites responsible for this crisis.

South Africa's social crisis has reached breaking point. Mass unemployment, collapsing services, corruption, hunger, crime, unaffordable transport and deepening insecurity have produced legitimate anger across working-class and poor communities. But this crisis was not created by migrants, refugees or poor people trying to survive. It was produced by those with power over society: political elites, big business, corrupt officials, profiteers and an economic system that has abandoned millions to poverty, unemployment and despair.

Xenophobia, Afrophobia, ethnic chauvinism and vigilante politics offer no way out. They will not create jobs, reopen factories, fix municipalities, end austerity or hold the powerful to account. Once scapegoating is unleashed, it does not stop at the border; it turns neighbour against neighbour, worker against worker, poor against poor. This campaign is therefore rooted in the urgent need to organise the anger of communities away from division and toward the real causes of the crisis.

Supporting and endorsing organisations unite under this campaign on the basis of the following principles:

**1. We reject xenophobia, Afrophobia, racism, tribalism, ethnic chauvinism and all forms of scapegoating.** No community can be liberated by turning on another oppressed community. No worker can advance by attacking another worker.

**2. We defend the unity of all who are exploited, impoverished and excluded under the current system.** South African workers, migrant workers, unemployed people, informal traders, shack dwellers, women, youth, students and poor communities have a common interest in fighting the unjust conditions imposed on them.

**3. We recognise the legitimate anger of working-class and poor communities.** People are right to be angry about unemployment, crime, corruption, hunger, collapsing services and the cost of living. But that anger must be directed at the real causes of the crisis and at those who hold political and economic power over society, not at vulnerable people with the least power.

**4. We oppose vigilante violence, intimidation and fascist methods.** There is nothing democratic, progressive or community-minded about pulling children out of schools, blocking people from clinics, threatening informal traders, attacking migrants or terrorising communities.

**5. We fight for jobs, services, dignity and justice for all.** The answer to the crisis is not deportation, scapegoating or street thuggery. The answer is decent work, functioning municipalities, quality public services, an end to austerity, accountability for corruption, investment in communities, and an economy that serves people before profit.

**6. We build solidarity from below.** Our strength lies in organised communities, workplaces, campuses, faith formations, social movements, trade unions, migrant organisations, youth formations, civics and all democratic forces acting together.

Workers, communities, faith organisations, students, youth formations, social movements, trade unions, migrant organisations, civics and all democratic forces are called on to join this campaign and help build local structures of solidarity, safety, political education and collective action.

Where vulnerable communities are threatened, solidarity must become practical. Where hatred is spread, it must be answered with truth and organisation. Where vigilante violence is normalised, democratic forces must respond with disciplined, peaceful and collective action.

Public leaders and the media must stop legitimising xenophobic narratives and vigilante politics as “community activism”. Public debate must be grounded in facts, accountability and human dignity, with space given to migrant organisations, working-class formations, community movements, trade unions and democratic organisations of the poor who have long been organising and fighting for real solutions to unemployment, poverty, corruption, collapsing services and social decay.

The attempts made by formations such as March and March, Operation Dudula, and political parties and actors including ActionSA, the MKP and the Patriotic Alliance, to present xenophobic scapegoating as the commanding voice of communities is entirely dishonest. These

forces do not speak for the millions of workers, unemployed people, migrants, youth, women, informal traders, shack dwellers and poor communities struggling every day for jobs, land, housing, services, safety and dignity.

**Throughout June and beyond, people across South Africa are called on to demonstrate, organise, march, hold community meetings, conduct political education, build local solidarity structures and take visible action against xenophobia, Afrophobia, ethnic chauvinism, fascist intimidation, austerity, unemployment and collapsing public services.**

This campaign is a call to draw the line against division, against fear, and against the working class and poor being turned against themselves while those responsible for the crisis remain untouched.

The answer to division is solidarity. The answer to fear is organisation. Solidarity is our defence. Unity is our power.

**Siyafana Sonke!**

Endorsed By:

1. #sharp ecosocialist collective
2. 1to1 Agency of Engagement
3. Abahlali base Freedom Park
4. ACT Ubumbano
5. Actionaid DRC
6. Actionaid South Africa
7. Active Citizens Movement (ACM)
8. Adhoc Committee of Musicians (AHCOM)
9. AFRICA DIASPORA PASTORS FORUM (ADPF)
10. Africa Revival Foundation (ARF)
11. African Diaspora Workers Network (ADWN)
12. African Solidarity Network
13. African Water Commons Collective (AWCC)
14. African Workers Forum
15. Afrika Awake
16. Aid Life Learn Environment (ALLEN)
17. amandla.mobi
18. Amis BK Support Group
19. Black intellectual Praxes (BIP)
20. Cape Provinces Foundation NPO
21. Cape Town Ulama Board (CTUB)
22. Casual Workers Advice Office
23. Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change NPC
24. Centre for Social Change, University of Johannesburg
25. Chronicles of Refugees and Immigrants
26. Congolese Civil Society of South Africa

27. Econo-Dev Consulting (Pty) Ltd
28. Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN)
29. Empowerment Hub
30. Equal Education (EE)
31. Essa and Fatima Moosa Foundation
32. Fossil Ad Ban Campaign
33. Foundation for Human Rights (FHR)
34. Gateways Services Africa Foundation
35. General Industries Workers Union of South Africa (GIWUSA)
36. Green Future Social and Environmental Justice Network
37. Housing Assembly
38. Human Rights Media Trust
39. Ikhwezi Labantu
40. Infectious Disease and Oncology Research Institute
41. Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa
42. International Labour, Research & Information Group (ILRIG)
43. International Socialist Movement (ISM)
44. Intouch Youth Development and Community Justice
45. Jobs Bloodbath Campaign Committee
46. Joburg Community Action Network (JoburgCAN)
47. Journeys to Remember
48. Kensington Palestine Solidarity Group
49. Khulumani Support Group
50. Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia (KAAX)
51. Landless People's Movement
52. Laudium Women's Network
53. Lawyers for Human Rights
54. Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA WAMUA YAMUA)
55. Magamba Network
56. Majara Media Monitoring
57. Makana Citizens Front (MCF)
58. Makause Community Development Forum (MACODEFO)
59. Marxist Worker's Party (MWP)
60. Meadowlands Community Forum (MCF)
61. Metsimaholo Community Advice Office
62. Mothers4Gaza
63. MyVoteCounts
64. Ndungu Attorneys Inc
65. New Unity Movement
66. No-name initiative (NNI)
67. Ntirhisano Community Centre (NCC)
68. Nyema Foundation
69. OCTOPI Africa
70. Organising Committee For The Mass Working Class Assembly (OC-MWCA)
71. Palestine Support Organisation, Mandela University
72. Palestinian Solidarity Organisation

73. Partners in Praxis
74. People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO)
75. People's Water Forum
76. PHA Food and Farming campy
77. Pretoria Women United
78. ProBono.Org
79. Progressive Tamil Movement (PTM)
80. Project 90 by 2030
81. Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM)
82. Quest For Growth and Development Foundation
83. REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES
84. Region F Civil Society Partnership
85. Rent Control Group
86. Rivonia Circle
87. Rivoningo Women's Forum
88. Save Our Sacred Lands (SOSL)
89. Secretariat of the Climate Justice Coalition (CJC)
90. Sisonke Revolutionary Movement (SRM)
91. Siyagunda Association
92. Socialist Party of Azania (SOPA)
93. Socialist Youth Movement (SYM)
94. Solidarity Action Committee Collective
95. Sonke Gender Justice
96. South Africa Palestine Movement (SAPM)
97. South Africa Palestine Movement Youth Committee
98. South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP)
99. South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
100. Southern Africa Refugee Organizations Forum (SAROF)
101. Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI)
102. The Community Hope Project
103. The Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions
104. The Mosu Collective
105. Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)
106. Tshisimani Centre for Activist Education
107. Tshwaraganang Ma-Africa
108. Ubuntu Rural Women and Youth Movement
109. UCT Migration and Mobility Hub
110. United Front (UF)
111. Village of Hope (VOH)
112. Voices Against Eviction
113. Vusikasilam
114. Wage Peace
115. Wasatiyah Institute
116. Water Crisis Committee
117. Water Community Action Network (WaterCAN)

118. We Are Church
119. We Will Speak Out South Africa Coalition (WWSOSA)
120. Western Cape Anti Eviction Campaign (WCAEC)
121. Whole World Women Association
122. Women In Diaspora Association (WIDA)
123. Women Revolutionary Council
124. WoMin African Alliance
125. Workers and Socialist Party (WASP)
126. Workers International Vanguard League (WIVL)
127. World March of Women
128. Young Christian Students
129. Zabalaza for Socialism (ZASO)

Contact details:

July Eccles: +27 79 158 2552  
 Zaki Mamdoo: +27 81 395 9738  
 Mike Ndlovu: +27 68 552 2510

