

MEDIA ADVISORY

ATTENTION: EDITORS, PRODUCERS, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL REPORTERS
23 November 2017

“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”

30 November 2017 is the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. To commemorate this day, the University of South Africa (UNISA)'s Advocacy and Resource Centre for Student with Disabilities (ARCSWiD) will host a Disability Research Indaba with the aim of developing government and community-based solutions to the intentional cases of discrimination towards people with disabilities.

This year's theme is *“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”* with the aim of contributing towards building inclusive and sustainable society.

Research shows that there is a noticeable progress in South Africa in achieving social inclusion. However, there are challenges in eliminating Gender Based violence (GBV) within the public and private sphere, particularly on women and girls with disabilities.

To respond to this, UNISA held its first Disability Indaba in 2016, which was aimed at facilitating conversations on issues that affect the achievement of sustainable development goals in South Africa. The focus was to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls; as well as eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

This year, UNISA and its stakeholders will gather again to find solutions towards addressing different forms of violence that affect people with disabilities, particularly women and girls. The key objectives of the event are:

- To define and explore experiences of Gender-based violence among women and girls with disabilities.
- To offer a lifeline and theoretical tool for women and girls with disabilities, so that they may more readily participate in these conversations.
- To seek and engage with women and girls with disabilities and all stakeholders on possible gender-based violence prevention strategies.
- To Chart the road towards achieving SDG 5 among the women with disabilities.



The event is to take place as follow:

Date : Thursday, 30 November 2017
Venue: Durban City Hall – KZN Province
Time : 09:00 – 14:00

“People with disabilities form an integral part of the South African community and their problems cannot be overlooked, therefore there is a need to implement policies to protect this marginalized group”, said Dr Sindile Ngubane-Mokiwa, Acting Deputy Director: Advocacy & Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities at UNISA.

Members of the media are invited to attend the event.

END!

For RSVPs and interview request, please contact: Tommy Huma (Senior Media Officer) on 012 429 3981 / 072 218 6197 / humatm@unisa.ac.za and Ms Jo Cossavella (Acting Communication Manager, UNISA, KZN at cossajm@unisa.ac.za / 031 335 8109 / 082 488 8969.

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