



Media Advisory

UNISA SAWID Annual Dialogue

Theme: *Celebrating Milestones, Offering Solutions: South African Women's Priorities and Action Plan for a Sustainable Future*

Approved for Public Release

Date: Thursday, 17 August 2023

The University of South Africa (Unisa) and the South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) unite to host the 8th Annual Women's Dialogue at Unisa Muckleneuck Campus Kgorong Function Hall on the 18th of August 2023. This is to commemorate the agency of previous generations of South African women in standing up against injustice and inequality, SAWID wants to put the holistic socio-economic development of women back at the centre of South Africa's national growth agenda. The Dialogue will bring together two hundred women in leadership, including grassroots women, women from academia, NGO's, researchers, government, and business to engage on the theme.

The partnership between UNISA, SAWID and UN Women was first established in 2016 and has strengthened the platform of the women of South Africa to dialogue and have their voices heard on all platforms where decisions are made that affect their lives. Unisa celebrating 150 years of its existence and SAWID which will commemorates its 20th anniversary later this year, the two organisations are further calling for the safety of women to be front and centre of any socio-economic programme. This includes psychological safety, in addition to physical safety, because of the inextricable relationship between safety, access to justice and economic development.

Speaking ahead of UNISA SAWID Annual Dialogue on 18 August 2023, Ms Marthe Muller, SAWID COO since 2010, says, "South Africa remains a surprisingly unhealed, and deeply unsafe country. It has recently been described as one of the most violent and dangerous places in the world, and the 20th worst country in the world in terms of safety and security. In addition, the 2023 Global Peace Index released by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) which looks specifically at criminality, political instability, violence and unrest ranks South Africa at 144th of 163, just ahead of Ukraine, which is at war with Russia."

Women in particular are also deeply affected by the levels of crime and violence in the country. "Gender-based violence (GBV), is deeply ingrained in homes, workplaces, cultures and traditions. Statistics indicate that a woman is at risk of being raped every three hours, making the country the rape capital of the world, with 10 818 rape cases reported in the first quarter of 2022. South Africa also has one of the highest rates of femicide and intimate partner violence (IPV) in the world," continued Muller

It is commonly accepted that peace, security and safety is crucial to socio-economic development.

“This Women’s Month, Unisa and SAWID is therefore calling on all role-players in the country – government, business and civil society, to come together to act with urgency put in place a consolidated programme for safety, security and economic development for women. We cannot continue to lament the current state in the country,” concluded Muller.

The media is invited to attend cover the lecture. The details are as follows:

Date: 18 August 2023

Time: 09:00-15:30

Venue: Kgorong Function Hall, Unisa Muckleneuck Campus

or virtually on the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/Gx33v53wEIE?feature=share>

–Ends–

For enquiries and interview request, please contact Senior Media Officers: Media Relations Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981/ humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 6712/ ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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