

Youth and Racism BOKSBURG DECLARATION 2023

From the 22th to the 27th of April 2023, The CWM Africa Youth met in Boksburg South Africa in a Consultative seminar under the program Youth and Racism. The theme for the workshop was “*Africa in the Context of Building the Life Flourishing Societies: Racism as the Road Block to life flourishing societies*”.

At the end of the programme the participants made the following declaration here referred to as the Boksburg declaration 2023.

“We the African youth stand firm to deal with the plague that has plundered the continent of Africa which is racism.

Racism has rampaged the African continent and wreaked havoc that has left a desolate state of the African identity.

To this extent, racism has been a stumbling roadblock to building a life flourishing society in Africa, by stunting the God-intended growth of Africa.

The congregation of the African youth came to an understanding that racism goes beyond its sociological definitions. The congregation understood that racism is deeply spiritual beyond human skin color.

As per the congregation’s deliberations, racism is a place of power and privilege that has been carefully and architecturally designed by some who have perpetuated a higher and more superior stance to others.

Despite the progress made in human society, it is the view of us the African youth that racism and its effects are far from dead and far from being plagued out of African society and the world at large.

There is a need to change the story of Africa to God’s story *#Not yet uhuru*.

Therefore, we the African youth stood in a declaration to pledge the following in dealing with this giant roadblock that stands between us and the desired life-flourishing societies:

1. We will create communities where every notion of racism is made uncomfortable and hard to thrive by making enough noise in the community and the society at large about the evils and realities of racism so by,
2. Ensuring that there are enough spaces created where issues affecting the community are spoken to and about with no fear and prejudice.

3. We the youth have agreed to call out racist practices within the church and societies and provide solutions on how the issues may be dealt with.
4. We, the youth also have agreed that we will go beyond being spectators and cleaners of problems to becoming part of the community in building back the walls racism has violently broken down.
5. We the African youth pledge to go beyond the four walls of the church and build the society as a whole because racism is a community story and not just a church story.
6. We will ensure to educate our communities and spheres of influence on the pertinent matters that surround racism.
7. We pledge to going beyond the rhetoric and produce practical solutions starting from our homes, churches, and spheres of influence.

As such we the youth of Africa declare that we stand against racism and declare that we will no longer stand in the trenches to watch the hidden and unhidden pillaging of Africa. We will act with affirmative action in dealing with racial discrimination.

So, we have agreed that it is #not yet uhuru.

Guided by Dr Sindiso Jele (CWM Mission Secretary: Social Justice and Africa)