Session 1

Violent states: accountability and impunity before and after Marikana

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The focus of debates about violence and how to prevent it tends to be on private citizens as the perpetrators of either individual (e.g. in the context of intimate relationships) or collective (e.g. as members of ‘gangs’ or ‘vigilante mobs’) violence. Building on the author’s work on the background to what is widely characterised as the massacre of striking mineworkers at Marikana in August 2012, this paper concentrates on the apparent impunity with which the South African state and its agents have been able to deploy lethal violence. As controversy continues to surround the failure to prosecute the perpetrators of apartheid-era atrocities and the lack of progress in bringing those responsible for the 44 deaths at Marikana before the courts, it asks whether efforts to reduce levels of societal violence can succeed when state actors are not held to account in the light of the literature on cultures of impunity and cycles of violence.

The Effectiveness of Coercive Intervention Strategies to Curb Crime and Violence in Developing Countries: Lessons from Rio de Janeiro

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The Effectiveness of Coercive Intervention Strategies to Curb Crime and Violence in Developing Countries: Lessons from Rio de Janeiro, began out of a discussion to utilise the armed forces in South Africa and other developing countries to combat an ever-increasing context of crime and violence. The purpose was to explore the effectiveness of decades of coercive intervention strategies, and recent use of the armed forces, undertaken by the province of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and evaluate the process and outcomes, based on a political science based framework developed using state and state-societal relations theory. It is hoped that this research can contribute to the debate for the use of armed forces and coercive dominant measures to tackle the issue of crime and violence.

A combination of desktop, as well as field research in Rio de Janeiro in 2018, was used within the created analytical framework to examine the effectiveness of coercive intervention strategies. Four salient interventions were examined within the framework, as well as everyday military police and elite policing unit interventions that occurred within the areas known as favelas (informal settlements) in Rio de Janeiro. After evaluating the numerous interventions, it was found that the use of pure coercive intervention strategies within specific areas offered a short-term solution if successful, but also created an increasing strain on the relations between residents and the state, specifically the police. In many interventions, human rights violations were reported, as well as the crossfire deaths of innocent residents. Without the use of long term multi-facet community-based intervention strategies that accompany coercive interventions, power voids are created (if the intervention is successful) which are filled by another actor and/or crime and violence return shortly after the intervention as the underlying causes of crime and violence are not dealt with.
The complexities and realities of integrated approaches to violence prevention in South Africa

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There is growing recognition in South Africa, as reflected in various safety and security policy documents and scholarly literature, that given the complex nature of crime and violence in the country that integrated, whole-of-government, whole-of-society crime prevention approaches are required. Such thinking has been augmented by the increasing acceptance of the public health socioecological model of violence prevention. The limited research that has been done on integrated approaches to crime prevention at the national level have typically highlighted that a key issue are institutional relationships between the central authority responsible for the overall direction of the strategy or programme, and the local entities and agencies responsible for on-the-ground coordination and implementation. Bearing this in mind, this paper will reflect on the development of such approaches to crime prevention in Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Belgium and the United Kingdom; and thereafter reflect on the prospects for effective implementation in South Africa.

Session 2

Rethinking violence: accidents, responsibility and the problem of structural violence

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This presentation rethinks the mass murder of 346 people in two related incidents in the past year. It is part of a larger project exploring how we understand violence, and the consequences of these conceptualisations. Despite the emergence of a compelling body of evidence showing exactly how these killings occurred, we can safely assume that none of those responsible for these horrific deaths will be prosecuted. One reason for this is that the deaths do not fit with how we commonly imagine homicide, criminality, or even human agency. Another is the networks of global power and inequality that divide the perpetrators and the victims. A third is the social cultures that shaped the thoughts and actions of those responsible, and how deeply these homicidal organisational practices are normalised in the political and economic values of the Western world. This case study thus leads us to reconceptualise the very idea of violence, and to argue that a social justice approach requires that we articulate a theory of violence that moves away from both common-sense and legalistic understandings, and towards a more critical understanding of harm. This in turn troubles the easy distinction between perpetrators and ordinary folks who are just busy living their lives, in a way that increasingly implicates us all in systems of violence.

Exploring queerphobic geographies in Southern Africa

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Space in Southern African countries is continuously constructed as heterosexual, putting queer individuals at risk of violence. This paper explores the experiences of queer men and transwomen in spaces that they have identified as queerphobic and violent in South Africa and Namibia. In an effort to locate geographies of queerphobic violence, the paper focuses on how queer men and transwomen are prone to both implicit and explicit violence in these spaces. It uses queer geographies as an analytical framework and analyses a subset of qualitative data with 109 partnered queer individuals and 27 queer couples. Our analysis
revealed a plethora of spaces that were identified as queerphobic. The data is presented under three major themes: Intersectionality of queerphobia and space; queerphobic and unsafe spaces; and adjustment to self when navigating queerphobic spaces. Spaces identified included participants’ homes, immediate communities (mostly rural and township areas), public areas (such as police stations and healthcare centres), roads and local transport areas, shopping areas and places of worship. We found that in order to navigate these spaces, queer participants had to remould themselves both in dress and performance.

Can young South African men act in solidarity with women on gender-based violence?

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We know from the literature that a key element in South Africa violence is the socialisation of boys and young men; increasingly the role of trauma in a society that has experienced ongoing direct and structural violence is recognised. What is seldom explored is the extremely high levels of violence against boys and men, in particular against Black and Coloured (in the South African terminology) boys and young men. Primarily the perpetrators are also male, generally young or older men. This presentation addresses two phases of action research with young men. The first phase revealed how effectively young men could speak empathetically with each other about their experiences of violence and support each other in that process, but said nothing of these experiences when in the presence of women. Some spoke in ways that blamed women for men’s violence against them. It is theorised that shame at vulnerability (Gilligan, 1997) was a key element in their angry and defensive reactions against women and that the young men thus presented one masculinity in the specific group of men and another in the presence of women. The second phase will seek to understand the connections between these different forms of gendered violence and to develop ways in which young men can recognise the possibilities in resisting both forms of violence. Data collection methods will include a record of discussion in the group, the use of visual methodology involving all group members and a focus group interview. Findings will be based on a thematic analysis of this data; these findings will inform the design of an intervention that brings together this group as well as a group of young women who are addressing gender-based violence. The ultimate aim is to develop well-informed interventions in place that enable young men to act in solidarity with women in challenging gender-based violence.

Human trafficking, what should we know?

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The topic deals with the history and the magnitude of the problem of human trafficking. How to identify the signs in an individual who has been entrapped by the crime? The social and human aspects of the crime are described in detail. The role of the law enforcement, social worker, health professional and non-profit organisations are lined out. Real life cases as experienced by The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will be included.
Session 3

An overview of the Chrysalis Academy programme – a holistic approach to transforming the lives of vulnerable youth

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The Chrysalis Academy offers a three-month residential programme to vulnerable Western Cape youth who are not in employment, education or training. Through a whole-person approach, the residential programme provides a platform for youth to deepen their resilience through physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development, enabling them to be role models and agents of positive change. The programme entails what is commonly referred to as “life-skills”, adventure leadership activities, technical and vocational training, professional behaviour in the workplace and a series of other workshops aimed at cultivating active citizenship. Upon completion of the three-month programme, students embark on a one-year internship. The presentation will outline how the Chrysalis Academy understands its “whole-person” holistic approach, what the programme currently entails, how its impact is being measured and what its main successes and challenges are.

The psychosocial profile of Chrysalis Academy students – a review of two intakes

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Many young people in the Western Cape, experience a continuum of risk, including neglect, absent fathers, violent homes, exposure to alcohol and drugs, deepening poverty and other forms of violence. Despite exhibiting some measure of resilience, these risks limit their ability to fully maximise their potential. A critical component of the work of the Academy is to enable youth to deal meaningfully with these psychosocial challenges. In order to provide adequate psychosocial support to students during their stay, Chrysalis Academy requests students to complete a series of questionnaires during their stay.

The presentation will outline the main findings stemming from a qualitative analysis of the psychosocial questionnaires completed by two cohorts of Chrysalis Academy students (19 ALPHA and 19 BRAVO). The presentation will explore to what extent common risk and/or protective factors at individual, family and community level can be identified through the psychosocial questionnaires of the students, with the aim to better understand the life paths of vulnerable youth in the Western Cape and to ensure that the academy’s curriculum is responsive to the needs of youth.

Stories from the Academy: a personal reflection from a male graduate

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Through his presentation, Mr George will tell the story of his journey before, during and after Chrysalis Academy; what led him to apply to the Academy and how the Academy transformed him as well as his hopes for the future.
Session 4

Breaking the cycles of gang violence: findings from Cape Town, Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Bay
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The Cape Flats are currently experiencing an extreme period of gang violence in which over 900 people were murdered in the first half of 2019. This gang phenomena and its related violence is not recent, nor is it unique to Cape Town, but recent gang ‘wars’ should be seen as an intersection between global factors: increased drug production; national factors: the breakdown in policing, corruption and increased access to firearms; and local factors: social and economic exclusion. Emerging gang dynamics are a feature of how these factors interact and increasingly how different areas in South Africa interact with each other. We follow the evolution of gangs in Johannesburg, Nelson Mandela Bay and Cape Town.

Analysing the evolution of gangs in these three cities is done based on in-depth interviews with various stakeholders including police, community leaders, activists, gang leaders and members, and residents of gang-affected areas. These interviews are reviewed within a context of academic literature and media reports. Our research explores the evolution of these gangs along with the commonalities and differences of gang dynamics in the different cities. Similarities across cities are mostly situated in their dynamics and power structures. Differences are mostly related to varying opportunities such as the different criminal markets and types of corruption.

If these evolving gang dynamics and growing networks are not addressed now, they will evolve into a much wider national challenge. We argue for a unified national state response focusing on addressing the drivers of gang violence, including improved firearm control, adequately addressing police corruption at all levels, a health centered approach to drug use, and a significant investment in youth related activities.

A Values Based, Integrated Asset Approach to Adaptive Peacebuilding in Masiphumelele, Cape Town
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A Community Based Participatory Action Research project is currently being conducted in Masiphumelele, Cape Town. The primary objective is to create the impetus for the local community to surface and mobilise assets within the community, recognising the role of the individual and collective, guided by inherent values as a pathway to sustained development and peacebuilding.

Masiphumelele, a small township just 2 km wide, and approximately covering an area of .45km², overall, is located in the Fish Hoek Valley, approximately 25kms, south of Cape Town. Masiphumelele was established as an informal settlement in the early 1980s with a population of about 400-500. Today, officially part of ward 69, Cape Town, Masiphumelele has an estimated population in excess of 35,000, where formal housing has only been provided for 1,200. It is surrounded by wetlands, limiting any possibility of expanding geographically, exacerbating the issue of overcrowding. The 2011 census reported that the rate of unemployment was 31%, with 48% of the population being under the age of 25.

Each person’s daily actions are a manifestation of deeply held values and beliefs that contribute to a culture of shared habits and expectations, influencing a person’s social well-
being and sense of belonging. Through a community harnessing its collective assets, explicit values will surface guiding the emergence of a moral imagination, rooted in the day-to-day challenges that will transcend current destructive patterns. Raising awareness of the potentialities will also be a driving force to establish a culture of positive action. As a consequence, the strength of the community will be enhanced through unleashing co-learning opportunities, the development of capabilities and collective exploration of solutions. Community strength has great potential to advance sustainable development at the community level towards an emergent peacebuilding agenda.

An examination of non-profit organisation response to human trafficking: the case study of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal province

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The purpose of this paper is to enlighten the larger society of the impact posed by the occurrence of trafficking incidents. This study adopted a qualitative research approach. The Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), namely: Umgeni Community Empowerment Centre (UCEC) in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province was adopted to solicit the perceptions on responding to this subject. This study adopted qualitative research approach as it is exploratory and in line with understanding underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations of the issue at hand. The adoption of qualitative research method is that it uses a naturalistic approach that seeks to understand phenomena in context-specific settings, such as “real world setting the researcher does not attempt to manipulate the phenomenon of interest”. This study consisted of 12 purposively sampled participants, furthermore, face-to-face semi-structured interviews were used in this study. The findings of this paper present that more resources and improved technology are also required for related cases to be addressed and responded upon effectively by the UCEC NPO of KZN Province, bringing into light that an organisation alone does not have power to stop human trafficking but collaboration ensures an improvement on this issue. For recommendations, it is provided that more accessible technological resources and collaboration can allow protection to the vulnerable ones towards this global scourge. The objectives of this paper are to determine the extent and nature of human trafficking based on UCEC experiences; to evaluate the existing strategies in combating human trafficking in Durban as employed by UCEC; and to determine barriers in combating human trafficking in Durban as expressed by UCEC.

Session 5

From Provincial Community Safety Audits to Municipal Safety Planning: learning through doing

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With a focus on the provincial-municipal safety planning conducted over the periods of 2016 to 2019, the paper takes a critical look at the processes and outcomes in promoting the development and implementation of data driven safety plans at the local level. In 2018, the department of Community Safety conducted community safety audits, as a mechanism aimed at informing plans to prevent violence and crime in communities. This study presented and analysed crime data provided by the SAPS, and drew this together with key safety concerns raised by community members NGOs, and CBOs within three police precincts involved in the study, namely, Atlantis, Philippi east and Stellenbosch. It culminated in recommendations for the reduction or, where possible, the elimination of
identified risk factors that lead to the occurrence of violence in public spaces within these three areas. This information was provided for input into the development of strategies and policies to promote and ensure community safety in the selected areas, in the municipalities concerned.¹

At the same time, each year, the department conducted its annual PNP workshops, which culminates in the development of Safety Plans which seeks to amply community policing needs and priorities. The PNP was conducted from 2010/2011, and has adopted various methodologies over the years.

At the same time, significant developments are underway under the banner of the whole-of-Society-Approach (WOSA) to synergise safety promotion service delivery in various service nodes. This sees the drawing together of safety activities in a seemingly nebulous way. However, the process has a direct bearing on formalised mechanisms, strategies and plans.

This presentation teases out key lessons and recommendations for effective data led community based safety planning.

¹ The report culminating from the audits was entitled: "COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT REPORT (2018/2019) Towards Community Safety Planning in three (3) Western Cape sites. SAFETY AUDIT REPORT of Atlantis, Philippi East and Stellenbosch.

Politics of irrelevance: safety needs of community compromised by placing political interest ahead of community interest.

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The inadequate services of state security in South African townships in the metropolitan cities where violence is rife, leaves a space for informal and semi-formal grassroots structures to take it upon themselves to maintain 'law' and order in their vicinities. This effort usually starts as a voluntary effort driven by the safety needs of their communities. In many cases, these efforts are not sustainable and lead to the mushrooming of un-accountable vigilante mob groups, as the safety needs of community does not dissipate with the dissipation of these grassroots community structures. This paper charges the political party’s extension of its will to the arena of voluntary association as a disturbance to the intentions of the grassroots community structures to maintain order in their communities.

The Commission for Gender Equality’s role in and history of monitoring and addressing gender-based violence in South Africa

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The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) was established in 1996 through both the Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) and the Commission for Gender Equality Act (Act 39 of 1996). In accordance with these acts, the CGE must:

a. Monitor, evaluate and make recommendations, on
   • policies and practices of organs of state, statutory bodies and functionaries, public bodies or private businesses, to promote gender equality.
   • any existing law, including indigenous law and practices.
   • government’s compliance with international conventions with respect to gender equality.

b. Propose/recommend
new law that may impact on gender equality or the status of women.

c. Develop, conduct or manage
   - Educational strategies and programmes that foster understanding about gender equality and the role of the CGE

d. Investigate and resolve conflicts
   - On gender matters and complaints, through mediation, conciliation and negotiation, or referral to other institutions

e. Liaise and interact
   - With institutions, bodies or authorities with similar objectives to the Commission.
   - With any organisation which actively promotes gender equality and other sectors of civil society to further the objects of the Commission

f. Prepare and submit reports
   - To Parliament on aspects relating to gender equality;

In addition, the CGE may:
   - Conduct or order research to be conducted;
   - Consider recommendations, suggestions and requests from any source

The CGE thus has a duty to monitor, respond to, and address (through public education and awareness raising, or new law) gender-based violence as part of its legal mandate.

The purpose of the presentation will be to reveal the history of monitoring GBV in South Africa at the CGE, sharing our research, and indicating some of our current thinking around the way forward on this issue.

The presentation will therefore cover:
   - The role and purpose of the CGE
   - CGE research related to GBV
   - The CGE’s view on the way forward in terms of addressing (preventing and responding to) GBV:
     - CGE’s role in the National Gender Machinery and how this links to an integrated response
     - A summary of progress related to the GBV summit declaration
     - A reflection on 2019 August month femicide and the protests that arose across the country, and our response to that.
     - A reflection on the President’s Emergency Measures as outlined in the Joint Sitting on Gender-Based Violence, 18 September

Session 6

Rural and urban areas: crime prevention strategies of policing crimes in KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa
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The overall change in crime levels is generally consistent between urban and rural areas with a reduction in numbers of crimes per 1000 of population being seen across all the major crime categories apart from violence and sexual offences, where a significant increase is evident. The reduction in burglaries recorded is greatest in urban areas. The increase in violence and sexual offences is greatest in rural areas. The reduction in vehicle crimes recorded is greatest in rural areas. This article highlights various prevention strategies which are applied in both rural and urban areas in policing crimes. The in-depth interviews
were conducted to get an in-depth knowledge in gathering and analysing the data of this study. Some research has paid attention to differential crime patterns among rural communities and evoked the notion that social factors are much more important predictors of crime than are economic conditions in nonurban communities. The focus on rural-urban comparisons has also meant a focus on particular categories of crime, often the street crimes. Many issues relevant to rural policing, such as gang activity, do not neatly fit these categories or are emerging issues that have not been explored in the professional literature. The recommendations of this paper are based on some of the responses gave by the participants in preventing crimes within their policing precincts.

The socio-economic factors that contributes to child offending in the rural area of Ixopo, KwaZulu-Natal province

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The problem of child offenders is a worldwide problem generally. Thus, the rural area of Ixopo in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) is no exception to this problem. The statistics of child offenders in the area of this study has increased rapidly in the past three (05) financial years and the levels of criminal activities that children engage in gets more serious every yearly. This article looked at the socio-economic factors that underpin child offending within this area. The qualitative research approach was followed and purposive sampling was adopted to gather data from one (01) Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with six (06) Social Workers, face-to-face Semi-Structured Interviews (SSI) with twelve (12) children who have been in conflict with the law, 12 guardians and their parents. Overall, this study consisted of 30 selected participants.

For findings of this article, it was established that media influence, economic stress and absence of father figures are the major push factors to child offenders. In collaboration, the high rate of single parents, child headed household and loss of ambition amongst these children were also on top of discussions with the selected participants. It is acknowledged that child offending might be common in nature and extent; however, the circumstances surrounding these practices vary from place-to-place and the intolerable vast environmental factors plays a pivotal role in the high rate of child offenders. For recommendation, more research needs to be done especially in the rural areas specifically to understand the depth of this problem and hopefully inform relevant and effective interventions.

Faith based interventions in addressing violence against women in Cape Town

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Violence against Women (VAW) is rife in South Africa and it has serious socio-economic and health consequences. Legal reforms have been put in place to address violence against women yet cases of violence continue to increase. It is against this background that I propose utilizing interventions from religious organizations. As representatives of religion in the public sphere, faith based organizations (FBOs) have put in place several interventions to address violence against women. FBOs have established shelters for abused women, they are involved in education and advocacy. FBOs are also working with religious leaders and religious communities in addressing violence against women. Some FBOs have established youth programmes to influence behaviour and groom a gender violent free generation. The work of these FBOs reflect more than legal responsibility in addressing violence against women, their work indicate religious and moral duty to address the problem. This paper will deliberate on the interventions of three faith based organizations in Cape Town to show the potential of religion in addressing violence against women.
Research objectives

- To identify interventions of faith based organizations in addressing violence against women
- To explore how these interventions are carried out.

Methodology

The research was an ethnography study which mainly relied on participant observations and interviews.

Findings

Violence against women is a reality in South Africa, despite the Domestic Violence Act being in place cases of violence are escalating. FBOs have also become involved in addressing violence and they are mainly providing shelter to abused women. Some of the services they provide in the shelters include therapy, empowerment skills, youth programs and prayers. Some FBOs are providing education to religious leaders and religious communities and they are also involved in advocacy.

Session 7

Effects of corporal punishment: evidence from senior secondary school children in South Africa

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The South African society has experienced major social, economic and political changes over the last 24 years. One of these changes is the banning of corporal punishment in all public schools. However, debates that are embedded in religious, social and cultural values propose that it is crucial to punish children physically, as it aids to entrench the values of society, good conduct and discipline in them. Many have argued that the abolition of corporal punishment is synonymous with loosening teachers’ grip on learners. The implication here is that if used judiciously, this type of punishment could be an effective way of preventing and curbing misconduct. However, corporal punishment does not achieve what it intends to, and that its use has become obsolete in democratic societies. This qualitative study examines the mental health and educational effects corporal punishment has on learners. Data was collected by means of semi-structured interviews with selected learners in two senior secondary schools in the Pinetown District in the KwaZulu-Natal province. Schools are meant to be safe places where learners can fulfil their educational needs. However, the problems that emanate from the persistent use of corporal punishment not only perpetuate the cycle of child abuse, but they impact negatively on academic performance and perpetuate a culture of violence in our vulnerable societies.

Conflict transformation education: a strategy to educate against stigmatisation and violence in a primary school.

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Educating against stigmatisation is a transformative paradigm to teach the primary school child about living that can be non-threatening, safe and developing personal well-being. The child, in this study, grows up in an area with high levels of community violence and poverty, and a negative area stigma. This child, therefore, follows a cycle of repetitive familiarity with what is known, lived and carried over across generations. This study highlights that a high
level of unresponsiveness by parents is affecting the child’s motivation to learn. The school within this area provides evidence of this behaviour. Throughout the research process thus far the classroom climate for Grades 4-7 is being characterised as mainly non-compliant to learning among most of the learners. This is evidenced through persistent rowdiness, squabbling among learners, showdowns generally among boy learners that likely will lead to some form of violent encounter. Accompanying these is the ongoing calls by teachers for order with the result that very little learning takes place in the classroom. The norm reverberates that the child will follow the parent. Thus, educating a child in this context requires a form of education that develops a child’s spiritual intelligence and human purpose intelligence through transformative experience. I therefore focus on transformative learning experience where the child discovers the value of meaning of living through humanitarian expression. The aim is to break the cycle of repetitive familiarity of an adverse lived experience. In this respect service learning provides the education and experience where learners work among their peers at the point of their need, which in this study’s case is alleviating hunger. The study is developed along a conflict transformation education framework of which its main transformative tenets include humanitarian and relational values, being self-reflective, empathic, incorporating locally-based transformative social capital for changing negative perceptions and violence.

The development of strategies, skills and attitudes in addressing violence at a Cape Flats school
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A high prevalence of school violence is experienced by South African learners as confirmed by the pre-intervention findings in this mixed methods study at two schools on the Cape Flats. The educational impact of school violence on victims is far-reaching as fearful learners display anxiety which interferes with their general well-being and ability to concentrate on their schoolwork. The Department of Education has provided policies and frameworks to create safer schools, however, in peaceable schools it is also relationships that are rooted in co-operation and trust that are key to peacebuilding.

The aim of the research is the investigation of strategies and the development of skills and attitudes for learners, educators and parents to become more actively involved in school violence reduction. The research objectives of this study are: to investigate the root causes, effects, dimensions and consequences of the violence in two Cape Flats schools; to ascertain the extent to which violence has been addressed at two schools; to design a holistic peacebuilding intervention for educators and learners in one of the schools; and to implement and evaluate the designed peacebuilding intervention at the selected school. Using a Participatory Action Research (PAR) design, the study comprised of 200 grade 11 learners from two neighbouring schools completing questionnaires; and educators, parents and grade 11 learners at each school participating in focus groups and individual interviews. The peacebuilding intervention drew upon Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and not only focused on lessons in the curriculum, but included the completion of a cyber-bullying policy, the training of peace ambassadors (buddies) in each class at the school, and the promotion of peacebuilding values in the establishment of a safe room for learners.
Using radio to support youth engagement and advocacy in building community safety

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Objective: To evaluate the impact of a two-year Children’s Radio Foundation (CRF) and Gun Free South Africa (GFSA) project that aimed to build safer communities by promoting youth civic engagement and advocacy through youth-led radio initiatives and community radio stations in 16 sites across South Africa.

Methodology: An external evaluator assessed the design, implementation and outcomes of the CRF-GFSA Community Safety Project. Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria were also used to assess the project’s relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.

Findings: The vast majority of respondents consider the Community Safety Project to be:

- Highly relevant and valuable, with the project aims and objectives clearly aligned to the high levels of crime and violence experienced in South African communities, including domestic violence, gender-based violence, child abuse, gang- and gun-related violence, and substance abuse.

- Effective, in that a wide range of outputs were generated, including a monthly total of 31.5 hours of youth-led radio broadcasts, 87 outreach events, 22 radio guides and six outreach guides.

- A space for youth to discuss important safety-related topics, thereby educating wider community members about key community safety issues as well as providing CRF youth reporters with a network that could be approached for input, assistance and further discussion of key issues.

- Meaningfully transformative, with youth reporters, youth facilitators, adult and youth listeners reporting an increase in their knowledge of gun violence and shifts in their perceptions of guns and gun ownership. Youth reporters also reported improved self-confidence, enhanced ability to engage with their listeners, and improved capacity for public speaking and advocacy around community safety issues.

- Facilitative, by contributing towards collaboration between radio stations and the broader communities in which they are located.

- Efficient and sustainable, with key enablers of project sustainability being embedded within CRF’s work, including CRF’s ongoing engagement with youth reporters, the potential for ongoing coverage of community safety issues by youth reporters during their radio shows, and ongoing access to guides and toolkits.