

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES - SOCIAL JUSTICE COALITION
BROKEN WINDOWS
HIGH WALLS & BEYOND
ACC & SJC
 6TH IRENE GROOTBOOM MEMORIAL DIALOGUES
12-13 NOV 2013
 SAFETY & SECURITY IN A DIVIDED CITY

What does it mean to feel safe and secure in Cape Town – and how might experiences and perceptions of safety and security differ across this divided city? In an unequal society, how can we avoid reinforcing these divisions in the pursuit of safety – and achieve it not only for a few but for all?

This year's Irene Grootboom Memorial Dialogues, presented by the Social Justice Coalition and the African Centre for Cities, engages with the theme of safety and security. The Social Justice Coalition, with its slogan 'Safety and Security for All', works for a safe and dignified life for poor residents of South Africa's informal settlements, especially in Khayelitsha.

This year, the SJC won a landmark case in the Constitutional Court that has secured the future of the Commission of Inquiry into policing in Khayelitsha. Residents will be able to voice their concerns about the failures of the police, and other factors contributing to a lack of safety.

But safety and security goes beyond policing. Taking care of basic issues such as access to sanitation would go a long way towards improving safety in informal settlements. High profile projects such as VPUU (Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading) in Khayelitsha use urban design with an aim to improve citizen safety and reduce crime.

Fostering understanding and solidarity across racial and economic barriers in Cape Town might also work towards achieving meaningful safety for all. In an unequal society, some ways of addressing crime and security risk aligning along and reinforcing our divisions. What approaches would work specifically to transgress and heal these instead?

The Irene Grootboom Memorial Dialogues have been held every year since 2008, in memory of housing activist Irene Grootboom.

Please join us for this year's series of seminars and discussions, and add your voice to those of the activists, academics, community leaders and experts contributing to these debates.

BEYOND HIGH WALLS & BROKEN WINDOWS

WEEK ONE

Examining the historical landscape around safety and security, and the present-day impacts of insecurity on poor communities.

Lectures and discussion

A history of (in)security

Tuesday 12 November
6pm - 8pm
Central Methodist Mission, Greenmarket Square

South Africa's transition to a democratic state has seen fundamental changes in policing and security, yet levels of crime and violence remain a serious challenge. The effectiveness and professionalism of the police and greater criminal justice system is often brought into question. Expert speakers provide an overview of this landscape post-1994.

Panel discussion

A daily fear

Thursday 14 November
6pm - 8pm
Manenberg People's Centre
2a Scheldt Road

Everyone is affected by exposure to crime and violence. People from different parts of the City discuss their experiences and understanding of what it is to be safe. We explore the long-term effects of violence on individuals and society, and how achieving safety for some may marginalise others.

WEEK TWO

How can safety and security for all be achieved – both through the design of objects and environments, and through people's perceptions and actions.

Panel Discussion

Safe by design

Tuesday 19 November
6pm - 8pm
Woodstock Town Hall
Plein Road, off Victoria Street

The upgrading and servicing of urban environments impacts both on perceptions of safety and vulnerability, and real security. Academics and practitioners discuss a number of innovative projects in Cape Town that attempt to address violence and crime through designed interventions in the built environment.

Seminar

Active citizenship

Thursday 21 November
6pm - 8pm
Site C New Hall
Khayelitsha

Legal and social frameworks offer avenues for us to progress our rights to safety and security. Individuals, communities and civil society can use these systems to advance social relationships and assert their rights, putting pressure on the state to fulfill their responsibilities.



Film screening and discussion

Sea Point Days Director: Francois Verster

Saturday 23 November
1:45pm - 4 pm
Screen 4
Labia on Orange

An imagistic, gentle and elegiac documentary about Sea Point and the friction and friendliness that characterizes it as a public space. The movie shows the importance of open, shared multicultural public spaces, especially for people from insecure areas, and it asks uncomfortable questions around balancing the rights of all to the city, with the policing of public space.

Limited seating, RSVP essential: joel@sjc.org.za

For more information, to RSVP and for details of other Grootboom events, visit:

SJC.ORG.ZA
AFRICANCENTREFORCITIES.NET

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