

eNewsletter No. 12

October 2013

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1. From the Director's Desk

Dear Readers

Greetings from PACSA.

During the month of October we had a number of public events as part of our objective of strengthening social justice activism. These include the release of our 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer, a Round-table discussion on political leadership and our 2013 Film and Arts Festival. In this edition of our E-Newsletter we share brief reports and photographs to give you some feel of how these unfolded. Should you require more information on these events please contact us.

Kind regards.

MERVYN ABRAHAMS
PACSA Director

2. News

· PACSA in conversation with La Via Campesina

Elizabeth Mpfu, Coordinator of La Via Campesina in Southern Africa visited PACSA on the 1st November and spent 2 hours in conversation with PACSA staff. She shared with us the struggles and victories of small scale farmers around food sovereignty, and the power and control of local peasants around the way food is produced, distributed and consumed. She noted that the movement was strong at the grassroots level simply because it had to be in order to protect itself and to ensure that the practice of food sovereignty was socialised not only to ensure that farming practices were able to retain their integrity but also as a barrier to bullying by big corporates.

[Read the full article here](#)



· 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer

We launched the 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer at a media conference on Tuesday, 15 October 2013 to coincide with World Food Day on the 16th October. A core finding is that the food basket increased by 8.7% and that the core staples in the basket such as maize meal, rice, bread, potatoes, are becoming more expensive and unaffordable. Starches must be bought regardless of price. This means that households have to spend more money on starches and less money is available for meat, dairy, fats and oil, and vegetables. This has significant impact on dietary diversity and has serious implications for people's health.

[Read the full article \(with gallery of photographs\) here](#)



· Round table discussion on aspects of political leadership

Forty-four people participated in a round-table discussion on aspects of political leadership addressed by Professor Steven Friedman, Minister Yunus Carim, and Bishop Reuben Philip. The round-table was hosted by PACSA, in collaboration with the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office and the Goedgedacht Forum for Social Reflection, on the 18th October 2013 in the City Royal Hotel in Pietermaritzburg. Prof Friedman advanced the point that we are too fixated on leadership and leaders in S.A rather than focusing on the strength of institutions of democracy.

[Read the full article \(with gallery of photographs\) here](#)



· PACSA 2013 Film and Arts Festival

More than 600 people participated in the various events of the Film and Art Festival on the theme, reclaiming power . . . imagining possibilities. The Festival was opened by Richard Pithouse from Grahamstown



University. For people to claim their agency and power we need spaces such as the festival where people can think and converse together on those aspects of their lives where power have been taken away from them. The arts are a medium through which we dream and imagine and the festival is therefore a profound political act.

[Read the full article \(with gallery of photographs\) here](#)



3. PACSA in the Media

In addition to the wide media coverage on the 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer, mentioned above, the following media articles on PACSA's work appeared in the print media.

- **For the People, Thursday 24 October**

[Read the full article here](#)

- **PACSA study reveals poor households in dire straits, Wednesday 16 October**

[Read the full article here](#)

[Click here to see a list of the extensive print media and radio coverage generated by the 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer](#)

- **IMandela Day Marathon isiza izinhlangano, 2 October 2013**

[Read the full article here](#)

- **KZN's children among worst hit by hunger disease, 29 Oct 2013**

[Read the full article here](#)

- **PACSA Film festival happening this weekend, 25 Oct 2013**

[Read the full article here](#)

4. PACSA Community Partners News

- **Peer Educators Network stemming school violence**

School violence is on the increase in S.A and the peer educators networking has been called in by school principals to conduct sessions with scholars on how to deal with conflict in a constructive manner.

[Read the full article here](#)

- **uMphithi Men's Network Campaign**

The uMphithi Men's Network has joined hands with the Department of Health and LoveLive in a campaign against the 'sugar daddy' syndrome. The march took place on the 23 October from the Pietermaritzburg Taxi complex to the city hall. The taxi industry was targeted to raise awareness amongst taxi operators on how these organisations can work with them to eradicate intergenerational and transactional sex in the taxi industry.

[Read the full article here](#)



- **Themb'Elihle Youth Group connect with K-Cap Theatre in KwaMashu**

Themb'Elihle Youth Group, a youth drama group, visited K-Cap Theatre in KwaMashu on the 18th October 2013. The main purpose of the meeting was to deepen understanding between the two organisations, share experiences and discuss possible ways of further connections. The group was also fortunate to be offered complimentary tickets to the Mambazo Musical Theatre Show. This show is about the life of Ladysmith Black Mambazo leader Prof Joseph Shabalala.

[Read the full article here](#)



5. PACSA Staff Movements

- **Thulani Mthlale**

Attended a course on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality held in University of Pretoria. The course was organized by Sonke Gender Justice in partnership with the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights and Center for the Study of Aids.



· **Thulani Khanyile and Thando Gasu**

Attended a life skills training as part of experiential learning process.

This workshop was organised by the Thabiso Skills Institute, with the Silesian Institute running the training workshop. This training is run over a 5 week period with life skills taking 3 weeks.

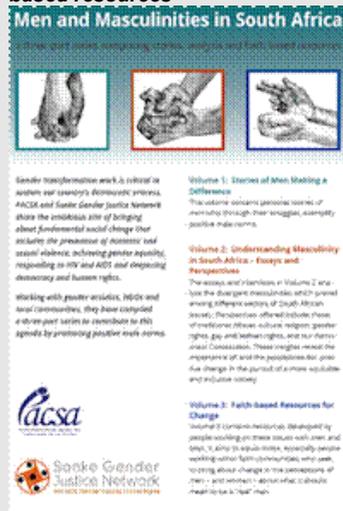
[Read the full articles here](#)



6. Upcoming Events

As part of our 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence we will launch a new book on the 29th November 2013. All readers are invited to the launch of:

· **Men and Masculinities in South Africa. A three part series comprising stories, analysis and faith based resources**



DATE: Friday, 29 November 2013

TIME: 19H00

VENUE: Tatham Art Gallery

GUEST SPEAKER: Raymond Suttner

Raymond Suttner, based in Johannesburg, is a scholar and a social and political analyst. He was actively involved in the liberation struggle against apartheid, both in legal political activities and illegal underground work. Suttner's research interests include politics, history, sociology, gender and sexuality, law, criminology, questions related to identity and representation. He has published *Inside Apartheid's Prison*, 2001 (UKZN press and Ocean Press, which was runner up for the Alan Paton prize), *The ANC Underground*, 2008 (Jacana, and 2009, Lynn Rienner). Together with Jeremy Cronin he wrote *30 Years of the Freedom Charter* (Ravan Press and Ohio University Press, 1986), banned for possession by the apartheid government and *50 Years of the Freedom Charter*, 2006 (UNISA Press).

RSVP: Please contact Sonia Nunthoolall at 033 342 0052 or sonian@pacsa.org.za by Wednesday, 27 November 2013.

7. Feature Article

South Africa's 20 years of Democracy: Cautioning against the Narrative of Achievement, By Fazila Farouk

As we approach the 20 years of democracy in South Africa, Fazila Farouk from the South African Civil Society Information Service cautions against a growing trend by the ruling elite to construct a fictional reality of achievement and glory around the event for themselves.

[Read the full article here](#)

8. Write to us!

Here we encourage readers to write to us. . .

