



A National Dialogue: The role of restitution in South Africa

The Restitution Foundation's newsletter summarizing the discussion

Issue 2 August 2011

Asking South Africans ...

The Restitution Foundation's "National Dialogue" has been rather overtaken by the passionate response to **Archbishop Desmond Tutu's** suggestions for a "wealth tax"! The resulting debate illustrates so clearly that finding a way live together in South Africa is painful and contested. Consequently the Restitution Foundation has invited South Africans to participate in a virtual discussion, linked with its ongoing web based **National Dialogue**, on *The role of restitution in South Africa*

This newsletter offers an accessible summary of some of the responses received so far, with easy links to the larger debate, with the purpose of engaging South Africans from ALL walks of life in the discussion.

We would value your own opinion in a paragraph or three, or if you would like to comment on any of the pieces, please email deon.snyman@telkomsa.net. Or join the social movement by **Liking The Restitution Foundation** Facebook page.



**Floris Brown -
Worcester Poet**

The big smiles and arm length distance will not contribute to the healing of wounds in our beloved country. ([Read more](#))



**The Most Rev Dr
Thabo Makgoba -
Anglican Archbishop
of Cape Town**

As a person of faith, I believe restitution is quite simply, the 'right thing to do.' ... At a practical, restorative level, perhaps the State, in partnership with business, should enact symbolic repentance. ([Read More](#))



**Elize Morkel -
Psychologist**

Restitution is about becoming changed as we participate with those that we never even noticed and thereby assisted in robbing of so much. ([Read more](#))



**Dr Jaco Bernard-
Naude - University
of Cape Town**

Versoening gaan oor die aanvaarding, aan beide kante, van 'n ongelykheid en die toewyding aan 'n ideaal van gelykheid sonder gelyke. ([Read more](#))



**Prof Tinyiko Maluleke
-Executive Director,
Research, UNISA**

Restitution is an acknowledgement that unjust and broken human relations are historical, material, spiritual and all encompassing – affecting blacks and white, rich and poor, men and women, straight and gay... ([Read More](#))



**Dr Fanie Du Toit,
Executive Director -
Institute for Justice
and Reconciliation**

Restitution ought therefore to consist, first and foremost, in efforts to affirm and restore the human dignity of all South Africans, most notably those whose human dignity was systematically denied in the past. ([Read more](#))



**Msizi Cele, Public
Square
Foundation**

Restitution is very important in South Africa because we need to find a way to work together as a nation (black and white) to deal with the inequalities created by our history. ([Read more](#))



**Mike Winfield - CEO
Martin and East**

We cannot silence the voice of Julius Malema in his support of Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe land reform and nationalisation programme until we can demonstrate a good and viable alternative model of restitution; a model of restitution that effectively addresses the appalling conditions of the majority in of our society. ([Read more](#))



**Dr Bongani Finca
IEC Electoral Officer**

The subject of restitution is both complex and controversial. No one is willing to touch it. It has been carefully dropped by all structures of society – by the churches, by the organs of state and structures of political engagement, and by civil society in general. ([Read more](#))

There are some 30 pieces contained within the National Dialogue with more opinions on the [Restitution Foundation website](#).