

RESTITUTION FOUNDATION



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A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE  
RESTITUTION FOUNDATION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JAN 2013 – MARCH 2014

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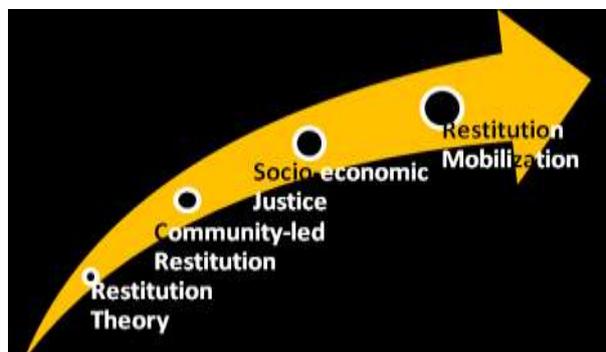
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# Introduction

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Restitution Foundation Model

Five years ago the Restitution Foundation adopted a four programme strategy to implement its vision of being a catalyst for restitution that would contribute towards healing in South Africa. The four programmes are:

- Restitution theory
- Community-led restitution
- Socio-economic justice
- Restitution mobilisation

In 2010 the organisation developed a restitution toolkit which explains what restitution is and what it is not. Since then more than 20 restitution workshops have been conducted with 800 people to deepen their understanding of restitution.

In 2010 the Worcester community invited the Restitution Foundation to facilitate a community-led restitution process in the town. The narrative of the 1996 Christmas Eve racially motivated Worcester bombing in which four people died, 67 people were injured and the whole town traumatised was chosen as a metaphor to mobilise the town to respond to the consequences of centuries of colonial and apartheid rule.

Much progress has been made over the past few years in using this metaphor to

raise awareness about past human rights abuses. The metaphor has also been successfully used to draw many people into the community-led restitution initiative known as the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process (WHRP).

In this annual report the Restitution Foundation focuses on some of the highlights of the past year's work that has taken the conversations between the survivors and the perpetrators of the Worcester bomb forward, has drawn Worcesterians into new conversations and spaces in homes, churches and public events, and started dreams of different ways of inclusive living.

In January the WHRP organised a Worcester to Pretoria Peace train that enabled 60 survivors of the 1996 bombing to meet one of the perpetrators in the Pretoria Central Prison. This initiative caught not only the imagination of the residents of Worcester but the whole of South Africa – the story was covered on national television news and the front pages of newspapers in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Consequently the WHRP has attracted many new members. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of November the whole cabinet of the Western Cape Provincial Government visited Worcester where they presented a progress report on their work in the province to the Worcester community. In his welcoming address the Mayor of the Breede Valley Municipality, Councillor Basil Kivedo introduced the cabinet to the WHRP which he labelled as “the flagship project in the town”. Kivedo showed two videos about the work of the WHRP. In her response the Premier of the Province, Ms Helen Zille, congratulated the WHRP and said the initiative serve as an inspiration for the rest of South Africa. The Premier specifically commended the WHRP's Worcester Peace Train initiative.

Dealing with the impact of our past is difficult – many people would prefer to

forget or hope that we can move on. Though much work has been done in making people aware of the need for restitution and mobilising people into a community-led restitution movement, the WHRP is only now starting to implement socio-economic restitution in Worcester.

During the past year in workshops with the religious, youth, civil society and business sectors in Worcester, the WHRP has identified employment, education, substance abuse and housing as the four areas where most work is needed to ensure socio-economic transformation in the town.

In partnership with the Carnegie 3 Conference on Poverty, the University of Cape Town and the National Planning Commission the WHRP arranged a five day residential workshop from 17 - 21 February 2014 with strategic Worcester partners where best practise South African NGO's focusing on employment, education, substance abuse and housing were invited to present their work. All the different NGO's indicated after their presentations that they would be willing to partner with the WHRP in replicating their models in Worcester. The CEO of the National Planning Commission, Mr Khulekani Mathe who also made a presentation encouraged the WHRP to use the initiative to create a South African community-led restitution model by developing a local roll out of the National Development Plan (NDP).

A detailed report of the workshop is attached to this report. The same group of participants who attended the workshop would attend a follow-up workshop in May where detail planning would be done to ensure the Carnegie workshops resolutions are implemented.

The Restitution Foundation would like to make use of this opportunity to thank all the individuals and institution's who have supported the work of the organisation financially.

We particularly appreciate the valuable financial support received from Transnet during the past year. This support played a vital role in ensuring that all the activities reported here could actually take place.



**Deon Snyman**  
**COO**  
**Restitution Foundation**

**31 March 2014**

## 1996 Worcester bombing: an update

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**Some of the Worcester Peace Train Passengers at the Beaufort-West Station**

On Christmas Eve 1996 four members of right wing white supremacist organisations in South Africa planted a number of bombs in and around the Shoprite shopping complex in Worcester. Four black people died and at least 67 people were injured. It was very clear that the bombing intended to kill many black African and coloured people.

A couple of weeks after the bombing the police arrested the four people

responsible for the bombing: Johannes van der Westhuizen, Koper Myburgh, Cliffie Barnard and Stephanus Coetzee.

The motives behind the crime was to avenge the deaths of people killed in pre-democracy era bomb explosions organised by members of Umkhonto weSizwe (the military wing of the ANC) as well as a demonstration of opposition to the end of white minority rule in South Africa.



**A survivor of the 1996 Worcester Bombing in Conversation with Stefaans Coetzee**

In prison one of the bombers, Stefaans Coetzee, who was only 17 years old when he committed the crime, initially persisted in his racist thinking. It was only after being challenged by Eugene de Kock (with whom he shared a prison cell) and his subsequent attending of restorative justice courses in prison that Coetzee rejected racism and acknowledged that the planting of the bombs was immoral. He developed remorse for his actions and expressed the wish to meet with the survivors of the bombing to listen to their stories of how the bombing affected their lives and to render an unconditional apology for his actions.

Only one of the survivors of the bombing, Olga Macingwane, was initially interested to meet with Coetzee and in November 2009 the two of them met in the Pretoria Central Prison. During that meeting Coetzee was able to convince Macingwane that his remorse was sincere. At the end of the meeting

Macingwane decided to forgive him. On her return to Worcester Macingwane reported on the meeting to some of the other survivors. These survivors then indicated that they were now also interested to meet with Coetzee.

When the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process (WHRP, the community-led restitution initiative of the Restitution Foundation) heard about this wish of the survivors, it approached the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to transfer Coetzee for a limited period to a correctional facility in Worcester as it was difficult to arrange for a large group of survivors (of whom many were from low socio-economic backgrounds) to travel to Pretoria for a meeting. The many requests of the WHRP were denied. The DCS instead suggested that the survivors travel to Pretoria.

Realising that travelling to Pretoria by train would cost about R1000 per person, the WHRP launched a fundraising initiative and approached ordinary Worcesterians to donate money to enable 60 survivors to travel to Pretoria by train. Within two weeks more than R80 000 was raised. When the minister of Correctional Services, Mr Sbu Ndebele, heard about the Peace Train initiative in December 2012 he gave his full support and it was agreed that the survivors would meet with Coetzee on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2013. The Department also agreed to transfer Coetzee later in the year to Worcester where he could meet with other Worcesterians who did not join the train journey.

The purpose with the Peace Train was to enable survivors who wanted to meet with Stefaans Coetzee to do so and in so doing assist survivors in making meaning of their traumatic experiences. Nobody was forced to either join the

Peace Train or encouraged to forgive the perpetrator. These are understood as personal choices and processes.

The WHRP arranged for a psychiatrist, psychologist and social workers to accompany the Peace Train passengers to provide the necessary support in the preparation for the visit.

At the meeting with the survivors in the Pretoria Central Prison, Coetzee took full responsibility for the planting of the bombs and gave reasons why he committed the crime. He rendered an unconditional apology and provided assurances that he has gone through a transformation process and is not the same person as he was when he committed the crime. During the meeting all survivors had the opportunity to interact with Coetzee and he responded to all their questions and statements.



**Debriefing session for peace train passengers in the Worcester Dutch Reformed Church Hall**

Many survivors accepted his apology. Some decided to forgive Stefaans while others decided not to and some others remained angry.

The meeting between Stefaans Coetzee and the survivors of the 1996 Worcester bombing received national and international news coverage.

On their return to Worcester the WHRP organised psychologists to render a six week trauma therapy course to all the survivors who requested such service.

The seven Dutch Reformed Church congregations had packed wonderful “padkos” for the Peace Train journey. After the journey the travellers visited each church at the Sunday service to give thanks and report on the journey.



**Juan Kariem, organiser of the Worcester Peace Train in conversation with the Mr Sbu Ndebele, minister of Correctional Services**

In September 2013 the DCS transferred Coetzee to Worcester. In partnership with the WHRP further meetings between Coetzee and survivors of the bombing as well as other residents of the town were arranged. The Department of Psychology of the University of Stellenbosch arranged counselling sessions to prepare survivors for this meeting.

The small group meetings between survivors who have not been part of the Peace Train and Coetzee were followed by a public meeting attended by more than 1000 Worcester residents where the town as a whole had the opportunity to interact with Coetzee.

The Worcester Peace Train to Pretoria and all the subsequent meetings between Stefaans Coetzee and the survivors of the 1996 Worcester bombing caught the imagination of a large group of people in Worcester. Many new people decided to join the WHRP.

During May 2013 Juan Kariem, Secretary of the WHRP visited Koper Myburgh (one of the other perpetrators of the bombing) in the Pretoria Central Prison to establish to what extent he transformed since the bombing occurred. It was clear from the meeting that Mr Myburgh was still not taking full responsibility for his part in the bombing. He highlighted that he was only responsible for the manufacturing of the bombs and was not involved in killing people. He also spoke at length about how the South African justice system has failed him. He did not show any signs of remorse.

After the visit the WHRP concluded that Mr Myburgh is not yet ready for a possible meeting with the survivors of the bombing.



**Survivors of the 1996 Worcester bombing meeting with Stefaans Coetzee at a Correctional facility in Worcester**

In September 2014 the DCS transferred Stefaans Coetzee for a limited period to a Correctional Facility in Worcester. This enabled the WHRP to arrange for survivors who have not yet met with Coetzee to also meet with him. After all these meetings took place a big meeting between Coetzee and the rest of the town of Worcester was arranged. At this meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September more than a 1000 Worcester residents had the opportunity to engage with Coetzee.

In December 2013 Deon Snyman and Juan Kariem visited Mr Johannes van der Westhuizen (one of the other perpetrators of the bombing) in the Upington Prison. Mr van der Westhuizen said that in planting the bomb he just followed orders given to him by the leadership of the AWB. He further indicated that he would be willing to apologise to the Worcester community as soon as the AWB takes full responsibility for the bombing.

Arranging a meeting between Mr van der Westhuizen and the survivors of the bombing would at this stage be immature as Mr van der Westhuizen has as yet not shown any remorse for his actions.

A meeting with the fourth bomber, Mr Cliffie Barnard is planned during April 2014.

## Worcester Peace Table

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The third annual WHRP Peace Table took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2013. More than 120 Worcester residents from diverse backgrounds participated in the event. The participants gathered at the old Dutch Reformed Church in town where they got onto buses and travelled together to the Riverview Primary School (a traditional coloured area) in town where they enjoyed the first course of the meal.

The group then travelled to the black African township of Zwelethemba where they enjoyed the main course of the meal. The annual WHRP peace award was then presented to the Department of Correctional Services, Western Cape Region for their involvement in the facilitation of the Victim-Offender Dialogues (VOD)

between the survivors of the 1996 Worcester bombing and Stefaans Coetzee.

The peace table participants then travelled back to the Old Dutch Reformed Church (a traditional white area) where they enjoyed desert and where the programme was concluded.

## Koinonia Meals

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One of the Koinonia groups in the house of Ms Ndamoye in Zwelethemba

During the year members of the WHRP started with the Koinonia Meal Initiative. This initiative encourages pairs of three families (representing each of the three dominant cultural groups in Worcester) to have a meal at each other's houses. After the meal the house guest then use family photo albums to facilitate a discussion about the family history of the house. The group then comes together at each home in turn to share similar meals and family stories.

More than 20 Worcesterians participated in the Koinonia meals during the past year. Each one of these twenty participants will invite three other families from other cultural backgrounds to eat at their houses during 2014. The aim is for this initiative to spiral with the hope that large numbers of the town would start eating at houses of people from a different racial backgrounds

contributing to the promotion of social cohesion in Worcester.

## Carnegie Partnership

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> Carnegie Conference on Poverty was held in September 2012 at the University of Cape Town. Many best practice South African NGO's presented their work on job creation, quality education, housing and poverty eradication at the conference. After the conference the conference director Prof Francis Wilson approached the Restitution Foundation with a request for the Carnegie 3 conference to partner with the WHRP. The aim with the partnership is to identify current socio-economic gaps in Worcester and to then invite NGO's with a specific focus on the gap areas, who presented their work at the Carnegie 3 conference, to replicate their work in the town. The Restitution Foundation is excited about this partnership.

During the months of August and September WHRP identified all the NGO's currently working in Worcester and established which organisations are doing what work in Worcester.

In October and November the WHRP conducted workshops with representatives from the business community, the religious sector, the civil society sector and the youth to establish what they consider the existing socio-economic gaps in Worcester are.

The main themes identified as gap areas by the four workshops were:

- Drug abuse
- Employment
- Education
- Housing

A planning committee representing all the different sectors in Worcester arranged a five day residential workshop for 20 Worcester community leaders during the third week of February 2014.



Participants of the Worcester-Carnegie workshop, 17 – 21 February 2014

The first four days of the workshop focused on the identified themes with invited NGO's presenting their work. On the last day of the workshop the workshop participants began with the development of a plan how to implement knowledge obtained during the workshop. A detailed workshop report is attached to this report.

A follow-up workshop focusing of detail planning is arranged for 16-18 May 2014.

## Youth Pilgrimage

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At the Carnegie youth workshop held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2013 the participants agreed to actively work towards the promotion of hope and reconciliation amongst the youth of Worcester.

As a direct consequence of this agreement the WHRP on 25 November 2013 arranged a one day Robben Island pilgrimage for 20 youth members from all the different racial groups in Worcester.

The youth left Worcester at 05:00 in the morning and on arrival in Cape Town boarded the same ferry that used to transport prisoners to the island during the apartheid years.



Worcester youth attended a pilgrimage to Robben Island

On the island the group walked to the different historical sites and reflected on relevant themes at every site (the penguin board walk: creation; the visitor centre: family; the Kramat: faith; the maximum security prison: justice; the leper grave yard: diversity; the Robert Sobukwe house: identity; the lime quarry: work).

The pilgrimage ended at the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd where the youth celebrated the Eucharist where after they reflected on what the pilgrimage meant to them and what thoughts and ideas they will take back with them to Worcester.

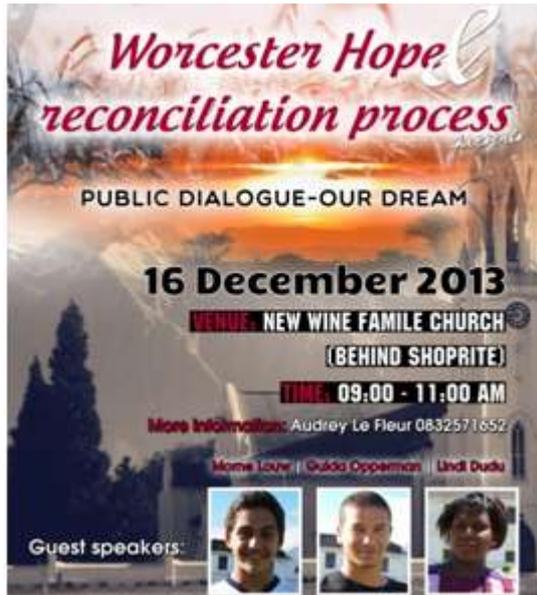
The youth also spend time in planning the WHRP annual Worcester reconciliation day event.

## Reconciliation Day

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The fourth consecutive WHRP reconciliation day event took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. The focus of this year's celebration was on the Worcester youth.

Three youth members from the different racial groups in Worcester, Guido Opperman, Lindi Dudu en Morné Louw spoke with each other how their communities are affected by unemployment, the quality of education, substance abuse and the housing crises in Worcester.



The 2013 Reconciliation Day Poster

The venue for the event was the New Wine Family Church and more than seventy Worcesterians from all back grounds attended the event.

## Public Meeting

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October the Restitution Foundation held its annual public meeting in Cape Town. The guest speaker was former constitutional court judge Kate O'Regan who addressed the audience on the theme "Restitution as constitutional imperative in South Africa".

In her presentation Judge O' Reagan discussed the unfinished business of the TRC and particularly that the commission's mandate had not sufficiently focused that on the day to

day humiliation and discrimination of black South Africans by the apartheid policies. The beneficiaries of apartheid had never been held accountable for these injustices and therefore still have a restitution responsibility.



Invitation to the 2013 Restitution Foundation Public Meeting

Judge O' Regan also referred to the many human rights abusers of the apartheid era who have not applied for amnesty and who have to date not been prosecuted for their crimes. She stated that justice needs to be served to them in order to strengthen the human rights foundation and rule of law within the new South Africa.

## Worcester Public Conversation



The public conversation was well attended

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June the WHRP organised a public conversation in the Worcester Town Hall. Three Speakers, Prof Lionel Louw, a well-known religious leader, academic and anti-apartheid activist, Nomfundo Walaza, CEO of the Tutu

Peace Centre and Chris Spies a peace activist and consultant for the United Nations conversed with each other on their experiences of the South African past, how they feel about the present situation in South Africa and their hopes and dreams for the future of South Africa.

After their conversation they also invited the audience to participate in the conversation.

The objective of the conversation was to model to the Worcester community how South Africans of diverse backgrounds could talk to each other about their own experiences of dealing with the legacy of South Africa's past. Two hundred people attended the event.

## WHRP book launch

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Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu received a copy of the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process book

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, the birthday of former president Nelson Mandela, the WHRP launched a picture book commemorating the past four year's activities of the WHRP.

The book launch took place in the Victoria and Alfred Hotel at the Waterfront in Cape Town and was sponsored by the provincial government of the Western Cape.

The provincial minister of Sport and Culture, Dr Ivan Meyer was the guest speaker and in his presentation he commended the WHRP for the reconciliation work it has undertaken in Worcester.

## Sustainable peace in Worcester

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In February 2013 Dr Deon Snyman, the COO of the Restitution Foundation, completed an MPhil thesis in Political Studies at the University of Cape Town. The theme for his dissertation was "*The requirements for Sustainable Peace in Worcester*". The research identified seventeen different requirements for sustainable peace in Worcester:

- Effective Governance
- Poverty Eradication
- Equality
- Hunger Eradication
- Decent Housing
- Quality Education
- Prosecution of Apartheid Era Leadership
- Absence of Crime
- Recovery from Apartheid Era Traumatic Memories
- Acknowledgement of white people's complicity to and benefit from Apartheid
- White people's sincere remorse about Apartheid;
- White people's sincere apology for Apartheid
- Restitution of means
- Memorialisation of the struggle against Apartheid
- Reconciliation between black and white Worcesterians
- Sharing of wealth
- Decent employment

The outcome of the research also highlighted that the periods of colonisation and apartheid traumatised many of the black African and coloured people in Worcester. The community of Worcester has limited understanding of trauma and the consequences of unresolved trauma on the community. Although black African and coloured people's recovery from the trauma is not dependant on the response from white people, their persistent lack of acknowledging the role they played in colonisation and apartheid, their lack of portraying sincere remorse, rendering of sincere apologies and commitment to restitution re-traumatises black African and coloured communities. The research concluded that as long as there is inequality within Worcester there would not be sustainable peace in the town.

The WHRP arranged two events where the research findings were communicated to the Worcester community – an event for religious leaders in the Anglican Church in the town and an event arranged for leaders within Worcester civil society held in the Hall of the Worcester Disability Organisation.

## Presentations

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During the past year Dr Deon Snyman, the COO of the Restitution Foundation, was invited to present the Restitution Foundation's work in Worcester at the following events:

- A dialogue between Science and Society lecture series with the theme Forgiveness, living reconciliation. The stories and the scholarship (Tuesday 19 March, Bloemfontein). The event was hosted by Institute for reconciliation and social justice at the University at the Free State.
- An African Gender Institute (University of Cape Town) intensive course on Transitional Justice, Thursday, 5 September
- An annual general meeting of the Calvinia Reconciliation Project, 20 September.

## Staff Matters

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In July 2013 the Restitution Foundation appointed Juan Kariem, the secretary of the WHRP, for a year contract at the Restitution Foundation. Apart from his secretarial work with the WHRP Juan will oversee the Criminal Justice and Socio-economic Justice programmes of the Restitution Foundation in Worcester.

Ashley Herold, a final year theology student from Cornerstone College served a three month internship with the Restitution Foundation during which he assisted with the preparations for the Carnegie 3 intervention in Worcester.