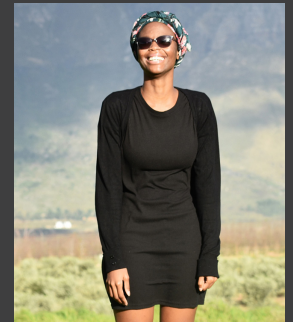
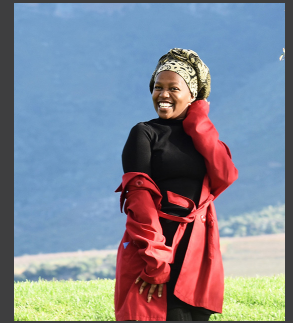


DWA ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2019



FOCUS
RESIDENTIAL SEMINARS

“All present standing with God
take an oath with God
Ordinary



Residential Seminars

Democracy Works Foundation's youth leadership initiative, Democracy Works Academy, is a civic engagement and dialogue programme to support the youth – with the aim to develop, capacitate, and provide networks for future young leaders of South Africa.



The Academy hopes to produce Fellows that are politically engaged and active citizens, and be a solution for marginalised youth and the high youth despondence in South Africa.



Residential Seminars are five-day interactive learning sessions that impart political education, civic education, and practical knowledge. They set out to equip 21 young South Africans, between the ages of 19 to 25, from diverse backgrounds.

The Academy hosts a series of three interactive Residential Seminars per year, with the purpose to bring together all Academy Fellows from across the four provinces we work in – Free State, Limpopo, North West, and Gauteng.

Previous Residential Seminars

The first Residential Seminar focused on 'myself as a leader', facilitated by Noxolo Ntaka and Shannon Bernardt. The objective of this session was to instil a greater sense of self, as well as a responsibility towards the Fellows and their communities, by reflecting on the ideals of self-awareness, leadership, healthy engagements, community mapping, and civic engagement.

The latter half of the Residential Seminar was facilitated by Dr Sithembile Mbete – Department of Political Science lecturer, University of Pretoria. The sessions looked at 'twenty-five years of democracy in South Africa: an introduction to the Constitution', and 'democratic institutions'.



The sessions discussed the story of change in South Africa over the past 25 years and introduced the values and principles underpinning South Africa's constitutional democracy. In addition, the Fellows learned of the Bill of Rights: 'rights versus reality, democratic institutions, and the importance of active citizenship'.

The second Residential Seminar, was an intergenerational dialogue series, which looked at South Africa's tumultuous history pre-1994, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiations, and the generational gap between the youth and those who were part of South Africa's struggle history.

The sessions were facilitated by Noxolo Ntaka and Elaine Pypers, with guest speakers that included struggle veterans – Muhammed Bhabha, Roelf Meyer, and Ebrahim Ebrahim, former and present legislative representatives – Dr Makhosi Khoza and Fasiha Hassan, and DWA key partner stakeholders – Ansie Ramalho and Gugu McLaren.

The week-long seminar, also comprised of two historically significant site visits; Lilies Leaf and the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

At Lilies Leaf, the Fellows engaged in talks with Lilies Leaf CEO, Nicholas Wolpe. Nicholas explained the important role Lilies Leaf played in the fight against apartheid, particularly as a hiding space for the African National Congress' (ANC) and affiliates.

The tour of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, was guided by struggle veteran and former Justice Albie Sachs. Justice Sachs explained the rich architectural history of Constitutional Hill and the conscience design behind the Constitutional Court. He further told his life story – his role in the struggle, shaping a new democratic South Africa, and his work as a Justice in the Constitutional Court.



Upcoming Residential Seminar

The third and final Residential Seminar for our inaugural 2019 DWA cohort is titled 'Looking to the Future' and will be held from 20 – 25 October.

For this Residential Seminar, we intend to equip the Fellows with practical skills they can use as tools to help uplift their communities and build resilient democracies. These tools will include proposal writing, events planning, financial management, social media management, writing a curriculum vitae and cover letter, and site visits of civil society organisations in our network.

Former Justice Albie Sachs and DWA 2019 inaugural cohort





Online Curriculum

In June, the Academy launched its online learning curriculum platform, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria. The online learning platform, provides a space for continuous learning to the Fellows in between Residential Seminars. Here the Fellows are encouraged to engage in online discussions and submit weekly assignments. The assignments are based on 'Thought Leadership', 'Critical Conversations', and 'Project Management'.

Conclusion

In establishing Democracy Works Academy, we are and hope to continue to bring lasting and meaningful change to the youth and communities of South Africa. The Residential Seminars and online curriculum are geared at theoretical and practical knowledge sharing, be it delving into the Constitution and Bill of Rights, interactive dialogue discussions with apartheid struggle veterans, doing site visits of historically significant spaces, or through reflection and essay writing.



Dr Makhosi Khoza – Former Member of Parliament



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