

PRIDES & PLIGHTS VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

28 November 2018



CLIFFE DEKKER HOFMEYR



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

FOREWORD



As part of our mandate, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's Pro Bono & Human Rights Practice selects a few campaigns each year through which to promote internal and external awareness of human rights and topical matters of public interest. As one of our campaigns for the 2018 year we have chosen to highlight the cause of older women in Africa. We chose this theme for a number of reasons.

According to the United Nations, discrimination on the basis of age/"ageism" is a reality in some form in all societies, and finds expression in individuals' attitudes, institutional and policy practices, as well as media representation that devalue and exclude older persons. This discrimination shapes how older persons are treated and perceived by their societies - creating environments that limit their potential and impacts their health and well-being.

The vulnerability of older persons, especially older women, is an issue of particular concern in Africa. Despite the valuable contribution they make to society, and indeed the significant social burden that they continue to carry in society, because of pervasive, entrenched inequality, poverty, the breakdown of family support structures associated with modernisation and migration, as well as the HIV AIDS pandemic that has devastated our continent, the rights and interests of older women are often overlooked.

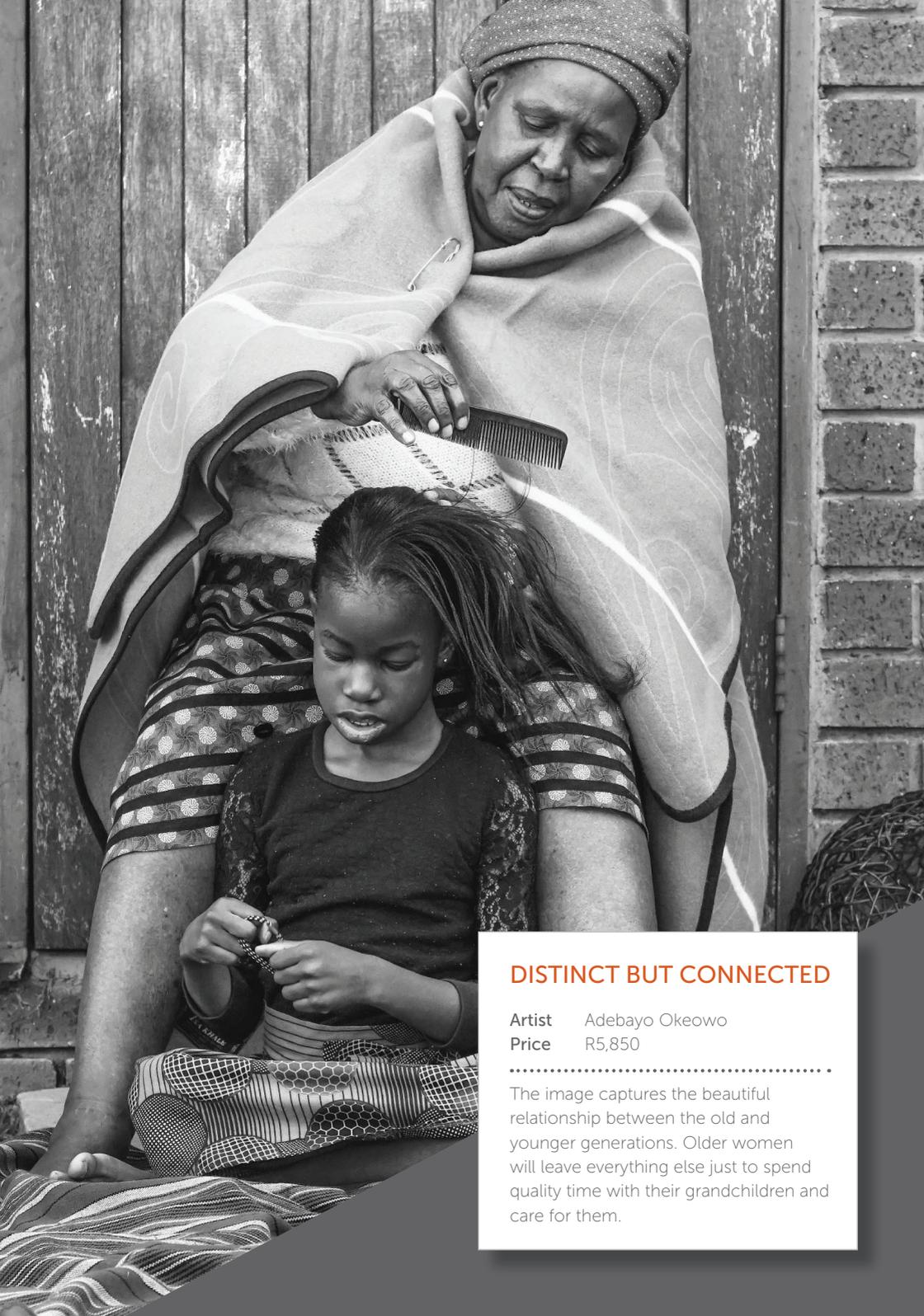
Exactly because of their marginal status, the lived reality of older African women receives little to no attention by main stream society in a context in which numerous competing human rights abuses, constitutional & political crises and socio-economic issues clamour for the continent's attention on a daily basis. Moreover, until recently the concerns of older persons were relegated to a "welfare issue" as opposed to being recognised as a pressing human rights issue.

The adoption in 2016 by the African Union of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons (only the second legally binding international instrument on the rights of older persons), which seeks to entrench the human rights of older persons, was accordingly a welcome development. The failure of states to ratify the Protocol however unfortunately illustrates continued lack of prioritisation of the rights of older persons on the continent, and the continued need, therefore, to raise awareness.

We are accordingly proud to be partnering with the Centre for Human Rights (University of Pretoria) and artist/curator Daniel Rankadi Mosako to host this exhibit, not only in order to raise awareness of the struggle of older African women (their "plights"), to advocate for their human rights and help create an environment for older persons to age with dignity, but importantly to recognise, honour and celebrate their inordinate resilience, strength, beauty and dignity ("their prides"). We hope this event will help us all reconceive the way we view, interact with and appreciate, the older women in our families, work place and broader communities.

With gratitude and thanks to all who made this event possible.

Jacque Cassette
Practice Head: Pro Bono & Human Rights, CDH



DISTINCT BUT CONNECTED

Artist Adebayo Okeowo

Price R5,850

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The image captures the beautiful relationship between the old and younger generations. Older women will leave everything else just to spend quality time with their grandchildren and care for them.



PROGRAMME

WELCOME

Brent Williams

Chief Executive Officer, CDH

Dr. Nkatha Murungi

Assistant Director, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Human Rights,
University of Pretoria

Sandra Struwig

Eersterust Welfare Organisation for the Aged

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Honourable Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THANK YOU

Tricia Erasmus

Senior Associate: Pro Bono & Human Rights, CDH



TOUGH CONDITIONS 1

Artist Kenneth Nkosi

Price R39,000

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The artwork depicts the many roles that African women play in society on a daily basis. Many older women continue to perform hard physical labour even in their old age.

KENNETH NKOSI

#AGEWITHRIGHTS CAMPAIGN ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER WOMEN IN AFRICA

Throughout 2018, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria is spearheading a Campaign on the Rights of Older Women in Africa **#AgeWithRights**. This Campaign seeks to strengthen advocacy around rights issues relevant to older African women and to advance State initiatives to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons. The Protocol on Older Persons was adopted by member states of the African Union in January 2016. Since adoption, no state has ratified it.

Older women experience the compound effects of ageism, disempowerment and sexism. They are more likely to be poor, widowed, without pension or health care, socially ostracised and abused, to experience generational conflict and to suffer violence in old age compared to their male counterparts. Efforts to improve the wellbeing of older people have generally been inadequate and uneven.

The "Pride and Plights Exhibition" is one of the activities to raise awareness of the situation of older women in South Africa. Other activities include a ten country study on the status of older women, regional expert meetings on ageing and other awareness raising campaigns. For more information on the campaign, visit <http://www.chr.up.ac.za/agewithrights>.

About the Centre for Human Rights

The Centre for Human Rights is an internationally recognised university-based institution combining academic excellence and effective activism to advance human rights, particularly in Africa. It aims to contribute to advancing human rights, through education, research and advocacy. Over the years, the Centre has positioned itself in an unmatched network of practising and academic lawyers, international and national civil servants and human rights practitioners across the entire continent, with a specific focus on human rights law.

The Centre in 2006 was the award recipient of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education and in 2012, received the Human Rights Prize for civil society organisations awarded by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. For more information on the Centre, visit www.chr.up.ac.za.



#AgeWithRights

Patience Mungwari Mpani

Women's Rights Unit Programme Manager
Centre for Human Rights



SILENT STRENGTH

Artist Adebayo Okeowo

Price R3,900

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Life has thrown some nasty things my way – from surviving an abusive marriage to losing my 2 kids. But through it all, I have developed an inner strength. My faith in God strengthens me and even though it's quite an experience getting old, I am grateful to be sound of mind.

Nora Steenbok (81yrs)



Ms Sandra Struwig

EERSTERUST WELFARE ORGANISATION FOR THE AGED

The Eersterust Welfare Organisation for the Aged (EWOFA), not only provides a home for older persons in the community but allows them to live out the remainder of their lives with dignity and to be active citizens who do not merely exist but who play a meaningful role in the home and in their community.

During visits to the EWOFA in which we met with the administrator of the EWOFA Ms Sandra Struwig, as well as some of the residents, we saw how with sufficient care and support, it is possible to provide a dignified and nurturing home environment for older persons, even with limited resources.

Sandra, who is a qualified nurse explained that EWOFA currently homes 59 residents (the oldest resident being 100 years old) and that many of the residents are emotionally traumatised when they arrive at the home, and that some even fear for their safety. It usually takes them a few weeks to settle and realise that they are in a safe, caring environment and then only do they start to open up and really interact with staff and other residents.

The inspiration which gave rise to the EWOFA arose in the early 1960's, when Ms Wayland, who currently heads up the organisation, noticed an alarming increase in homelessness amongst older people in the area. Initially a feeding scheme was started

for the elderly which eventually led to the formation of EWOFA in 2012, when Sandra joined the organisation.

EWOFA provides its residents with 3 meals a day, accommodation, 24-hour assistance/ care and also has its own qualified nurse on staff. The nurse provides around the clock care and facilitates the collection of medication for the residents from the nearest clinic. EWOFA also has an active ageing programme which they have developed in conjunction with the Department of Social Development that provides the residents with a range of daily activities which they can participate in allowing them to stay active and focussed.

Sandra is exceptionally passionate about her work at EWOFA and says that she learns a lot from the residents on a daily basis. One gets the sense that the residents have in a way become her family as almost half of the residents have no family at all or have been abandoned by their family. Sandra explained that this is unfortunately a common occurrence and a sad reality for a number

of older people not only at EWOFA, but in the community as a whole. She also explains that many of the residents have experienced physical and emotional abuse when they arrive at the home. It is therefore necessary for EWOFA to facilitate psychiatric care for its residents via the local clinic.

EWOFA receives limited funding from the National lottery from time to time, however this funding is not guaranteed. The residents also make a nominal contribution to EWOFA in the form of a percentage of their SASSA old age grants which they receive monthly. EWOFA is therefore dependant on private funding from corporates and the community in order to make up the shortfall in respect of

the running costs of the home. The residents themselves have little to no income and are almost completely dependent on EWOFA for their basic necessities which adds to the home's expenses.

We encourage everyone to contact Sandra directly should they wish to make any financial or other contributions to EWOFA. Sandra's details are obtainable from EWOFA's Facebook Page.

**Tricia Erasmus | Senior Associate
Pro Bono & Human Rights, CDH**

**Gift Xaba | Associate Designate
Pro Bono & Human Rights, CDH**



EWOFA RESIDENTS - some of their stories



LYA JOHANNA LOUW (82YRS)

You know you are getting old when the pains and aches start to become more frequent. But it is impossible to stay young forever so I have decided to enjoy old age and appreciate more the little joys of life like the fresh air and the love of family. I spend my spare time reading and watching TV. I pray to God to keep me strong even as I grow older.



JACQUELINE VISAGIE (65YRS)

Being old makes you calm. I spend a lot of my time reading and doing some needle work. I love keeping busy. The community should be kind to older people. Young people especially should embrace and love older people because they will be old one day too.



JENNIFER MASEEMA (78YRS)

I was born in Pretoria. While growing up, I used to love reading. But that is not something I can do much of anymore due to my poor eyesight. If I read for too long, my eyes start to get teary. I want to spend my old age resting and relaxing.



ANNA MODISE (63YRS)

I love dancing. Every day, once it is 4pm, I start heading to our rehearsal ground. When I was involved in an accident in June 2018, I did not let that stop me. I had to get stitches for my eyes as well as glasses. But I am back here, dancing again. I will encourage older people to be involved in exercises so as to counter issues like high blood pressure and diabetes.



JOHANNA PHILLIPINA EVERSON (76YRS)

I spend my time knitting, sewing and I enjoy going to church and staying at EWOFA because I get a lot of love there and at the home. They are like family. Unfortunately my only daughter has abandoned me and wants very little to do with me. This makes me very sad and it is difficult for me to speak about it. I think it is important for people to care for older people. Do not just say it but show it. And it is not about the money but more about the presence and care.



LADY CUTTER

Artist Helena Hugo
Price R45,240

The image depicts a lady sugarcane cutter whose hands are stained by dark ash deposit. Her torn jersey portrays her socio-economic plight and the unbearable circumstances that female cane cutters endure as bread-winners who need to support their families.



LADY

Artist Cindy Leah Awuor
Price R13,000

The photographic image depicts an elderly lady who takes pride in herself and commands respect for natural beauty in a world that generally disregards secondary citizens.



SENIOR CITIZEN

Artist Cindy Leah Awuor
Price R13,000

This photographic image depicts an elderly woman who seems dazed amongst an active and vibrant society that is focused on daily activities and does not see her. She appears overwhelmed by the 'rat-race'. Our society in general disregards its senior citizens instead of providing them care and support which often results in neglect.



GOING HOME

Artist Pauline Mazibuko
Price R45,500

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This is Lettie who stays in an informal settlement, a widow, mother of 7 children. Lettie wakes up each morning at 5am and by 6am she will be standing at the corner with her baby on her back. Lettie is running a small business through which she sells snacks, loose-draws and homemade mageu. One may ask why so early with a child on her back? The answer is because most women are left with the responsibility of being both bread-winners and care-givers for their families. After hours she will pack up her small business props and go home to refill her merchandise and add more stock. Lettie leaves the corner at around 5pm.



I WONDER

Artist Pauline Mazibuko
Price R45,500

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This is Miss Mkhize who stays in an informal settlement with her 2 daughters. Her daughter, Ntombi, has 2 children, a boy aged 2 and a girl of almost 2 years old. Miss Mkhize receives a social grant and Ntombi receives a grant for her children. When grant payment day comes Ntombi will vanish for days, leaving her children with Miss Mkhize (grandmother to the children). When she comes back home empty handed, Ntombi will yell, and claim money from her mother. Miss Mkhize knows she should raise the matter with social services but does not. She keeps wondering "when is payment day?"



TOUGH CONDITIONS 2

Artist Kenneth Nkosi
Price R39,000

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The artwork depicts the many roles and common challenges that women face as part of their daily lives. The lady in the blue dress is fetching water for household use at dusk.

ARTWORKS & CURATOR'S/ARTISTS' NARRATIVES



RESILIENCE

Artist Charles Nkosi
Price R10,500

The artwork portrays a dazed and confused multiple faced woman. She seems to be overwhelmed by her immediate surroundings and conditions.



UNTITLED

Artist Andrew Tshabangu
Price Price on request

The photographic image depicts elderly women who are dressed in church clothing and are anchoring themselves with lengthy sticks. Church plays an important role in the lives of many elderly women in society. The women are devoting time to connect with their saviour as they go through tough times in the world.



TRIBUTE - HOMAGE

Artist Dominic Tshabangu
Price R32,500

The art work depicts a profile image of an elderly woman who is looking far into the horizon, wondering what the future holds for her, life, health, and social well-being.



UNTITLED

Artist Lisa Nettleton
Price R3,200

The work shares the stereotypes confronting many women in a society that has misconceptions about women's needs and experiences. What women want to is to be respected.



I CAN

Artist Adebayo Okeowo

Price R2,600

I was born with one arm but I have never let that get in my way. I am proud of who I am so I do not hide myself. I had a principal when I was in Grade 2 who told me that I must do everything that those with two hands do. So I played basketball, I did sewing and other handwork. Today, I still do everything by myself. The only thing I have tried to do and have not been able to is putting a nail on the wall. Other people like me should not be afraid. There is something you can do. Just try.

Susan Skhosana (62yrs)



STILL AT WORK

Artist Adebayo Okeowo

Price R3,250

I have been in the shoe making business for 40 years. I love what I do and that is why even at 83 years of age, I still show up to work everyday. Getting old is wonderful.

Rika Wasserthal (83yrs)



FLORA

Artist Daniel Rankadi Mosako

Price R16,000

The art piece forms a narrative commemoration of the plights of senior citizens, particularly women. It depicts the daily regimen of many older women, and the struggles they face on a daily basis. The floral background is inspired by the homestead mural decorations commonly done by older women in various tribal spaces in the South Africa landscape. Most older women in the villages have many responsibilities such as looking after children as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews, house-hold management, collecting fire wood, water, preparing meals for their families, going to church, procuring groceries and supporting other older people in the neighbourhood.

ARTISTS



DANIEL RANKADI MOSAKO

Mosako is a prolific South African artist with international artistic and heritage credibility. He has participated in scores of high profile exhibitions. His subject matter focuses on constructivism concepts that are linked to social and economic aspects in South Africa. His artwork graces various noteworthy corporate and private collections.



HELENA HUGO

Helena has been a full-time artist since graduating from the University of Pretoria, majoring in painting. After working for 10 years, almost exclusively in oils, she has made a transition to working in the more direct medium of pastel creating highly finished, detailed, emotionally expressionistic figures. Most of her portrayed figures depict the plight faced by South African labourers.



CINDY LEAH AWUOR

Cindy Leah Awuor is a professional fine art photographer who functions in Midrand. She is currently studying advanced photography and her subject matter is primarily focused on women and their feminine contexts.



PAULINE MAZIBUKO

Pauline Mazibuko's artwork is predominantly focused on woman and children aspects that make a plateau of their everyday struggles. Mazibuko states that as an artist she grew up in a community in which being a woman was viewed as being less than perfect.



KENNETH NKOSI

Kenneth Nkosi grew up in the historical South African environment from birth until he was a young adult. He is currently a Soweto based artist and has a degree in visual arts from UNISA. His artwork is generally composed of the collage technique which he customised using fabric off-cuts. The term collage was coined by both Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso in the beginning of the 20th century when collage became a distinctive part of modern art, and Nkosi managed to expand the collage as a technique in his artwork by making an assemblage of different colour textiles, thus creating a whole new style.



CHARLES NKOSI

Nkosi was compelled to make art in response to the conditions of his past life in the historical South Africa. South Africa's struggle history is reflected throughout his art portfolio, which depicts and represent the plights of many South Africans particularly women from the 70s to date.



ANDREW TSHABANGU

Andrew has studied at a number of institutions, amongst them at the Institute of Advancement for Journalism and at the Alexandra Community Art Centre in Johannesburg. He taught photography at the Children's Photography Workshop. He further taught at the Market Photo Workshop. He was an artist in residency at the Gasworks Art Studio, London. He is currently an acclaimed international fine art photographer.



DOMINIC TSHABANGU

Dominic underwent his art studies under the guidance of Philip Maulumise and Vincent Baloyi. He also received art tuition at the African Institute of Art - Funda Centre in Soweto. He further attained art accreditation from the Visual Arts Teachers Training College. He has exhibited his work extensively at renowned venues such as the Wits Gallery, Everard Read Cape Town, and the Pretoria Art Gallery amongst others. Tshabangu mainly works in paper collage technique depicting subject matters related to urban and rural life in the contemporary South Africa.



LISA NETTLETON

Lisa produces handmade artworks and products from off-cuts of material – embroidering them with free-stitch patterns, illustrations, encouraging words and a touch of humour. The works are signed under the brand Molo Mimi.



ADEBAYO OKEOWO

Adebayo Okeowo is a human rights lawyer with vast experience working for African and international organizations including SERAC, Global Rights, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and Global Integrity, amongst others. He currently works as Advocacy Coordinator for the Centre for Human Rights based in Pretoria, South Africa and is a research fellow with the Center for Human Rights Science, Pittsburgh USA.

As a lawyer, he has extensively used images and videos to bring attention to human rights issues and social justice problems with some of his work earning him regional and international awards and recognition. He has had his work featured in publications as well as exhibited in Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana and The Gambia. He also gave a TED talk in 2017 on the TEDx Pretoria stage titled: Visually Disrupting Injustice.

Adebayo continues to create riveting visuals because he believes they are capable of challenging stereotypes and changing the status quo. He holds an LL.M from the University of Pretoria and is also an alumnus of the International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France.

CDH'S PRO BONO & HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE

In 2011, as a manifestation of its commitment to human rights, CDH set up a dedicated Pro Bono and Human Rights Practice (our Practice) whose core objective is not just to provide access to legal services to those who cannot afford to pay for them, but also to constructively engage in promoting constitutional values and uplift communities, through training and special project work.

Our Practice plays a diverse role in the firm and not only do we run our own matters, but we also assist in providing other members of the firm with opportunities to do pro bono work and administer and manage the provision of pro bono services by all others in the firm. This is in accordance with firm policy which encourages all attorneys in the firm to do pro bono work. Together with our Marketing Department and often with the assistance of other external partners, we run various human rights and constitutional awareness building campaigns each year. The Prides and Plights Exhibition is one such initiative.

Over the years our Practice has made a significant contribution in the field of human rights and public interest litigation and we are proud to be able to report that during 2017 the firm won 3 awards for its pro bono work. In doing so, CDH has cemented its reputation as one of the foremost contributors to pro bono amongst law firms across South Africa.

In 2018, we welcomed 2 new members to the Practice and in what has been an inspiring yet challenging year, we have assisted many of our clients resolve long, arduous legal battles, made significant progress in furthering the causes of others, partnered in exciting and innovative human rights initiatives like tonight's event and assisted other Practice areas in carrying out meaningful pro bono work.

We hope this evening will be an inspiring one for all who attend and wish to thank all our partners and colleagues for helping make 2018 such a rewarding year.

We look forward to 2019 and its challenges!

OUR TEAM

For more information about our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice and services, please contact:



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BBBEE STATUS: LEVEL TWO CONTRIBUTOR

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