

# HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2022



The South African Embassy in Vienna  
in partnership with the  
Southern Africa Documentation and Co-operation Centre (SADOCC)

cordially invites you to the

## **ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND MPIOLO TUTU COMMEMORATION**

on Tuesday, 22 March 2022

from 18:00 – 19:00

to take place virtually, join us [here](#)

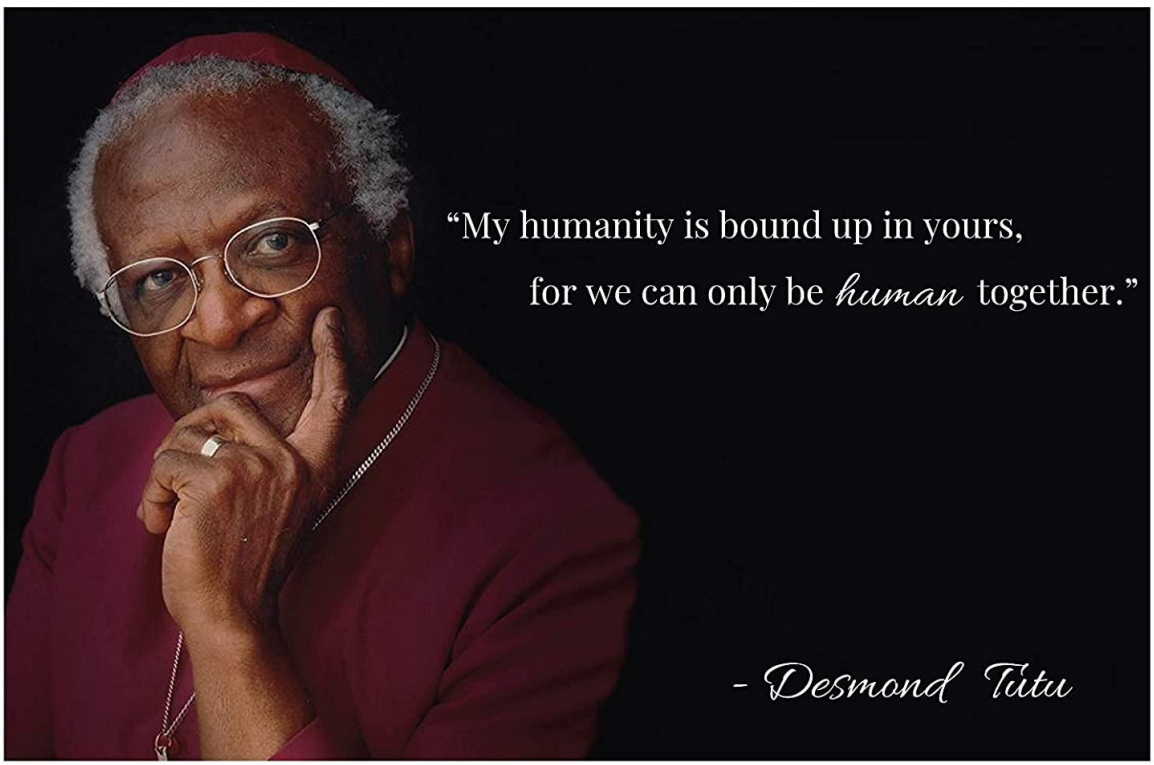
Welcome and Introductory Remarks by  
*H.E. Mr Rapulane Molekane*  
*Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa*

Remarks by  
*Dr Walter Sauer*  
*President, SADOCC*

Keynote Speech by  
*Ms Phumi Nhlapo*  
*Acting CEO, Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation*

Prof James Alfred Loader  
University of Vienna

Reverend Canon Patrick Curran  
Chaplain, Christ Church



## DESMOND TUTU : 1931 – 2021

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**G**lobally renowned theologian and anti-apartheid icon, Desmond Mpilo Tutu died in Cape Town on 26 December 2021, at the age of 90. Born on 7 October 1931 in Klerksdorp, South Africa, Desmond Tutu was an outspoken and fearless critic of the South African apartheid regime, and seen by many as the moral compass of South Africa, and the voice of the voiceless.

Desmond Tutu played a seminal role in South Africa's transition from a pariah apartheid state to a constitutional democracy, and a respected member of the international community, underpinned by a process of national reconciliation and nation-building.

He was appointed as Chairman of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) by President Nelson Mandela in 1995, charged with investigating gross human rights abuses that occurred between 1960 and 1994, towards creating as complete an accounting as possible of the atrocities of that period.

The work of the TRC under the stewardship of Desmond Tutu was instrumental to the process of forgiveness, restorative justice and nation-building, and formed the cornerstones of a new democratic South Africa.

Desmond Tutu's contribution is legion, not only to the restoration of political, economic and social justice in South Africa, but the entire world. His tireless efforts were universally recognised and acknowledged, and in 1984, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Archbishop Tutu's pursuit for equality and dignity of all people without distinction, his fight against discrimination, intolerance, hate and social injustice, and his legacy of reconciliation and nation-building, resonates more powerfully than ever before, in a world grappling with rising levels of inequality, discrimination and intolerance.

Following his retirement from public life in 2010, Desmond Tutu continued advocating for human rights, with the launch of the international campaign for LGBTQ rights in Cape Town in 2013 and in 2014, appealing for the legalisation of assisted dying for the terminally ill.

Encapsulating the sum total of a singular selfless life, dedicated to the pursuit of justice, in the words of former South African President, global icon and statesman, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who said, "*sometimes strident, often tender, never afraid and seldom without humour, Desmond Tutu's voice will always be the voice of the voiceless*".