

Our Ref: c.18760

Enquiries: registrar@iie.ac.za

16 July 2021

Dear Colleagues and Students



Civil Unrest and Its Impact: Standing Together



We are writing as the senior team of The Independent Institute of Education. Not since the early 1990s have we faced such shattering of the very fabric of our society. This time it is without the comfort of understanding that disruption was needed to ensure that that regime changed. This time we are left without comprehensive answers about what this means or how to fix it. That this comes at a time when we are also battling COVID and its impact on the world is cruel. The temptation of giving in to despondency is strong.



We must believe that the resilience of South Africa will prevail and that soon we will be able to begin healing from this. We know that our healing will leave scars and we will all be challenged to reintegrate a common vision of ourselves as a country. Our history teaches us that healing is possible and that it has the capacity to re-ignite unity and direction if we remain true to the things that matter most. We must draw on our values – individually and collectively.



We condemn the violence. We condemn the criminality. We condemn the deliberate fracturing of our unity and the attempts to drive social and racial division. We stand together to protect the ambitions and hopes that young people, our students, have a right to. To make these statements real we MUST conduct ourselves in accordance with the deepest meaning of ubuntu. There is no place for the exploitation of dissent and fear. There is no place for fuelling a reemergence of the painful divisions of our collective history. We must stand together as South Africans and not allow ourselves to be separated from, or turned against, each other.

Over and above the physical rebuilding we must deal with the anxiety, fear, anger, and intense frustration students are feeling at a point in their lives where optimism should prevail. To do that our learning communities commit to respect, diversity, inclusion, care, compassion, humanity, and integrity. We need this so that we can heal. We need this so that we make sound decisions to protect the quality of our education and the qualifications that will be part of how our students reclaim their ambitions and hope.

ADvTECH HOUSE

Inanda Greens
54 Wierda Rd West
Wierda Valley 2196
P.O. Box 2369
Randburg 2125



Given our national footprint the direct impact is diverse but the harm to our national spirit is shared. We have drawn on these values to make principled decisions about how to make further changes to the arrangements for the end of semester summative assessments. It would be inhuman to expect students and staff, particularly in KwaZulu- Natal, to be focusing on assessments right now. In other provinces, we may not be bearing the brunt of the direct hurt, but we all have friends and family who are directly impacted so the extent to which we are all able to focus on our work is compromised. We will communicate these changes shortly.

The Independent Institute of Education unequivocally rejects violence as a solution. We recognise that violence like this points to social disintegration that will not be removed simply by the eradication of the violence. As a higher education institution, we must commit to continuing to focus on the values of citizenship in carrying out our educational mandate. We need to ensure that our students can graduate united, as problem solvers and healers, as their generation begins to lead.

In the immediate term, we need to each contribute to the reconstruction where we can. We must support those who have lost so much – including a basic sense of safety. In the longer term, we need to reflect on what needs to be different going forward and what we each individually, and as a nation collectively, need to do in our spheres of influence so that this does not happen again.



Dr Felicity Coughlan
Director: The IIE



Shirley Ferndale
Registrar



Peter Kriel
General Manager



Louise Wiseman
Managing Director
IIE Varsity College and IEMSA



Greg Fillmore
Managing Director
IIE Rosebank College



Shevon Lurie
Managing Director
IIE Vega School



Renee Hill
Managing Director Capsicum
And Private Hotel School



Dr Willy Engelbrecht
Dean: Research and
Postgraduate Studies



Dr Gill Mooney
Dean: Academic Support
and Development