

**17 April 2015**

**Title: Xenophobic violence in KwaZulu-Natal**

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The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) condemns the recent spate of xenophobic violence and hostility currently taking place in South Africa. Not only are the acts of violence inhumane but are also unconstitutional.

Our University community comprises of staff and students from all over the world and as a University, we are proud of our diversity. It is this quality that allows us to provide a globally connected environment necessary for an institution of Higher Learning. The University embraces a culture and spirit of Ubuntu, and fosters a welcoming and supportive environment to its international staff and students wherein diversity is respected and valued. It is in that light that we call upon all members of the UKZN community to join us in rejecting and denouncing xenophobia and all related discrimination.

As an institution we are fundamentally opposed to discrimination and social exclusion, and believe that this sort of violence puts us all as a society on a slippery slope that ultimately leads us into undesirable territories.

Currently, the University's Student Housing has headed to support international students who are more prone to risk, and other areas of support have also been established for both international students and staff. Measures pertaining to safety and security have also been undertaken, in conjunction with the South African Police Service.

The University wishes to reassure all international staff and students of its commitment to ensure their safety, and also urges all stakeholders to work together in adopting a peaceful environment that embraces and values diversity.

In solidarity of the non-violence campaign, the university community has been urged to participate in the various anti-Xenophobia activities being arranged in and around

KwaZulu-Natal. The University's College of Health Sciences in association with Gift of the Givers and the South African Medical Association (SAMA), will be providing free healthcare services at the established Refugee camps based at the Rydalvale Sports Ground, Phoenix.

**Issued by:**

Lesiba Seshoka

Executive Director: Corporate Relations

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**Notes to Editors:**

For more information on UKZN, please visit [www.ukzn.ac.za](http://www.ukzn.ac.za); or to arrange any media interviews, please contact Indu Moodley, Media Liaison Office on 031 260 7213/0835559508 or at [moodleyi@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:moodleyi@ukzn.ac.za)