

ACTSA Strategy and Programme of Work: 2010

ACTSA, the successor organisation to the Anti-Apartheid Movement campaigns with the people of southern Africa as they strive to build a better future, working for democracy, rights, justice and development across the region.

ACTSA influences decision-makers in Britain, Europe and internationally on policies that affect southern Africa. It keeps the region in the public and political spotlight through campaigning, lobbying, publications, briefings, media work and delegations to and from southern Africa.

In 2009 we have:

- Celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and sustained and built solidarity between Britain and southern Africa including organising a major conference on the actual anniversary, 26 June – Making Hope a Reality: Celebrating the Past; Building the Future.
- Campaigned for democracy and rights for Zimbabwe and Swaziland.
- Continued to promote Dignity! Period to provide essential sanitary protection to Zimbabwean women and support them to uphold their dignity.
- Campaigned for the British Government to support the establishment of a UN Women's Agency with resources and funds and campaigned at the UN to make this happen. Hosted a visit from Stephen Lewis former UN Secretary General Special Representative on AIDS in Africa and a great champion of the need for a well resourced UN Women's Agency.
- Lobbied and engaged in public campaigning against the EU pushing Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) on southern Africa countries.
- Pressed for universal access to prevention, treatment and care with much better funding for HIV programmes.
- Organised and supported a delegation of UNISON to Swaziland, South Africa and Malawi in March.
- Taken a youth and student delegation to South Africa and Swaziland in June.
- Produced the Angola Monitor quarterly and created Portuguese versions for the first time.
- Produced an ACTSA Position paper on Climate Change and southern Africa and campaigned for an effective and equitable agreement which tackles the causes of climate change and does not prevent poverty reduction.
- Developed an ACTSA position paper on land and southern Africa.
- Produced three issues of ACTSA News, including a special double length issue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Anti Apartheid Movement. We produced a 2008 annual review. We did monthly email updates to members, and a monthly Zimbabwe email update.
- We now have an accurate and up to date database and have cleaned up the ACTSA website.
- Hosted a democracy delegation of leading trade unionists from southern Africa in October/November 2009.
- Held an annual fundraising dinner in November 2009.

The context for 2010 is of South Africa hosting the World Cup, the largest international event ever hosted on the continent; of a continuing global financial crisis which affects the jobs and livelihoods of many millions who played no part in causing it, increasing food and prices world wide with the impact of climate change being felt by the most vulnerable. There will be a general election in the UK. 2010 is two thirds of the way to the achievement or otherwise of the Millennium Development Goals. We will continue to deepen our solidarity and support for the people of southern Africa.

This programme and strategy of work is divided into three sections;

- A. Country specific campaigns, activities.
- B. Major regional themes.
- C. How we work and develop ACTSA.

A. Country Specific campaigns

1. Zimbabwe

Will the inclusive (multiparty) government formed in February 2009 on the basis of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) (signed September 08) hold? Will there be freedom to organise? Will the process of drawing up a new constitution gain trust? Will there be economic recovery?

ACTSA will continue its campaigning work on Zimbabwe in support of democracy, rights and development including reconstruction and recovery. It is Zimbabweans who must lead and decide their future. It is they who will decide if the political settlement is working in their best interests. We recognise that Zimbabweans need and welcome international support. We will provide this based on shared values and a common vision. We are guided by key partners including the **Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)** and other leading civil society groups. Based on their input ACTSA will campaign for international support to assist reconstruction and recovery of Zimbabwe. ACTSA will seek to influence the policy of the UK Government and European Union to Zimbabwe and monitor both what they do and also the response of the wider international community.

The situation in Zimbabwe did not suddenly arise. (See ACTSA position paper on Zimbabwe on the ACTSA website www.actsa.org also available from the ACTSA office) The problems the country now faces are rooted in the history of Zimbabwe, in the failures and policies of the Mugabe/Zanu PF government and also those of international institutions. To move forward with effective support for the people of Zimbabwe we need to understand how and why Zimbabwe's political and economic crisis developed. The UK must play its role in addressing inequality and injustice from colonial rule especially on land and support an effective, transparent and equitable solution to land rights.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue its campaign to support democracy, rights and development for Zimbabwe
- continue in particular to support trade unions and civil society activists in Zimbabwe, especially through the ZCTU, working closely with the TUC and affiliated unions
- continue its campaign to support the rights of Zimbabwean women and in particular their rights to dignity and freedom from violence
- deepen its solidarity work on Zimbabwe supporting twinning and linking of unions and communities through democratic structures e.g. TSSA, Unison, Unite
- monitor the situation in Zimbabwe closely and provide regular updates and information.
- campaign for Zimbabweans in Britain to have the right to work and education and to return to Zimbabwe to support the reconstruction of Zimbabwe without loss of status or job here
- works with partner organisations to lobby the UK government and others to ensure the security and safety of Zimbabweans
- monitor the actions of the international community including the IMF and World Bank on Zimbabwe
- engage in lobbying, advocacy toward the UK government, EU and international organisations on Zimbabwe
- work with like minded organisations in the UK, across Europe and internationally to build an effective response to the situation in Zimbabwe.

Motion approved at 2009 AGM:

ACTSA:

- Welcomes the start that has been made by the unity Government in Zimbabwe on resolving some of the country's desperate problems, but recognises that much more still needs to change;
- Is deeply concerned about the harassment and other difficulties facing political, trade union and other civil society activists and organisations, and expresses its continuing solidarity with all those affected;
- Understands the need for caution by outside countries such as the UK in offering financial and other support to government structures in Zimbabwe because of the risk of exacerbating problems rather than resolving them;
- Believes, however, that much more could be done by the UK and other governments, on a step-by-step basis, to fund the restoration of basic services through Zimbabwe's state structures and that this could greatly strengthen the hand of those working for the restoration of democracy and human rights as well as beginning to meet the desperate needs of the country's people;
- Should press the UK Government for such support.

Dignity! Period

ACTSA will continue to raise the situation and issues confronting women in Zimbabwe. We will raise the needs and priorities of women. We will continue to call for the dignity of women in Zimbabwe to be upheld. We will call for action to improve maternal health. We will in conjunction with the ZCTU, especially the ZCTU Women's Advisory Council review our Dignity!Period the campaign in Zimbabwe which has provided, at the request of the ZCTU much needed sanitary protection to the women and girls of Zimbabwe.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue to highlight the needs and priorities of women in Zimbabwe
- promote the dignity and rights of women in Zimbabwe
- review the Dignity! Period campaign with ZCTU and decide its future direction and emphasis
- provided there is agreement with the ZCTU on the continuing need for the specific Dignity! Period campaign to provide the women of Zimbabwe with sanitary products, to continue to promote the Dignity! Period campaign through the UK trade union and students' union structures; women's organisations, church groups and other organisations
- depending on the outcome of the review, organise a 'Day for Dignity!' to raise money and promote awareness of the campaign.

2. Swaziland

Swaziland is one of the last absolute monarchies on earth with bans on political parties and heavy restrictions on civil society. It also has the highest HIV prevalence rate in the world. Despite this Swaziland seems to avoid the international media and political spotlight. ACTSA has a strong relationship with the Swaziland trade union movement, the Swaziland United Democratic Front and the NGO Swaziland for Positive Living (SWAPOL). We also have a strong relationship with the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions (COSATU) which is active on Swaziland.

ACTSA welcomes the release of Mario Masuku, the leader of the political party PUDEMO, but notes that political parties are still banned in Swaziland.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue to develop links with the Swazi Trade Union movement, United Democratic Front, SWAPOL and other respected civil society organisations in Swaziland and regionally.
- work to increase awareness of the struggle for democracy, rights and justice in Swaziland in Britain and Europe.
- highlight the impact of HIV and AIDS on Swaziland.
- continue to campaign for democracy in Swaziland including the unbanning of political parties and the repeal of Swaziland's repressive Prevention of Terrorism Act.

3. Angola

We welcome that Angola held its first national elections for 16 years in September 2008. These were parliamentary elections and the turn out was 87%. The MPLA which has been in power since independence received over 80% of the vote. Most election observer missions stated the elections were free and fair or at least there was no violence. No one now expects a return to war. It is expected there will be presidential elections in 2010 but it is not clear if these will be direct- President elected by the people or indirect- President elected by the parliament. If the latter then clearly the candidate of the MPLA will be elected. Concern has been expressed by some organisations over the government's actions toward those raising issues of human rights and challenging government policy and actions. This is the key time and opportunity to ensure Angola's great resources benefit all, reduce poverty and provide for pro -poor participatory development. It is domestic policy decisions and actions which are likely to be crucial. It is vital though that the international community does not turn its back on Angola, but instead looks to support its future development and contribute to the consolidation of peace and democracy.

The NEC welcomes that ACTSA is publishing the Angola Monitor on a quarterly basis and in both English and Portuguese

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue to inform its membership and wider constituency on Angola and lobby to ensure support internationally and nationally to consolidate democracy and promote development which benefits all Angolans
- commit to providing regular updates on Angola; if possible maintaining the Angola Monitor in both English and Portuguese
- seek to link to the All Party Group on Angola
- consider means of deepening solidarity between people and groups in Britain and Angola.

Motion approved at 2009 AGM:

ACTSA:

- Welcomes the fact that Angola has been at peace since 2002;
- Recalls the MPLA landslide win of the Parliamentary elections September 2008, but notes that constitutional debates have caused the postponement of Presidential elections, which would mark the full return of democracy, into 2010;
- Notes and welcomes that, due to now being Africa's largest oil producer, Angola has escaped the conditionalities sought by Western donors and the IMF, but notes Angola now faces other market forces and new conditionalities from large trading and investment partners such as China, making difficult the achievement of the MPLA manifesto priorities on homes, jobs, and poverty reduction;
- Recognises the need for continued international awareness of progress and problems in Angola's consolidation of democracy and delivering broad economic and social development;

- Welcomes ACTSA's past and continuing commitment to awareness raising, in particular through the new Angola Monitor, in English and Portuguese;
- Should continue to work on Angola, in cooperation with the London Embassy, Angolan and international NGOs, MAC, and others.

4. Mozambique

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue to support proposals for deepening solidarity between Britain, Europe and Mozambique
- support to the best of its ability any proposed event on solidarity between Europe and Mozambique.

Motion approved at 2009 AGM:

ACTSA:

- Notes and welcomes that Mozambique has now been at peace for fifteen years, whilst recognising the devastating impact of the equally long civil war;
- Welcomes the Presidential, Parliamentary, and Provincial Elections of 28 October 2009, representing the fourth multiparty elections and the entrenchment of democracy;
- Notes that despite high nominal economic growth rates and the commitment of the Frelimo Government to reducing poverty, according to the UNDP Mozambique is 175th out of 179 countries in the world in development, and remains the poorest and most aid-dependent (50% of state expenditure) in Southern Africa, where achieving the MDGs in the next five years holds many challenges;
- Welcomes the willingness of the Mozambique High Commissioner to address ACTSA meetings and otherwise support and cooperate with ACTSA, and should continue to reciprocate, in particular if a potential Mozambique solidarity conference is to take place in London in the coming year;
- Calls on ACTSA to remain seized of Mozambique's progress and problems in the coming year, including by retaining, as in recent years, a section in the Strategy and Programme of Work, in working with MAC, and in particular in the light of a newly-mandated Mozambican Government.

B. Major Regional Themes

5. HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS remains a critical issue for the people of southern Africa. It is the most affected region in the world by the pandemic and its impact is experienced by people, families, communities and the state. ACTSA will continue its campaigning, including lobbying, advocacy and public information work on HIV/AIDS.

We welcome the improvements made across Southern African in providing treatment to those who should receive it. We also recognise more needs to be done to ensure all who would benefit from treatment can access it noting the international community must support governments in the region to achieve this.

We note vertical transmission (also known as mother to child transmission) has been largely overlooked by UN and large agencies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We will highlight that this transmission can be largely prevented if there is effective leadership and action internationally and nationally.

Effective action on HIV/AIDS requires breaking the silence and stigma that still surrounds it; strong national leadership by government based on including all key stakeholders including civil society groups; timely action and response internationally by donors and by the corporate sector.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue to campaign for universal access to prevention, treatment and care, noting this was due to be achieved by 2010 (MDG 6b)
- continue to campaign to get the international community to increase its support for HIV/AIDS particularly through a focus on the Global Fund set up to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, through work with other organisations and as part of a wider coalition
- campaign on the cost of treatment
- campaign for the rights of children, particularly in the area of child specific treatment. specifically raising the issue of and campaign to halve infant HIV infections and for appropriate support for children who are orphaned
- campaign for the rights of women, particularly in the area of sexual reproductive health, to be fully addressed, recognising that, "AIDS in Africa has a woman's face"
- consider focussing on the burden of care which falls predominantly to women, including grandmothers and child headed households
- campaign for world leaders and the UN to prioritise vertical transmission
- continue to build partnerships and coalitions in the UK and Europe as well as across southern Africa on HIV/AIDS.

6. Gender and the advancement of women

Gender and the advancement of women are at the core of eradicating poverty in southern Africa. ACTSA has worked hard to ensure that gender is given priority in debates around HIV, trade and the larger development agenda. We will continue to push for this until practice goes beyond rhetoric, ensuring that gender and the advancement of women are key features of all our campaign work.

In recent years ACTSA has been at the fore of a campaign for the development and implementation of a newly formed UN Women's Agency. ACTSA has campaigned successfully to get the British Government to push for the agency and has played a leading role in a European network of NGO's lobbying for UN reform. We welcome the vote at the UN General Assembly in September 2009 to establish a UN Womens Agency. The challenge is to ensure the new agency is properly resourced, is well led and has significant influence within the UN and wider so it makes a positive and real difference for women and girls in southern Africa and around the world.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA should

- continue its work campaigning for the UN Women's Agency to be properly resourced; well led, effective and visible, mobilising public opinion and influencing decision takers
- mainstreams gender into all ACTSA's work, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women
- build links between our work on HIV and AIDS, trade and gender and campaign on violence against women
- work with women's organisations campaigning for the same objectives.

7. Climate Change

Climate change will have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable in southern Africa. ACTSA recognises climate change as a developmental, social and economic issue which involves needs, rights and responsibilities. ACTSA now has a position paper on Climate Change and southern Africa. We campaign to ensure the voice of those with the least resources are heard and that actions and solutions do not contribute to deepening poverty in southern Africa but address the root causes of climate change.

We will engage with other organisations with a strong position on climate change and how the current lobby is impacting upon countries in southern Africa. We will engage the trade union movement both in southern Africa and in the UK in these debates and develop a position and strategy to ensure the voices from southern Africa are heard.

The NEC welcomes the ACTSA position paper on Climate Change and southern Africa. The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- review the outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference
- in dialogue with and guided by partners, key contacts in southern Africa and the UK develop its campaign and advocacy work on climate change linking it with poverty and rights.

8. Trade Justice

Trade injustice remains one of the critical barriers to development. ACTSA has produced a paper on EPAs and worked to highlight the injustices of unfair trade over the past few years and campaigned against the EU pressuring countries to sign Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) which force liberalisation of trade on them. Most southern Africa countries have signed or initialled an Interim EPA although South Africa has refused. The context is one of a growing food crisis and increasing food poverty. ACTSA will work with organisations including those with specialist knowledge on trade issues. This will complement our regional knowledge and contacts across Europe. We will highlight the broader issues of fair trade and not externally imposed liberalisation nor conditionality. We will aim to influence decision makers to ensure that the eradication of poverty and sustainable growth is central to trade negotiations.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue to campaign alongside UK partners, particularly within the trade union movement, and with our European partners to increase awareness of these issues and to build support for the campaign for trade justice
- keep a watching brief on trade negotiations between the EU and southern Africa and respond to developments
- promote fair trade of southern Africa goods.

9. Corporate Accountability

Corporate accountability and the social impact of transnational companies remains one of the critical areas of development. ACTSA calls for companies to be transparent, accountable and to exercise their power and wealth to support ending poverty, reducing inequality, discrimination and promoting human rights and development. ACTSA has a history of holding companies to account, most notably through successful action taken against Cape plc. However ACTSA has limited resources.

The NEC recommends that:

- given ACTSA has limited resources it will have a watching brief on corporate accountability, transparency and social responsibility. ACTSA in close consultation with the trade union movement in the region and Britain should explore best and worst practice case studies from the region with a view to publicising these.

10. Land

The ownership and control of land was a major issue in the struggle for national liberation and against colonialism and imperialism. It is still a major issue with poverty seemingly endemic, increasing food insecurity, vulnerability and a world wide food crisis. It is clearly a major issue in Zimbabwe. The question of land holding in Zimbabwe was never satisfactorily addressed in the independence settlement and enabled President Mugabe to

present his government as being targeted by the west for seeking to right an historic injustice. It is clearly an issue across southern Africa, in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa as well as Zimbabwe. It needs to be addressed effectively by national governments, SADC and the international community, who cannot simply ignore their responsibility for this legacy.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- continue to highlight the urgent need for sustainable development, the right to land and the right to food,
- develop relationships with key partners, organisations in southern Africa to have a dialogue on the land issue
- finalises a position paper on land in southern Africa.
- Notes that ACTSA's position paper on Zimbabwe includes a section on land

11. FIFA World Cup 2010

The 2010 football World Cup in South Africa will be the largest global event hosted on the continent of Africa. It is clearly an opportunity to market South and southern Africa internationally. It is an opportunity to provide positive stories and achievements from the region. It is an opportunity for ACTSA to reach out to both its existing supporters and newer constituencies. It is an opportunity to involve people in supporting development in southern Africa. It will involve 32 national teams in a month long tournament from 11 June to 11 July 2010 with a TV audience of billions. We will consider if and how to link the 2010 World Cup in South Africa with the 2012 Olympics in London.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- works with fans, schools, communities and other groups to promote solidarity between Britain and southern Africa
- links the World Cup with the achievements, the many attractions of southern Africa, the challenges of and constraints on reducing poverty
- coordinates with the South Africa High Commission, the 2010 Organising Committee and other key bodies
- support South and southern Africa to help ensure the 2010 World Cup contributes toward achievement of the MDGs and provides a lasting legacy for the people of South and southern Africa contributing to improving their quality of life
- promote fair trade and informed tourism which contributes to the development of the region
- links our 2010 campaign to such as Kick it Out, Link Community Development, England Fans and Philosophy Football
- works with partners to encourage schools to use the World Cup to introduce the history and development of southern Africa and develop links with the region,

C. How we work and develop ACTSA

12. Renewing and Developing Solidarity

ACTSA together with the Archives Committee of the Anti Apartheid Movement (AAM) held a successful conference, as part of wider programme of events to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the anti apartheid movement in June 2009. The conference was called 'Making Hope a Reality: celebrating the past; building the future'. ACTSA will be following up on recommendations made in the workshops at the conference. ACTSA cannot commit to implementing all of the recommendations. It will consider what it is best placed to do.

The NEC welcomes the conference held to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Anti Apartheid Movement.

The NEC notes that the conference affirmed the need for continuing solidarity between Britain and southern Africa, that we should celebrate such solidarity and support development, democracy, rights and justice for southern Africa.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- reviews the outcome of the conference
- works with the Archives committee of AAM and others to turn the recommendations made at the conference into a realistic plan of action.

13. Grassroots Development

Our ability to campaign and to maintain our core levels of financial support depends upon retaining and expanding our supporter base of individuals, groups and affiliates.

We will do this by looking at ways to recruit new members and supporters, and then how we can retain all supporters and members – by communications including ACTSA News, appeals, website, and email bulletins. We will provide more opportunities for people to actively get involved in our campaigns – including campaign cards, invites to events, e-actions. We will also look to hold a special reception or event for Friends of ACTSA and high spending individual members as a special thank you for their support.

We have developed our list of affiliates and we will work to encourage as many as possible to reaffiliate for 2010. We will also look to invite organisations not yet affiliated to us. We will provide opportunities for affiliates to actively campaign with us and ensure they receive regular information about our work.

ACTSA will continue to work closely with affiliated and partner organisations on joint campaigns and individual projects. ACTSA will aim to strengthen our collaboration with Local Authority Action for Southern Africa (LAACTSA) recognising our common roots and shared aims. ACTSA now has a Memorandum of Cooperation with Community Heart and a good relationship with the Canon Collins Trust. Building on our links and work to date, we want to build and deepen the work we have done with Unite, Unison, PCS and the TUC and develop our relationships with other unions, such as the teaching/education unions. We will continue to develop links with the National Union of Students, and secure funds for another youth and student delegation to southern Africa and further develop their support for all of our campaigning agenda. ACTSA will aim to increase our support in the student constituency.

Now that the database has been cleaned up and new processes introduced, we will continue to maintain and update it regularly.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- actively recruits new members and supporters
- nurture its base to retain and grow the number of supporters and members
- continue to improve its communications with supporters
- motivate its supporters to get involved in ACTSA campaigns
- develop its work with trade unions and increase the number of trade union affiliates,
- increase its profile amongst students and youth
- organise delegations to and host delegations/visitors from southern Africa to increase support for ACTSA's aims and objectives.

14. Raising funds

ACTSA's principal source of income is from our membership and maintaining and increasing this support is a priority. There are other sources of income, the trade union movement, Government funds, trusts and foundations and the corporate sector and for and in 2010 we will be looking at how to increase income through these fundraising streams.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- review and apply the fundraising strategy
- prioritise the consolidation of core funding through members, affiliates and supporters,
- send out at least four direct mail appeals throughout the year
- hold an annual fundraising dinner
- take at least one youth and student delegation to southern Africa
- subject to a review continue to raise funds for Dignity!Period
- raise institutional funding to support several speaker tours, events, publications etc,
- make funding applications to government, foundations, trusts, corporate sector for defined education/campaigning projects, in line with our ethical funding policy to support this strategy and programme of work
- increase the level of sponsorship/income obtained from "events" such as ACTSA runners in London Marathon and volunteers at Workers Beer Company bars at Festivals
- improve ways to raise money online and through email communications.