

# ACTSA Strategy and Programme of Work: 2009

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 2008 we have:

- 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.
- Called for and encouraged people, communities and organisations to mark Nelson Mandela's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by committing to support development, democracy, rights and justice for people in southern Africa.
- Lobbied and engaged in public campaigning against the EU pushing Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) on southern Africa countries.
- Developed our work on corporate accountability and transparency focussing on Vedanta and the Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) has contributed to the Zambian government receiving increased revenue from Vedanta.
- Pressed for universal access to prevention, treatment and care with much better funding for HIV programmes
- Continued to call for the UN to establish a Women's Agency with resources and money.
- Taken a youth and student delegation to South Africa and Swaziland in June
- Produced Angola Peace Monitor monthly.
- Contributed to developing ideas for Europe- Mozambique solidarity event planned for London in November but now postponed.
- Together with NUS, hosted a Zimbabwean students' union delegation
- Produced a new membership leaflet and have a new membership card. For the first time for many years there will have been 3 issues of ACTSA News this year. We also produced a special leaflet to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Nelson Mandela.
- Tackled some longstanding issues affecting the ACTSA database and this will be accurate and up to date for 2009.
- We will host a democracy delegation of leading trade unionists from South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe in October/November 2008.

In 2009 much of this work will continue. We will, as its successor organisation, mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Anti Apartheid Movement.

We will develop our plans to mark the 2010 football World Cup in South Africa.

The context for 2009 is of a global financial crisis, increasing food and fuel prices world wide and greater food insecurity in southern Africa with the impact of climate change being felt by the most vulnerable. This is a challenge to deepen our solidarity and support for the people of southern Africa.

This programme and strategy of work together with the motions approved at the ACTSA AGM provide the framework for ACTSA's plan for 2009.

## 1. Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is at a key point with a political settlement which offers hope but also risk. 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](http://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. This does not excuse the violations of human rights that have taken place but to be able to move forward with effective support for the people of Zimbabwe we need to understand why Zimbabwe is in the social, political and economic crisis that it is today. 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
- monitor the situation in Zimbabwe closely and provide regular updates and information.
- call on the international community in particular the UK government and EU to provide significant assistance to Zimbabwe to support democracy, rights, reconstruction and recovery provided this is called for by Zimbabwean organisations with which ACTSA has common values.
- 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.

### **Dignity! Period**

ACTSA will continue its Dignity!Period campaign in conjunction with the ZCTU, especially the ZCTU Women's Advisory Council which manages the campaign in Zimbabwe, to provide much needed sanitary protection to the women and girls of Zimbabwe. ACTSA will aim to develop the campaign to reach new audiences and increase our promotion of and communications on Dignity!Period

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- continue to build the Dignity! Period. campaign to raise money to provide the women of Zimbabwe with sanitary products, thus protecting their dignity, rights and health
- seek continued sponsorship from Bodyform or if necessary seek new sponsorship.
- try to expand the campaign throughout Europe building on the experience of Britain and Denmark
- continue to promote Dignity!Period through the UK trade union and students' union structures; women's organisations, church groups and other organisations

## 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 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.

*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

## 3. 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

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
- continue to be an active member of the Stop Aids Campaign/Coalition
- 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 and 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
- continue to build partnerships and coalitions in the UK and Europe as well as across southern Africa on HIV/AIDS.

## 4. 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 been actively involved in a European working group, consisting of NGO's committed to gender equality, as well as being part of a global lobby for UN reform. In 2009, the UN General Assembly will propose a way forward for its gender equality architecture and ACTSA will continue to communicate and campaign with its partners to ensure this reform successfully benefits women and girls in southern Africa and around the world.

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- continue its work on campaigning for a fully funded UN Women's Agency; 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
- work with women's organisations campaigning for the same objectives

## 5. Trade Justice

Trade injustice remains one of the critical barriers to development. ACTSA has 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 EPA although South Africa has refused. The context is of 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.
- continue its membership of the Trade Justice Movement and the Stop EPA's coalition
- keep a watching brief on trade negotiations between the EU and southern Africa and respond to developments.
- link with such as the Co-operative movement and Fairtrade Foundation to promote fair trade of southern Africa goods

## 6. 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 tackling disease and ending poverty. ACTSA has a history of holding companies to account, most notably through successful action taken against Cape plc.

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- develop its position and strategy on corporate accountability, transparency and social responsibility and continues to explore best and worst practice case studies from the region in close consultation with the trade union movement in the region and Britain.
- continue to work in partnership with Christian Aid, SCIAF and Zambian civil society in holding the London listed Vedanta Resources plc to account over its controversial practices in Zambia.
- continue to be aware of the work of the Alliance for Justice at G4S and its campaigning ahead of the 2010 World Cup and 2012 Olympics.
- makes the links between the need for good corporate practice for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and the Olympics in London/Britain 2012

## 7. Angola

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. There will be presidential elections in 2009. 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 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.
- review the frequency, format and emphasis of the Angola Peace Monitor
- commit to providing regular updates on Angola
- seek to link to the All Party Group on Angola
- consider means of deepening solidarity between people and groups in Britain and Angola

## 8. Mozambique

Mozambique is regarded as one of the success stories of southern Africa. It has emerged from a bloody conflict which was stoked by the apartheid regime of South Africa. It has had to deal with the policies of major donors including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund toward Mozambique which did not emphasise reducing poverty. It has peace and is now achieving growth rates of 8% with stable government and increasing investment. It is though the poorest country in southern Africa and ACTSA will seek to publicise Mozambique, its context, challenges and achievements.

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- support proposals for deepening solidarity between Britain, Europe and Mozambique.
- support to the best of its ability if there is a proposed event on solidarity between Europe and Mozambique
- consider Mozambique for a case study on sustainable development.

## 9. 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. ACTSA is developing a paper on the land issue in southern Africa and what the international community should be doing. We are starting to develop partnerships with southern partners on the land issue.

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- develop a position paper on land in southern Africa
- develop relationships with key partners, organisations working on the land question in southern Africa
- highlight the urgent need for sustainable development, the right to land and the right to food.
- consider what the key campaign issues are and which should be campaign targets on land in southern Africa.

## 10. 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. We will be campaigning 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 recommends that ACTSA:*

- develop a paper which sets out the implications of climate change for southern Africa and provides a guide for ACTSA policy positions on climate change and proposed responses
- develop its campaign and advocacy work on climate change linking it with poverty and rights in dialogue with other organisations including the membership of Stop Climate Chaos.

## 11. Anti Apartheid Movement 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

2009 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Anti Apartheid Movement (AAM). The AAM Archive Committee is planning a number of events to mark the occasion running from the anniversary of the founding of the Boycott Committee in June until the following March when AAM came into existence. ACTSA as the successor organisation to AAM will work closely with the Archive Committee. It is understood the aims of marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary are:

To celebrate the achievements of the Anti Apartheid Movement and all those in the struggle against apartheid.

To publicise and make more accessible the resources of the Anti Apartheid Movement.

To stimulate research.

To get people and organisations to make a commitment to support peace, democracy, justice, rights and development for southern Africa

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- offer support to and works with the Archive Committee to help stage events to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Anti Apartheid Movement.
- uses the anniversary to deepen solidarity between groups, organisations and communities in Britain and southern Africa; both existing activists and reaching out to newer audiences
- considers producing appropriate merchandise to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## 12. 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 will involve 32 national teams in a month long tournament from 11 June to 11 July 2010 with a TV audience of billions. It is clearly an opportunity to market South and southern Africa. It is an opportunity to inform people about the realities of South and southern Africa. It is an opportunity for ACTSA to reach out to both its existing constituency and newer constituencies.

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- develop plans to mark the 2010 World Cup in South Africa; working title, 2010- What's your Goal? around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- 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 informed tourism which contributes to the development of the region.
- links our 2010 campaign to such as Kick Racism out of football
- develop its work on the link between education and development

## 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.

### **Retention and growth of membership and supporter base**

To retain and grow its membership and supporter base ACTSA is improving its processes to ensure communication with its base is regular and effective.

- ACTSA has implemented effective processes for sending out membership reminder letters, receipts and thank you letters. It will continue to look at ways it can improve its communications to supporters and donors.
- ACTSA has updated its database. We will as a priority ensure it is kept up to date. We will also introduce procedures to record all relevant information, which is not currently stored here.
- ACTSA will improve on converting donors and volunteers into ACTSA members by actively pushing the different membership options

### **Making supporters and members feel valued and motivated**

ACTSA needs to motivate its supporters to keep them involved with its work. It needs to communicate with them regularly to build a two-way relationship.

- ACTSA News – ACTSA will conduct a review of the publication, including consulting with readers, to make it more modern and interactive. This is likely to go out three times a year still

- Appeals – ACTSA will conduct a review of our appeals, including consulting with members, to ensure the subject matter, tone and frequency is best for motivating maximum buy-in.
- Website – ACTSA will review the website to develop a more interactive, fresh and user-friendly site. We will also promote this more widely to new audiences on the sites of friendly organisations, etc

### **Getting members involved in specific campaigns**

As a campaigning organisation ACTSA needs to achieve maximum support from its member base for its campaigning work.

- Zimbabwe – updates will be sent out to all those signed up to receive them every month
- Angola – the Angola Peace Monitor is sent to recipients every month
- ACTSA News – ACTSA will continue to focus on our campaigning work in the publication and to keep members in touch with ACTSA
- Literature and materials – ACTSA will develop literature and materials, e.g. posters and leaflets to support our own campaign work and members and supporters in theirs.

### **Groups**

ACTSA needs to work on nurturing existing groups and building new ones as well.

- ACTSA will review existing groups to get a comprehensive list of ones that are active, and will also consult with them to see how we can improve the way we work with them.
- We will build relationships with them through regular emails and phone calls.
- We will develop group pages on the website as part of the website review, as well as updating the group pack.
- We will continue to promote the groups in ACTSA publications
- We will use the database to identify areas with high numbers of members but no group activity, to encourage people to form groups.

### **Developing and building partnerships**

ACTSA will 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.

### **Trade Unions**

Trade unions form the core of our supporter base and political perspective. Key to ACTSA's success is our relationships and work with our affiliate unions and the wider movement in the UK, EU and southern Africa.

Building on our links and work to date, we want to build and deepen the work we have done with Unite (Amicus) including the Africa Matters module, Unison and the TUC in particular and develop our relationships with other unions, such as PCS, and the teaching/education unions

### **NUS/Students**

ACTSA 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; we will aim for more campaigners, supporters and groups.

The NEC recommends that ACTSA:

- nurture its base to retain and grow the number of supporters and members
- review and improve its communications with supporters including local groups
- develop and implement our local group strategy, recognising groups are at different levels of organisation and mobilisation
- motivate its supporters to get involved in ACTSA campaigns

- develop relationships with groups and actively seek to increase the number of groups
- 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. Events

As part of our ongoing campaigning work, ACTSA will organise and take an active part in many events throughout the year.

**Annual Fundraiser 2009:** ACTSA intends to build on its annual fundraising dinner for which we are grateful to the South Africa High Commissioner and South Africa House for hosting. This has proven to be a great opportunity for ACTSA to strengthen relationships with its members, friends, trade union affiliates and general supporters whilst gaining important sponsorship and support from businesses toward ACTSA's work.

**Anti Apartheid 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events:** ACTSA will contribute and participate in these, coordinating with the Archive Committee of Anti Apartheid

**Delegations:** ACTSA hopes to take two, possibly 3 delegations to Southern Africa in 2009. The overall aim of such delegations is to deepen solidarity, to increase awareness, maintain or develop relationships. There is a strong emphasis that delegation members commit to activity or renewed activity on their return.

ACTSA will receive delegations and visitors from key contacts and partners in the region and seek through our network to bring their messages to as wide an audience as possible.

**Demonstrations, rallies vigils etc:** ACTSA in conjunction with its members, affiliates and key contacts will organise rallies, demonstrations as appropriate and seeking advice and input from key contacts in the region and UK. These could be national; regional or local events.

**European Meetings:** ACTSA will seek to participate in and arrange EU level meetings around democracy, development, peace, rights and justice for southern Africa where appropriate and resources permit

**Friends of ACTSA:** We will aim to hold an event or events to bring Friends of ACTSA together to thank them for their support.

**HIV and AIDS event:** ACTSA will plan to organise an HIV and AIDS event around World AIDS day.

**International Women's Day event/ Dignity!Period Event:** We plan to mark this by holding an event which promotes women, calls for gender equality and also our Dignity Period campaign.

**Trade Union and political party conferences:** We will liaise closely with our trade union affiliates and sister organisations about holding fringe meetings and having a stall at trade union and political party conferences.

**Workers Beer Company (WBC):** ACTSA has built a strong relationship with the Workers Beer Company and will continue to send volunteers to festivals each summer. This is a good source of income and also positive for youth engagement

## 15. Raising funds

ACTSA is a political campaigning organisation. As with all organisations we can only do what we are resourced to do but resources are not just money there is time, commitment, knowledge and the intangible of solidarity. But clearly we need money.

*The NEC recommends that ACTSA:*

- develop and apply the fundraising strategy
- prioritise the consolidation of core funding through members, affiliates and supporters,
- hold at least one major fundraising event in the year
- take a youth and student delegation to southern Africa
- continue to raise funds for Dignity!Period

- raise institutional funding to support several speaker tours, events, publications etc
- seek funding to develop our plans to mark the 2010 World Cup
- mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAM with appropriate activity and material including merchandise
- 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 ACTSA runners in London Marathon and volunteers at Workers Beer Company events
- review the website to increase fundraising through it