

Tables of Ten – let's get talking

In 2018, we celebrate two centenaries – our University is 100 years and we celebrate 100 years since Nelson Mandela was born. What different pathways these two icons would follow. One could argue that the decisions of the former paved the way for the latter to take the bold steps that he did in fighting against discrimination. In the 1930s, Mandela enrolled at the only university for Blacks (African, Coloured and Indian) in South Africa at the time.

Today as we celebrate these centenaries, we are acutely aware of the many challenges that society has in our desire to acknowledge the past, and move forward to a society that works together for a better future. Important to this is to get social dialogue going between stakeholders in society.

There are various perspectives on **social cohesion** – the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs defines it as – ‘the glue that holds society together’ ... A cohesive society is one where people are protected against life risks, trust their neighbours and the institutions of the state and can work towards a better future for themselves and their families. (<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/policy/perspectives-on-social-cohesion.html>. 2012)

Stellenbosch University and our faculty are but a microcosm of society. Part of our Mandela Day initiatives is to invite staff and students to reflect on what role we as individuals and a collective can play to contribute to social cohesion in our faculty and beyond.

We have created this opportunity for ten tables of ten people (10 times 10 = 100...) to engage with each other in the Mandela week commemorations.

Each table of 10 will consist of a mix of staff and students with a facilitator - for 90 minutes we hope to create the opportunity for social dialogue.

Book your spot – invite a colleague, friend to join us – we are positive that this will provide the opportunity for ongoing dialogue across our Faculty – be part of the first groups...

Date: 19 July 2018

Time: 14h00 to 15h30

Venue: to be confirmed

Please RSVP by completing the attached form and submitting it to Ms Ronelia Booysen at ronelia@sun.ac.za as soon as possible – this is on a first come first acceptance basis.

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