



# INTERNING AT AFRICA UNITE

MARCH – JUNE 2016

# ABOUT ME

Born in Cape Town, grew up in Windhoek, Namibia

Studied at the University of Cape Town:

- Undergrad: English Literary Studies, Historical Studies, Gender Studies
- Honours: Gender and Transformation

Thesis: GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND THE MEDIA – DISCOURSES ON RAPE IN NAMIBIA (submitted October 2015)

Currently I am completing my Masters in Justice and Transformation (in the Politics Department), specialising in Transitional Justice, at UCT

# WHY AFRICA UNITE

Internship component of my *Masters*

Sick of academia!

Wanting to get out 'into the field'

More action / less research, reading, essay writing

Wanting to see how what I learn about translates into an NGO environment

# WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE?

TJ is a response to systematic or widespread violations of human rights. It seeks recognition for victims and promotion of possibilities for peace, reconciliation and democracy. It is justice adapted to societies transforming themselves after a period of pervasive human rights abuses.

Examples: South Africa, Rwanda, Germany, Eastern Europe

Areas of study pertinent to Africa Unite: The failure of the TRC, should victims forgive perpetrators, reparations, and can reconciliation be achieved in South Africa?

# THINGS I LEARNT TO DO HERE

Write reports!!!

Take minutes at meetings... And then write up those minutes!!!

# THINGS I DID FOR THE FIRST TIME

Commute via train every week

Travel to places I had never been before, such as Worcester, Delft and Hanover Park

Conduct (unsuccessful) job interviews

Chaired a staff meeting

# MY EXPERIENCE

As a perfectionist, it was not always easy to work here!

As someone who shies away from leadership, it was not always easy to work here!

BUT, in the end, I am better off for it. What were once challenges are now lessons and some are even accomplishments.

One major thing I learned – in an NGO, things just go

# HIGHLIGHTS

Human Rights Day in Worcester – the perfect introduction to Africa Unite

Attending a Rape Crisis workshop in Hanover Park

Ossie's book launch!

Conducting interviews with Ronel in Hanover Park

Organising my own Human Rights Workshop with an elderly group from Hanover Park

# CCM INTERVIEWS

Conducting interview is a complex process – not just Q&A

Challenges: gaining consent, participants not always knowing what CCM is or how they were involved in it, making a connection with the participant (my own positionality), finding a quiet space or working around people's schedules, expecting different answers than what the participants gave, transcribing

Main findings: communication issues, wanting more outreach from Africa Unite, not a lot of knowledge exists about CCM for those who go through the process



# HANOVER PARK ELDERLY DIALOGUE



# RECOMMENDATIONS

TIME KEEPING!!!

Training for interns (thrown in the deep end)

Having one person in charge of different programmes

Gender equality

# A BIG THANK YOU

To Africa Unite, its staff, volunteers and interns

It has been a privilege to meet and work with all of you

I hope to come back one day!