



AhmedKathrada
F o u n d a t i o n
Deepening Non-Racialism

Rules and Guidelines

The following rules and guidelines are applicable to the 2023 National Essay Writing Competition Against Racism:

- Participants must be between the age of 13-21.
- All entries must be accompanied by an entry form stating all details required of the participant.
- All entries will only be received via email (essays@kathradafoundation.org), or physical copy delivered to the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation offices (Signet Terrace Office Park, Block B, Suite 2, 19 Guinea-Fowl Street, Lenasia, 1827)
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
- Plagiarized content will be disqualified.
- Essays submitted must be between 1000 -1500 words.
- Poetry and artwork must be accompanied by an explanation of no more than 500 words.
- Artwork entries must not be bigger than A3 in size.
- Competition winners from the past two years are not permitted to enter the competition.
- The competition is only open to participants residing in the Republic of South Africa.

NOTE: Non-compliance with these rules and guidelines will lead to the automatic disqualification of a participant

"THE IMPACT OF APARTHEID ON A BORN FREE GENERATION"

*we are still searching for answers
we are still crying loud waiting
for our voices to be heard
born free but not free from
the hatred we have
we are still crying loud to
break free from the sorrow
the scars from our hearts can't be erased
memories can't be blown away
history is starting to repeat itself
a new generation is born
but bound by past
the past is still haunting our presents
when will it end? Is it the apartheid ghost?
we are crying day and night waiting for change
our hearts are tired
our hands are tied
hear our cries
MAYIBUYE I AFRIKA!!*

We as new generation grew up with the promise of freedom, promise to walk and roaming around the streets freely. We were promised life with no explicit rules but we are still shaped by those rules. The born free generation is forced to confront the harsh realities of a society that is still shaped by apartheid's legacy.

As we were born, we were born to live freely and dream but yet we not free from the historical burdens that continues to shape our lives, with the ghosts of apartheid behind our backs, following us new generation around. We are born to new challenges while it is hard to define ourselves. We have responsibility of building a new future while dealing with the impact of apartheid. Like a river flowing from a wounded heart, a generation came forth with it's water carrying the memories of a past that is refusing to be forgotten. A generation is awake, it's eyes blinking away the darkness of a history that had discover to erase it's name, our voices were broken but as time goes, we found our voices and there is a whispered promise of freedom.

Woken up by the voice of my grandmother in my dreams whispering to me saying "buyisa isizwe sethu" (bring back our nation) saying those words while dropping a left tear on her cheek, while pressing her hands against mine. Coming to terms with reality, facing the harsh truth while the question keeps on popping my mind, "what did that mean?"

As I grew up I realised that I'm living in the shadow of apartheid's legacy and realised that freedom isn't a destination but a journey that have to be taken, a path that have to be taken. What does it mean to be free? how does it feel to be free? how does it really feel to be finally escaped from ropes of Web spider that keeps on stringing you along. I keep on asking myself those questions because the anger and fear I see in people's eyes is exactly as I saw on Tata Nelson Mandela's eyes while he was fighting the demons of the past, trying to recapture the feeling of that moment

I'm still trying to understand the true cost of apartheid on my generation. The apartheid did a number in our generation cause in these days no matter how successful you are, you will stay at home with your certificate. The parliament is full of old people but here we are with our degrees at home. It depends on how you know people and the connection you have, the fact that you're a graduate doesn't matter anymore. The reason why we end up being criminals or prostitute is because we are not getting employed anymore. The freedom that our great grandparents fought for until they left us, when are we getting it? The life that you've promised to give us when you got nominated or took the throne, where is it? When you are sitting on those hot chairs, you keep on forgetting the promises you made. The only thing you are good at is promising lies.

We've become the beasts because of hunger, we kill each other because of poverty. Why are we still studying if we are going to stay at home with our degrees? This started when they nominated the president without our concerns as black people. But who I'm I anyway? Who I'm I to speak because it doesn't matter anyway, my voice isn't too loud to be heard. Who I'm I to speak because I'm hiding behind the door just like everyone else because here in South Africa, you are getting arrested because of speaking the truth. I'm still surprised with a statement "Born on a free generation " because being racist still runs in people's veins. Our people are dying and there is discrimination and prejudice, we are turning our backs against each other. There are people who are afraid of revealing themselves because they are afraid of being killed because of sexual identities that lead to fear and violence. Bullets are coming right and centre, it doesn't matter that you're a child or not. The world is full of hatred, the world is ruined. Our streets are full of Bloodstains and tragic sights, people are

becoming lost because lives are in vain, our futures are stolen. We are tired of crying, we are tired of begging, we are tired of kneeling, we are tired of singing hymns, we are tired of repeating the same song until then I will sing the following words....

Senzeni Na, South Africa

Asilazi tyala

Zingcindezelo, Zintshutshiso

Asilazi tyala

Zingcindezelo, Zintshutshiso

Asilazi tyala

Generation is not truly free from the ghost of apartheid. We as young people grew up in a frighten way, if there was any fairy tale to live I swear I would live it. Apartheid was a dark chapter in the history of South Africa but it still continues to shape the present and the future of us the new generation. The new born still face the inequalities and deeply rooted in the legacy of apartheid, they are still defined by scars of apartheid. Born free is just a statement.

A river of tears, roaming around the cheek

Crying to be heard

Crying to be seen

Crying to be known

A scar still remains

a wound refuses to heal

footprints of blood remaining to the past

ghosts of a past refuses to go home

memories clinging to the past

a reminder of blood that

was spilled, the lives were denied

Like a Phoenix rising from ashes, born free but not free from the scars of the past. We are choosing to wear the scars like badges of honour, reminders of the struggle that has shaped us. We are dancing to the new beat of era, where freedom was just a word.