

Women work together to lead change in southern Africa



From left: Graça Machel (centre of back row) with her scholars in Johannesburg.

More than 40 inspiring women came together in Johannesburg in November to develop their vision of a peaceful and prosperous southern Africa.

Organised by Canon Collins Trust and hosted by international stateswoman Graça Machel (who is also Nelson Mandela's wife), the meeting brought together women from ten African countries with expertise ranging from educational management to medical research, conservation and famine relief. What unites these women is that they are Graça Machel scholars. Having shown outstanding leadership potential at community level, their scholarships will enable them to increase their impact and drive development in their countries.

Graça Machel founded her scholarships programme in recognition that education transformed her life – from a disadvantaged rural background in Mozambique she has become one of Africa's most influential and respected spokespeople. In her own words, *“Education can be the difference between a life of grinding poverty and the potential for a full and secure one.”*

An educated workforce is essential for the design and delivery of vital services such as education, healthcare, clean water and fair and transparent legal systems.

With your help, the women supported through the Graça

Inside:

New distance learning scholarships

A future for girls in Malawi

Christmas cards for sale

Machel Scholarships are ready to take on these challenges.

Kaya's Story

Kaya is one of the Graça Machel scholars, awarded her scholarship in recognition of the transformational impact she has had on her community. Having grown up in a two-room mud hut in Eastern Cape, one of South Africa's poorest areas, Kaya is no stranger to hardship. Her childhood home was 3km from the nearest water supply and Kaya juggled her schooling with the onerous task of fetching water every day.

Kaya responded to her situation with utmost determination, and has devoted her life and career to improving conditions in her community. She has organised the construction of libraries, lobbied for the introduction of clean and convenient water supplies, and designed a training programme to improve police support to victims of domestic violence. She is now working with 30 families of children with special educational needs, (continued on page 2)



Left:
Kaya in
Cape
Town

Scholars

helping them to demand education for their children, and documenting her efforts in order to recommend improvements which will lead to a fairer education system throughout South Africa. This project forms the basis of her research supported by Canon Collins Trust:

“My ultimate goal is to see parents empowered to work with educators in order to achieve truly inclusive education in South Africa. I am enthusiastic that my research is going to have a very positive impact on the education of children with disabilities, as it will give parents a platform to deal with challenges while supporting each other.”

Educational experts plan brighter future for Malawian schools

Canon Collins Trust is supporting Malawi’s educationalists to improve their management and policy-making skills. The students are studying Education Leadership, Policy and Planning at Chancellor College, one of the Malawi’s most prestigious universities. The course is able to run solely due to the Trust’s support, as the vast majority of educators in Malawi cannot afford tuition fees. Although students gain enormous benefit from accessing new ideas and experiences outside of their own country, it is extremely important that good quality courses are available in every country so professionals have the opportunity to study in the relevant social and cultural context.

Sibongire Nkhonjera-Chisanga is one of the scholars gaining the knowledge to tackle some of Malawi’s most pressing educational challenges, including overcrowded classrooms, under-qualified teachers, shortages of resources and gender inequality.

“The knowledge and skills I have acquired will lead to better formulation and review of educational policies that have girls’ interests at heart. The scholarship

has widened my knowledge and ability on how planning in the education sector is done.”



Left: Sibongire (centre) with fellow Malawians supported by the Trust

Zambia Alumni Network Launched!

The Zambian alumni network is now officially registered! Through the network, former Trust scholars in Zambia are able to keep in touch and share knowledge across a wide variety of fields. Alumni in Zambia are now working at the highest levels of government, NGOs and universities – in strong decision-making positions which give them the leverage to have a real influence on their country’s development.

One such alumna is Francis Simui, who the Trust is supporting to implement a project to provide schools with training and materials so that they can offer a better service to children with special educational needs.

“Using my Masters in Inclusive Education I will be able to contribute to the reformation of the education system in Zambia to a level where ALL children will have access, meaningful participation and be able to realise their potential.”

Supporting Africa’s Entrepreneurs

Canon Collins Trust is supporting small businesses in Africa by offering 50 Masters in Business Administration by distance learning, in partnership with Edinburgh Business School. Upcoming entrepreneurs will gain skills in finance, marketing and management, in order to grow their businesses and revitalise the economic life of their communities. Your donations are vital in enabling us to support Africa’s entrepreneurs. In addition to our usual countries,

we are also welcoming scholars from Tanzania, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritius and Madagascar for the very first time through this programme.

Where are they now?

In this section, we update you with news about our former scholars! Our alumni offer skills which are extremely scarce in southern Africa, and are working at the forefront of their countries’ development in a vast array of different fields.

Alisa Amupolo, MA International Communications at Leeds, 2007-8



You may remember Alisa from a previous newsletter, as whilst in the UK she kindly produced a blog for the Trust to track her progress through the year. She is now back in Namibia, where her unique skills in information and communications systems mean that she is in high demand, and has not one, but two jobs! Firstly she is working as a Strategic Advisor to the Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and secondly she is helping to establish an independent regulatory body for all Namibia’s communications industries - including TV, phone and post. In these roles Alisa is bringing her considerable expertise to bear on policy decisions made at the highest government levels. Policies are only as good as the experts that design them, so Alisa’s contribution is crucial.

Please give today to enable more talented young professionals like Alisa to gain the skills their countries desperately need.

Projects

Breaking down barriers to learning

The Trust is now over halfway through a ground breaking project to enable children from illiterate families to make the most of their first years at school. Thanks to Big Lottery we have been training teachers in rural areas of Northern Cape, South Africa to equip children aged 6 to 9 with the conceptual and linguistic tools required to understand the world around them. The teachers at the three project schools say their greatest motivation has been seeing their pupils grow in confidence and really achieve for the first time:

"Something very fundamental is changing and I find that very exciting"

(Grade 1 teacher at Eureka school).



Above: Children at Umthombo Wolwazi School in Northern Cape. Above right: Girls at the AGLIT Project in Malawi.

A Future for Girls

We are working with Adolescent Girls Literacy Project (AGLIT) in Malawi, helping young women to access the education and skills that will change their futures. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa and women are frequently unable to access education, a vital safety net which would prevent them from falling into poverty. AGLIT's youth clubs teach literacy and numeracy skills to girls who have dropped out of school, together with business skills to enable them to earn an independent living.

Linly Malulu is one of the girls that has benefited from AGLIT's youth clubs. Linly's time at school was cut short at the age of just 8, when she was forced to stay at home to look after a little sister born with severe learning difficulties. Excluded from the education she longed for, Linly didn't dare dream of a better future for herself. However, through AGLIT youth clubs she was able to continue her education at home in her village, so that when the time came she could return to school.

The transformational effect of this opportunity on Linly's life is illustrated by the fact that she will return to her primary school next year, but this time as a teacher.



We want to help more girls like Linly create a better future. Just £60 enables one girl to complete the programme, gaining the skills and confidence for a better life.

Fort Hare Library

Thanks to a fantastic donation from one of our generous supporters, the Trust will be able to resume its support to the University of Fort Hare's library next year. South Africa has changed dramatically since Nelson Mandela attended Fort Hare, but the university still offers education to some of the country's most disadvantaged students, the majority of whom cannot afford to buy their own books. By replenishing the library's short loan collection, we are providing a resource which can be used by generations of students to come. This demonstrates the huge impact that a single supporter can have on our work!

I would like to transform the lives of southern Africans, through education, with my donation

■ Please make cheques payable to Canon Collins Trust, or complete the card details below.

Please complete your name and address details below.

■ I would like to pay by Maestro / Mastercard / Visa / CAF Charity Card. Please charge £ _____ to my account:

Card no

Issue no (Maestro)

Expiry date

Last 3 digits of security number on back of card (not CAF)

Signature _____

I would like to give southern Africans hope for the future with my regular gift

BANKERS ORDER FORM

To the manager of _____

Bank, Bank address _____

Postcode _____

Sort code _____

/ / _____

■ Please pay Lloyds TSB, 19 Upper Street, Islington, N1 0PJ, Sort code 30 94 57, for the credit of Canon Collins Trust, Account no 00424443, the sum of:

£50

£25

£5

Other £ _____

annually / quarterly / monthly
(delete as applicable)

starting on _____ and debit my Account no: _____

Signed _____

This supercedes any other Banker's Order For office use only, Bank please quote:

Please complete your name and address details before returning this form.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

If you are happy for us to contact you by email please enter your preferred email address. You can unsubscribe at any time. _____

Providing access to justice

Law firm SJ Berwin is supporting the Trust's Graça Machel Scholarships by funding an inspirational female leader to study in South Africa. We are delighted that SJ Berwin staff have decided to support this programme in memory of their colleague Catherine Bailey. Catherine was a South African lawyer, and would be proud to know that the scholarship given in her name will help a young southern African woman to realise her dreams.

Due to the support of Matrix Chambers and the British South African Lawyers Association, the Trust is supporting two undergraduate lawyers to study in South Africa over the next three years, while Leigh Day & Co continue to sponsor legal professionals at the University of Western Cape - a partnership which has been in place for over five years. Despite sweeping political changes in South Africa since 1994, access to justice is still limited to the most economically privileged – 73% of legal professionals are white, although white people only represent 13% of the population as a whole. By enabling talented young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to study law, the Trust

is helping to address these imbalances.

Qualified legal professionals are essential in order to protect the rights of southern Africa's most vulnerable people. Human rights issues currently facing southern Africa include the enslavement of civilians as mine workers by the Zimbabwean army, the right of Malawian women to quality maternal healthcare (sixteen Malawians die in childbirth every day), and the right of the San bushmen in Botswana to live on their traditional lands where they can access water and food. By giving to the Trust, you help support legal professionals who are willing to devote their lives and careers to protect the rights of vulnerable people.

Leaving a legacy of positive change

There are all sorts of people working towards development in southern Africa, helping take on the multiple challenges of poverty, climate change, conflict, natural disasters and disease, and leaving behind a legacy of positive change which is one step on the way to equality, prosperity and social justice. If you would like to leave a legacy, please do ask us to send you our leaflet which explains what a legacy will achieve, and how you can set one up.

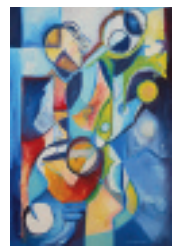
Annual Review

To receive our 2008 annual review which describes how you have created educational opportunities for some of southern Africa's most inspiring people, please contact us:

Email: esther@canoncollins.org.uk
Phone +44 (0) 207 354 1462.

Festive ways to support education in Africa!

For the second year running, the Trust is selling greetings cards designed by Zimbabwean artist and former Canon Collins Trust scholar Victor Mavedzenge. These beautiful cards are available at £4 for 10 and are blank for you to add your own message. For an order form, just contact esther@canoncollins.org.uk



You can give to the Trust whilst Christmas shopping, at no extra cost to you! By visiting www.easyfundraising.co.uk and selecting Canon Collins Trust as your designated charity, you can shop online at a range of high street stores with a percentage of the cost donated to education in southern Africa.

Gift Aid form

- I confirm that my UK income tax or capital gains tax contributions will cover the amount claimed by the charity and I would like to Gift Aid to Canon Collins Trust: This donation / All eligible donations to this charity until further notice / All eligible donations for the previous 6 financial years (delete any inapplicable)

Title _____ First name _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

I will inform Canon Collins Trust if my circumstances change

- I would like information about leaving Canon Collins Trust a gift in my will.

- We would like to keep you informed about the work of Canon Collins Trust. If at any time you prefer not to receive this information please contact us.

- The information provided will be held by Canon Collins Trust in order to process your gift. We sometimes allow carefully selected organisations to contact our supporters, but if you prefer not to be contacted in this way, please tick this box.