

Higher Education 2020



Miriam Mkhize

Miriam Mkhize is a Canon Collins Alumna. She completed her Masters of Law in Child Care and Protection at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

“It has been difficult having most of my family members deployed as essential service workers. It has left me alone most of the time during the lockdown. I have had to focus more on my mental health and reach out to friends for emotional support during these periods of isolation. My other obstacle has been trying to work on my research without access to WiFi which I would have otherwise had if I still had access to the University. I have spent more money on mobile data than I normally do.

This has also been a unique opportunity to introspect and be grateful for what we have i.e a shelter, food, clean water and a support system (our family and friends). May we also be a light to others who may not have what we do by contributing the little we have to donations towards food parcels in our communities. The lockdown has allowed me more time to focus on my research and dissertation writing. I have been able to get more rapid responses from my supervisor and the video supervision sessions have been quite efficient.

In my spare time, I have also been volunteering as part of a government-led initiative to telephonically interview people on their experiences of the corona virus. These are people whose voices would have not been heard through mainstream media.

I hope that we can come out of this period, more hopeful and grateful for the decisive leadership we have, and that the same leadership and urgency we have seen tackle and control the coronavirus will be applied after the pandemic towards social challenges and social justice in the country.