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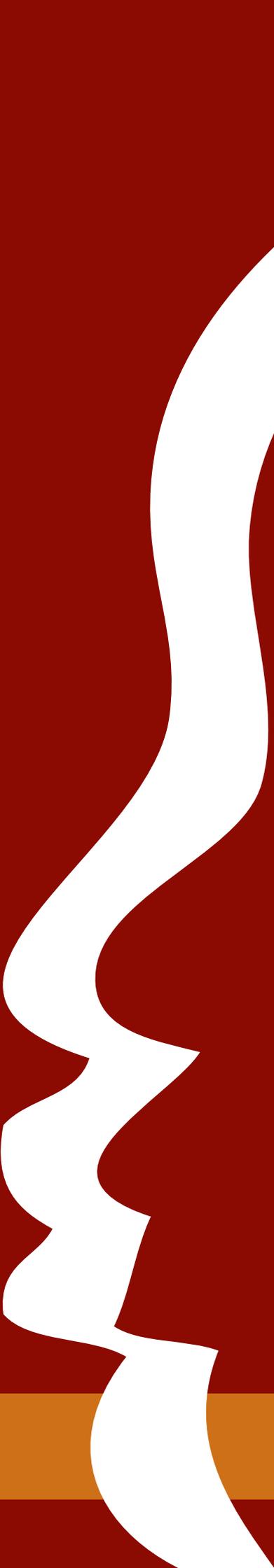
ALC Africa Debates:

“Between Justice and Terror:
The spectrum of voices from the
African continent?”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

ALC Keynotes

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Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a South African social activist. He was the first Anglican archbishop in Cape Town and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his work fighting apartheid in South Africa.

ALC Keynotes offer critical insights by eminent scholars and policy practitioners about Africa in relation to the rest of the world.

The **African Leadership Centre** (ALC) was founded by the Conflict, Security and Development Group at King's College London. It was established in Nairobi in June 2010 as a joint Initiative of King's College London and the University of Nairobi through its Institute for Development Studies. The overall goal of the ALC is to build a new community of leaders generating cutting-edge knowledge for peace, security and development in Africa. To that end, it works to build the capacity of individuals, communities and institutions across Africa, which can contribute to peace and stability.

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By Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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ALC AFRICA DEBATES:

**‘Between Justice and Terror:
The spectrum of voices from the
African continent’**

The relationship between peace and justice should be straightforward but it is not. In Africa, contemporary debates around peace and justice have tended to take centre stage in the aftermath of conflict. A central forum for these debates is the numerous transitional justice arrangements, including truth and reconciliation commissions that have been established across Africa from Kenya to Liberia. However the significance of the coexistence of peace and justice are not limited to post-conflict environs. This is proven by the establishment of truth and reconciliation commissions in non post-conflict contexts across the continent from Morocco to Ghana. The breadth of these transitional justice activities speaks to the deep-rooted structural challenges that African societies face in access to peace and justice, beyond violent conflict settings.

Peace and justice are two halves of the same whole yet their coexistence remains contested. It is this contestation that drove the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) whose mandate is to safeguard justice for the oppressed especially where the might of the oppressor tips the scales in the favour of the latter. The path of the ICC in Africa has been less than smooth. In particular, the Court has been accused of bias against Africa and the risk it presents to fragile peace regimes on account of its actions against powerful leaders. However, we have seen across the continent, time and time again, that there are immense risks to peace that come with long-standing oppression of the peoples from civil wars as with Liberia and most recently with the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East. As such we cannot expect to have peace dividends without ensuring access to justice for all.

Recent security dynamics strengthen this line of argument even further. Since the early 2000s there has been an upsurge of the use of terror by national, regional and international groups that is targeted at established states. While condemning terrorist activities in all its forms it is essential to recognize that these actions are energized by vast numbers of young people that work as 'foot soldiers' and have reached a point where they feel there are no alternative options. So they are willing to risk their lives and ostracization from broader society to exercise the only form of voice that they feel is available to them. Unfortunately attempts to address the violent use of terror tactics has are unlikely to reap benefits unless root cause issues are examined. It is essential to ask why substantial numbers of people are willing to ply such a dangerous path.

As we ask this important question we must expect answers that also point the finger at the challenge of leadership in Africa. The tragedy of elite leadership in Africa has been its focus on benefitting a small minority as well as its prevalence at all levels of society. The ageism towards young Africans in the sphere of leadership cannot be overstated in spite of the fact that they make up the vast majority of the African population. However, it is young Africans that must captain the ship that is Africa and speak for themselves and all of us. The world is a fast changing place and young Africans continue to fight for a place in the global space irrespective of the shambolic heritage that they have been given.

The African Leadership Centre is an initiative that is set up to help young Africans steer this great continent through its highly innovative Fellowship Programmes that aim to contribute to Africa's long-term security and development by mentoring the talent of young African leaders. The Centre's commitments to African-led ideas of change, youth agency and excellence are at the heart of its work.

The King's Africa Debates are a core part of the African Leadership Centre Fellowship Programme. It is a great pleasure to participate in these high-level role-play sessions here

today that will reflect on the real challenges of the fractious relationship between peace and justice and the use of terror tactics by various groups in Africa. This is an excellent tool to help us understand the problems that our continent faces from all perspectives: those that we are comfortable with and even those that we are less comfortable with. It is only such an open attitude to all parties that will enable dialogue between those at enmity with each other. Participating in these sessions will no doubt invigorate our own sensibilities to the issues that affect our continent today. It will also give us a glimpse at the wonderful work being done by the African Leadership Centre and King's College London on preparing young Africans for their leadership roles today!

We must be prepared to put forward young Africans as the leaders of the present and not relegate their relevance to the future.