



## South African Council of Churches

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### SACC Renewal Refurbishing Khotso House

*This is an invitation to participate in the most symbolic renewal of the South African Council of Churches – the refurbishment of Khotso House.*

Since the beginning of 2014, the South African Council of Churches (SACC) has been in renewal mode of:

- Restoring the **unity of Christian witness** and re-establishment of the mission of the SACC.
- **Re-anchoring of the SACC in the homes and communities of poor people** in the name of God, to whom they offer up prayers nightly, for a just and equitable society without poverty, unemployment, inequity and self-serving corruption.



The physical symbol of the SACC renewal is the refurbishment of **Khotso House**, the building that houses the South African Council of Churches in central Johannesburg. The first Khotso House was bombed by the nefarious security forces of the apartheid regime.

**Khotso means peace**, shalom, in the seSotho language, and peace means not just the absence of conflict, but the wholesomeness of society and the healing of life in its totality. The new Khotso House at 62 Marshall Street became the **home of hope for peace**. It continues to stand as a symbol that holds out the promise and the peace of a just and equitable society.



Renovations underway

Today, 21 years into South Africa's democracy, Christian witness has become that much more in need, to **proclaim the post apartheid promise of South Africa**. A just, reconciled and equitable society, free of racial, xenophobic, tribal and gender prejudices. Free of corruption and deprivation, and with enough food and shelter for every citizen; and for each child born to grow to fulfil their God given potential.

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, former SACC General Secretary, stood in his defense of the churches when our mission was challenged by the apartheid regime. He said that the SACC

was serving God in taking “the whole human history and the whole human life seriously”; thereby demonstrating that God “was Lord of all life, spiritual and secular, sacred and profane, material and spiritual.”



Emeritus Archbishop Tutu

## UNITED CHRISTIAN WITNESS

The SACC renewal is the faithful reclamation of that calling of the **ecumenical movement in South Africa** – a United Christian Witness! The refurbishment of Khotso House is thus the symbolic revival of this mission.

For this reason, all 11 floors of Khotso House will serve to **memorialise the historical public ministry** of the church in South Africa, and the role of the international ecumenical movement that supported it.

The street level will have a **museum** of this history, including the work of the **Christian Institute** under **Dr Beyers Naudé**. The next floor of the Khotso House Chapel will be where the renewed SACC will be located, and will be named the Desmond Tutu Floor, recognising the **spirituality** that Archbishop Tutu infused in the **culture of the SACC** with the centrality of the chapel.

We shall recognise the **Justice and Reconciliation ministry** represented by **Dr Wolfram Kistner**; the work of the **Dependents Conference** that cared for political prisoners and

their families; the education program of the **African Bursary Fund** which saw thousands of poor children become self-supporting professionals.



Bishop Zipho Siwa

## INVITATION TO SUPPORT

With your participation we shall recall for today's **inspiration**, the **faithful witness** of the previous leaders of the SACC and the ecumenical movement. We shall revive the **Spirit**, the **Dunamis**, that fuelled their resolve. The renewed Khotso House will again be the **home of peace and hope** for the most marginalised.

**This is an invitation to contribute towards realising this vision by supporting the refurbishment of Khotso House.** Each floor will have a **memorialising feature** and the name of the organisation or individual that sponsored that floor – to **tell the story of our common witness.** *Join the SACC in renewing this symbol of peace!*

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