

## **Statement: Staff for Social Justice in Education (S4SJE)**

Staff for Social Justice in Education (SJE) was formed as a spontaneous response amongst some staff members to the events unfolding on the Health Sciences Campus related to the student protests and demands. Some of us were disquieted with the dominant narrative about what was taking place and were concerned with how best to handle the conflictual situation.

This statement reflects the rationale for forming the group and invites others to join.

We do not claim to speak on behalf of all staff but only for staff who have chosen to join this group.

We put the following on record:

- We recognise the pain experienced by students and the challenges they have faced in trying to challenge unjust systems and situations on our campus and in the wider educational system;
- We acknowledge, as staff members, our failures to address these gaps and challenges in the institution up to now;
- We commend the leadership and grasp of democratic processes that our students have shown in the processes of seeking change.

We unequivocally state that:

- We support the 34 demands put forward by the students and see no obstacle to seeing resolution of these 34 demands, whether in the short, medium- or long-term;
- We support the demand that the university not make use of private security to resolve conflict between students and the institution. There should be total commitment to processes of resolution of conflict without resort to violence.

We stand for:

- Equity in Access to Education
- Democratisation and decolonisation of our institution
- Greater understanding of the intersections of race, gender, class, sexual orientation, sexuality and ableism in shaping our academic project

We commit to promoting these principles, enhancing our understanding as well as a wider understanding of these concepts and how to operationalise them in our Faculty and across the wider Higher Education field.

We invite others to join the group and find a democratic space to engage in these issues and to find ways to support a process to re-build trust and strengthen our institution as a place of inclusion. You can do so by joining the Vula Site <Staff for Social Justice in Education> or email Carla Tsampiras at [carla.tsampiras@uct.ac.za](mailto:carla.tsampiras@uct.ac.za), or Jill Fortuin at [jill.fortuinabrahams@uct.ac.za](mailto:jill.fortuinabrahams@uct.ac.za).