

Press Release: For Immediate Release

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Heading: Pushed back to basics by a perfect storm of global crises; A South African joins the international fight for the Human Right 2 Water

The launch of the Human Right 2 water, a global NGO could not have happened at a more opportune time. As the world grapples with the impact of the Corona pandemic, the protection of the right to life and health have never been more important. The leadership team is Water Research Commission (WRC) CEO, Dhesigen Naidoo, as President, with former Waterlex Executive Director, Amanda Loeffen as CEO and Michel Jarraud, former Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as chair of the Committee of Experts.

Naidoo said, “the global Covid 19 pandemic has brought the world to a pause point forcing us to relook at the fundamentals. It has emphasised the criticality of water to deal with the immense challenge both in containment as well as treatment and recovery. There is a strong need for a human-centred strategy, core to which has to be a human rights-based approach. This will afford an opportunity to enable this Covid-moment into a turnaround point toward a more sustainable and caring world with heightened resilience to better deal with future shocks”.

The UN Human Development Report estimates that the current rates of resource overuse and depletion together with increased levels of pollution will result in two thirds of the world’s population likely to be living in water stressed areas. According to this UN Report the rate of increase of water is already leading to chronic water shortage in an increasing number of regions. South Africa had made great strides in the Mandela years with this Human Rights Based approach to water access and water management led by Kader Asmal and his team. A revolutionary Water Law that sought to address unequal access through linking water issues to human rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability, the National Water Act of 1998 had been lauded globally.

The month of June in South Africa is an opportunity to take stock of the strides that have been made in addressing issues affecting youth, a demographic that is increasingly marginalised across the world. Today, the global coronavirus pandemic has intensified the plight of the marginalised and disenfranchised by further exacerbating the challenges related to access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

Human Right to 2 water is pro youth and envisions a world where all people realise the human rights to water and sanitation, through the use and sharing of expert knowledge on how these human rights should be integrated into law, policy, and practice. The goal is to realise safe and sustainable access to water and sanitation for all, including the most vulnerable such as youth who are increasingly marginalised across the globe.

“As we strive toward the SDG deadlines, in a time of an almost perfect storm of global crises with the Covid 19 pandemic riding alongside the Economic downturn, an increasing Climate emergency and a multilateral system that is under attack, a return to a basic value system represents an important building block on the road to recovery. HumanRight2Water is available as a knowledge partner to assist governments and regions to develop laws, policies and strategies to increase water security to fulfil basic needs while making water available for growth and development” says Naidoo.

Human Right 2 Water is an international NGO registered in Switzerland operating through a virtual structure, bringing together the skills of its membership and experts in water and sanitation governance and international human rights from around the globe.

The NGO hopes that through the continued push for realising human rights in law, policy and practice, that they can help all people to realise a wide range of human rights, including the right to health, a healthy environment, food, and a life lived in dignity.

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