



**ABOVE: PANELISTS AT THE SOCIAL COHESION CONFERENCE, FROM LEFT; BLESSING NYUSWA, JAIS MBEWE, MBUSO SHOBEDE AND JENNY-BOYCE HLONGWA**

# **SOCIAL COHESION: It should start with you and your family!**

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## **Social Cohesion: It should start with you and your family!**

**By: Lizeka Maduna**

**F**ollowing a spade of violent clashes between African migrants and locals in the past few weeks, which has seen people chaos emerge in the Gauteng province and other parts of KwaZulu-Natal;

**DDP in conjunction with partners held its second annual social cohesion conference aimed at building a socially cohesive society and strengthen unity among citizens through dialogical engagements.**

Democracy Development Program (DDP) in partnership with the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IRR), held its second annual social cohesion conference at Garden Court Marine Parade in Durban, and at Ikhaya Lodge in Cape Town

The conference was supported by various civil society organizations

such as Africa Unite, PACSA and Diakonia.

According to these partnering organizations, the conference was aimed at delving deeper into probing underlying causes of entrenched intolerance in the country.



**Above: Delegates at the Social Cohesion Conference in Cape Town**

“South Africa has recently witnessed high levels of racism and incidents of mutual intolerance in the country

unparalleled since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

At force value, it is arguable that the increasing spates of violent service delivery protests, labor unrest and lately inter and intra-political party

conflict are symptoms of declining social cohesion,” DDP said.

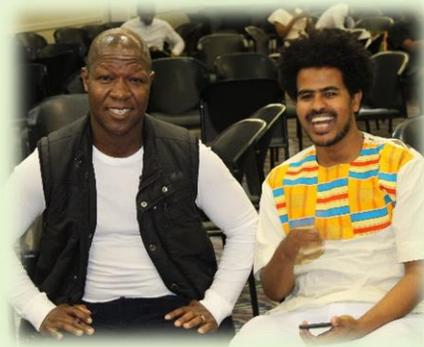
The two-day event which saw civil society, communities and academics coming together came at a time where the country is in a volatile state due to unrests stirred by tensions between locals and African migrants.

In Gauteng alone, reports of violent attacks and looting has emerged on media, with citizens pleading with government to declare the country a state of emergency.

According to these civil society organizations, there has been a

failure to identify the root cause of the problem.

"The 'divide and rule' legacy of apartheid regime and its associated, deliberate underdevelopment of most citizens of South Africa continues to...[Read more](#)



*Left: Delegate and panelist at the social cohesion conference, from left; Jais Mbeve and Aron Tesfai.*

***"Social cohesion is one of the most significant areas in which South Africa needs to challenge, in order to eliminate the issues associated with inequality, racism and xenophobia"***



***Above: Delegates, speakers with Young Mbazo music group and DDP staff at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Social Cohesion Conference 2019 at Marine Parade in Durban on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, and at Ikhaya Lodge in Cape town on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.***

Tags: [PACSA](#), [Africa Unite](#), [IJR](#), [democracy](#), [DDP](#), [KAS](#).  
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