



# SYNEM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

4 April 2003



**A decade post Apartheid: Changing  
Social Work paradigms in a new,  
multi-cultural, South Africa**

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# PRESENTATION

- **Setting the Stage**
- **Historical overview**
- **Demography**
- **Changing Social Work paradigms**
- **The War on AIDS/The New South African Apartheid**
- **Social Work Challenges**
- **African Sky Blue**

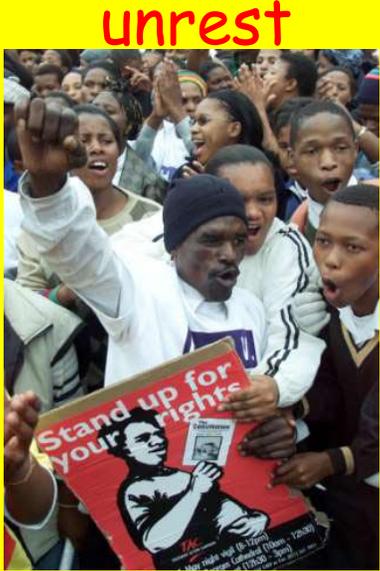
# SETTING THE STAGE

In an effort to describe its intrinsic diversity, South Africa is commonly referred to as

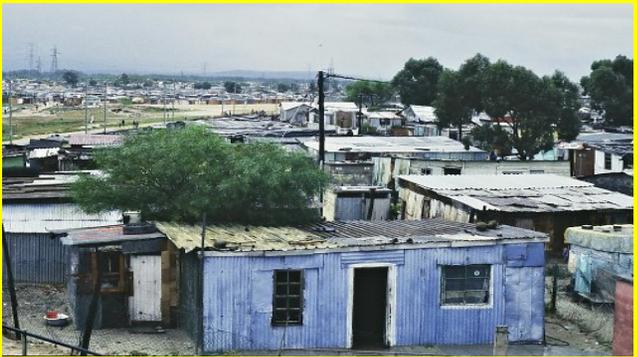
# THE RAINBOW NATION



tourism



unrest



poverty

THERE SHALL  
BE HOUSES  
AND SECURITY  
FOR ALL



peace



disappointment

# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

## Legislating Apartheid (1948)

The National Party won the election (1948) and implemented apartheid, which was forced segregation based solely on race. Accomplished through legislation such as: Prohibition of Mixed marriages Act, Population Registration Act, and the Group Areas Act. In 1961 South Africa became a republic and withdrew from the Commonwealth.

## Soweto Rights (1976)

June 16, 1976, black youth of Soweto protested against Afrikaans being the official language for education. This was a turning point in the anti-apartheid struggle.

# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW (cont)



Release of Nelson Mandela  
(1990)

First democratic elections  
(1994)

The greatest victory for a nation so besieged by intolerance, bigotry, and ignorance. The birth of the Rainbow nation and a new multi-cultural, racially inclusive society.



# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW (cont)

## New South African Constitution (1996)

The evidence of our new beginning. A legal mandate celebrating, rather than negating, our rich diversity and inclusivity, and a time of truth and reconciliation. It is the most liberal and morally inclusive constitution in our free world - an example for the world to follow [e.g. the only constitution which protects individuals against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation].

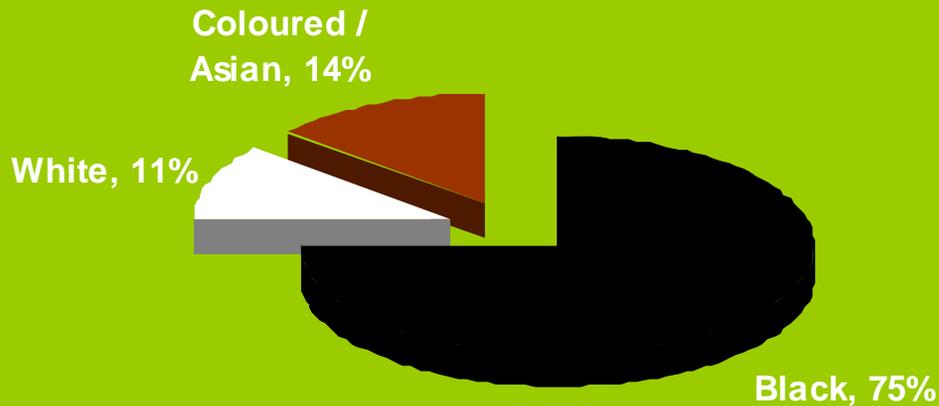
## A decade post Apartheid (2003)

When the new Republic of South Africa, a formerly homophobic country under Apartheid, ratified its constitution, it became the first nation to incorporate sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination doctrine. Having experienced unending abuses, the framers and the people agreed that they wanted their new country to be a nation of human rights.

Wetzel (2001, pg. 19)

# DEMOGRAPHY

The total population of South Africa = 43,586,097  
([www.census.co.za](http://www.census.co.za) - 2001)



Ethnic groups

# DEMOGRAPHY (cont)

## Language

11 official languages. Most common being Zulu, Xhosa, English and Afrikaans.

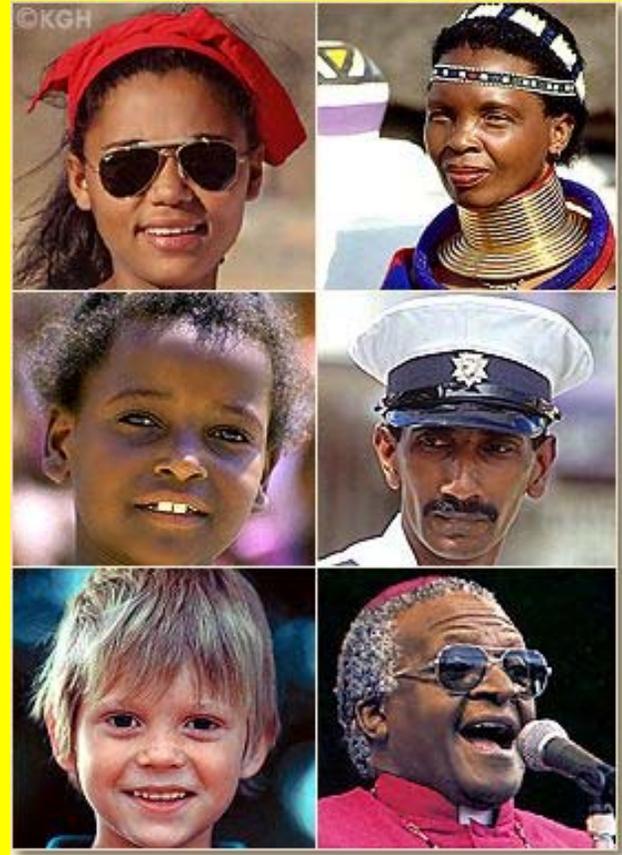
## Youth Population

Projected total population (2030)  
= 75 765 000

Projected youth ratio (2030)  
= 17.7% (decline of 3 % from 1995).

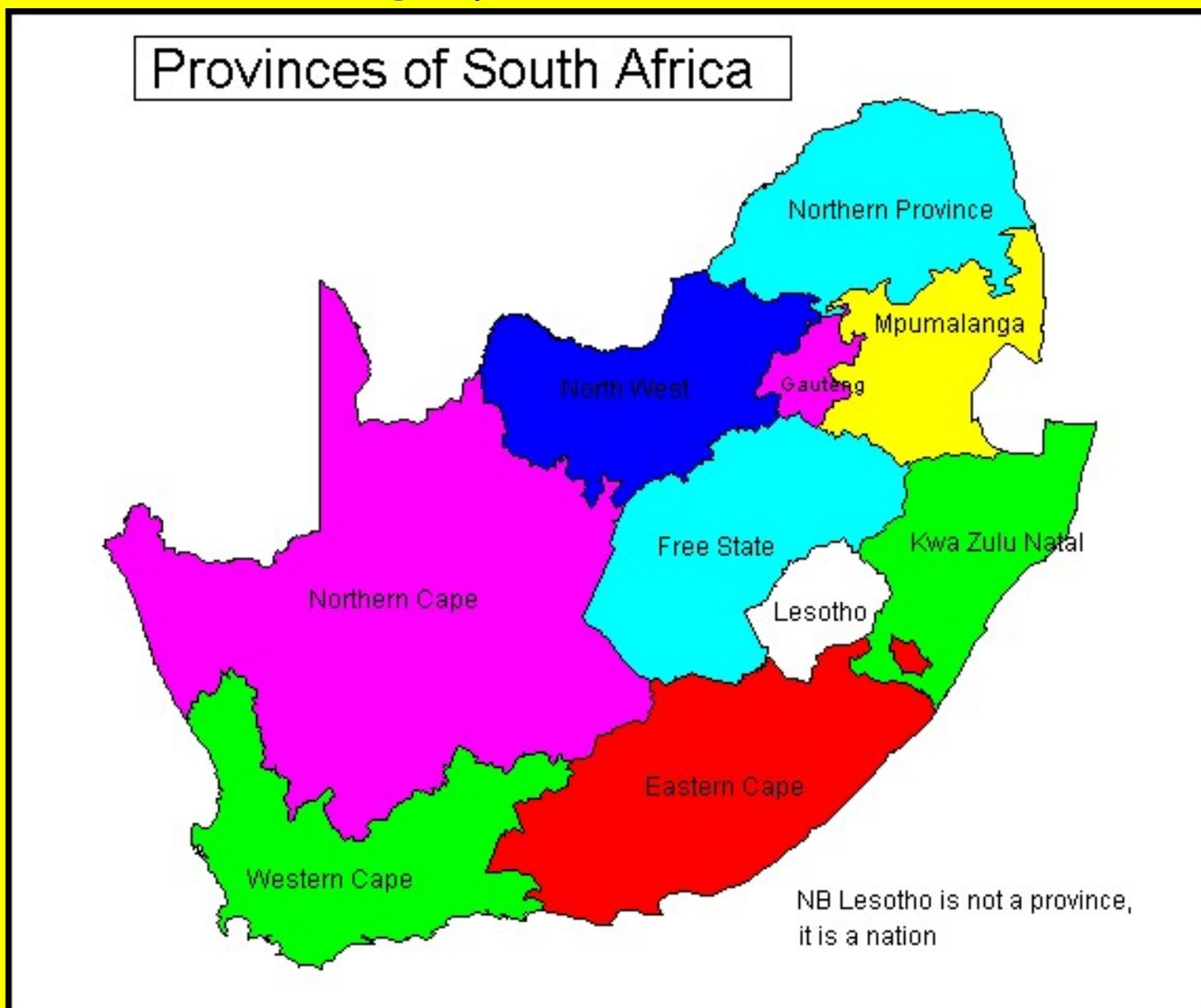
## Religion

Diverse range of religions reflecting the diverse richness of people in South Africa. Most common religions are: Muslim, Christianity, and Hinduism.



# DEMOGRAPHY (cont)

## Geographical distribution



# CHANGING SOCIAL WORK PARADIGMS

## Paternalism to Self Empowerment

SW historically embedded in a paternalistic, charitable service provision paradigm. Post 1994, with a new culture of self empowerment, SW has gradually shifted towards an ecological, systems, strengths-based paradigm of intervention.



Case management to  
community empowerment  
and grass roots  
intervention

# CHANGING SOCIAL WORK PARADIGMS (cont)

**Inclusivity:** Shift from segregated to multi-racial education, training, policy development, practise modalities, and service provision



**Changing roles in the NGO field:** Government pressure to address previously disadvantaged populations. Forced to address and change policies.

**Significant change in roles:** From autonomy/external international funding to more government intervention and accountability.

**Funding policies:** Shift from government/statutory to NGO's

# CHANGING SOCIAL WORK PARADIGMS (cont)

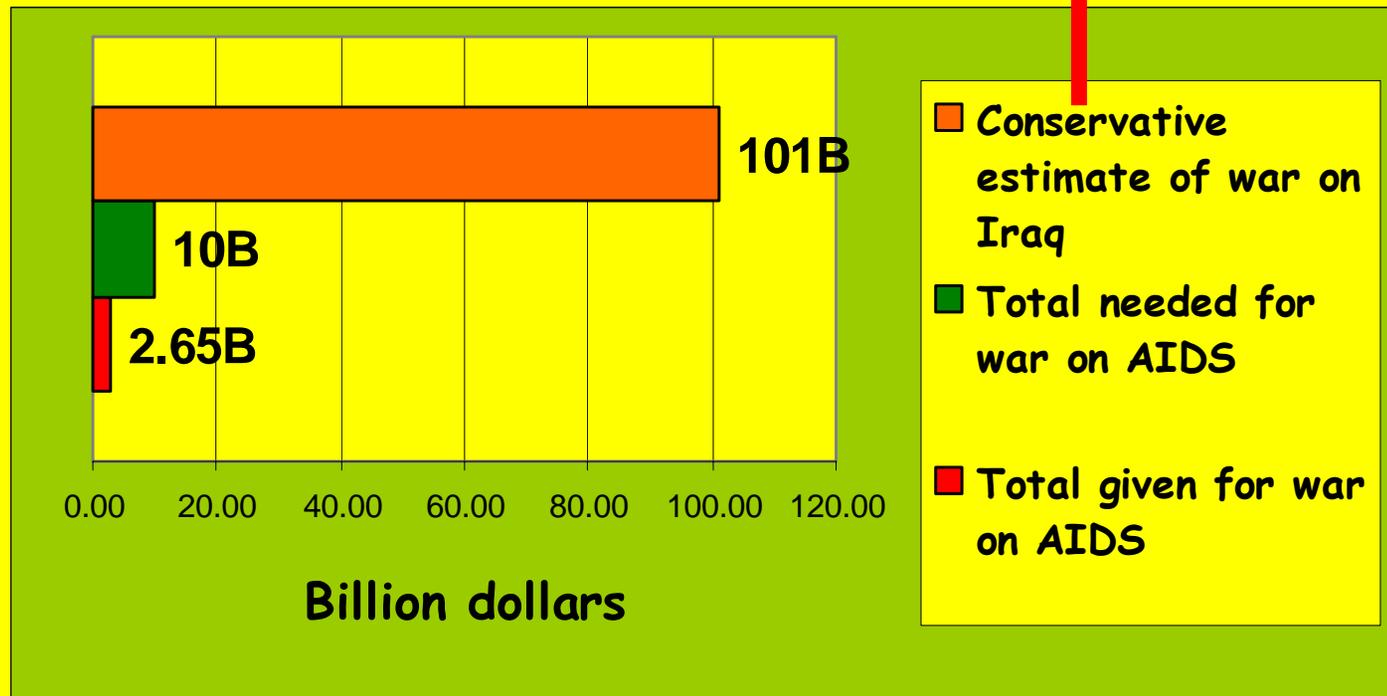
- ❖ From racial disadvantage to reflective racial representation
- ❖ Broker and facilitator roles to advocate and activist
- ❖ Professionalism: South African Social Work Council (1970's) to South African Council for Social Service Professions (2001)

# WAR ON HIV/AIDS

\$75B = the war itself

\$26B = rebuilding Iraq after the war

Source: [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)



# WAR ON HIV/AIDS (cont)

Amount pledged (June 2001 - January 2003)

## Costs of War on HIV/AIDS:

Global Fund needs to raise \$10 billion per year to fight the HIV/AIDS war.

**DEFICIT= \$7.35B**

(The Guardian: Saving Grace, 18:02:03, pg. 7)

United Kingdom	\$215 million
Bill Gates	\$100 million
USA	\$500 million
Others	\$1.83 billion
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2.65 billion</b>

# CHAMPIONS OF OUR AGE

Nelson Mandela  
(83 years old)

Nkosi Johnson  
(died at age 12  
from AIDS)



## WAR ON HIV/AIDS (cont)

Truth: Facts don't lie -  
*"The New South African Apartheid"*  
(Africa at the Crossroads, 23 August, 2000)

1997: 3 million South African's living with HIV/AIDS

2005: Predicted to rise to 4.5 million

Young people most at risk: 15-25 yr age group - 60% of HIV infections (IPPF, 2003).

34.3 million people worldwide living with HIV (end of 1999)

Sub Sahara Africa accounts for 24.5 million of the total

One in ten people aged 15-49 are already living with HIV / AIDS

South Africa - 25% of pregnant women test HIV positive.



# WAR ON HIV/AIDS (cont)

UNAIDS report (2002) stated that:

1700 new infections per day.



In 1990 HIV infection rate in South Africa was under 1%, now it is 25% of total population.

2010: Life expectancy in South Africa will drop to 40 yrs old.

50% of current 15 yr olds in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana will not reach 50.

12% of students in tertiary institutions in South Africa are HIV positive.

10% of teachers are HIV positive.

# WAR ON HIV/AIDS (cont)

2005: 1 million AIDS orphans in South Africa



2010: Expected to rise to 2.5 million orphans (South Africa's AIDS Apartheid, August, 2002).

UN reports that "AIDS is set to claim the lives of around half of all 15 year olds in South Africa."

South Africa has an annual estimated population growth rate of 2%. AIDS has changed all of this. Thus, the demographic trends in South Africa are unprecedented, in all their tragedy. ([www.afrol.com](http://www.afrol.com))

# WAR ON HIV/AIDS (cont)

## Prevention and treatment

We have failed in the area of primary prevention e.g the national education department has failed to place AIDS firmly within the school curriculum.

Preventing HIV has proven to be particularly difficult - it means forging new links between sex, illness and death and encouraging the belief that solidarity, compassion and understanding are more appropriate to HIV disease prevention than discrimination and ostracisation (Africa at the Crossroads, 2000).

AIDS is having dramatic and unimaginable repercussions for educational, social welfare and health care provision in South Africa - but are we doing enough?

# WAR ON HIV/AIDS (cont)

Reality:

**Eclectic roles of social work practitioners**

**We need to discard old modalities of prevention and training, and develop more**

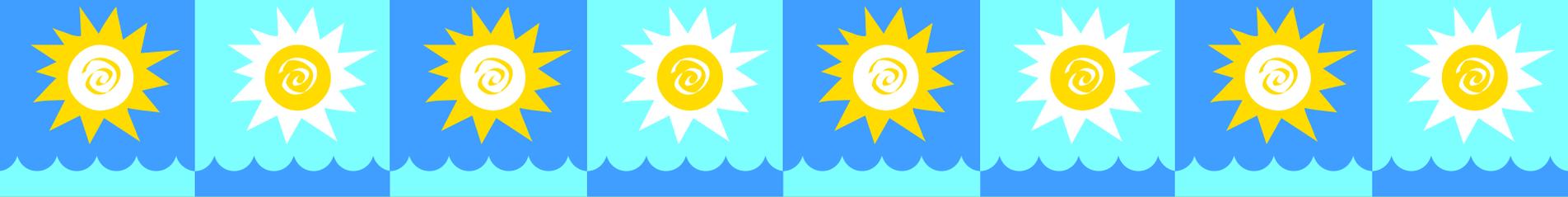
**creative,**

**innovative,**

**user focussed and**

**dynamic approaches**

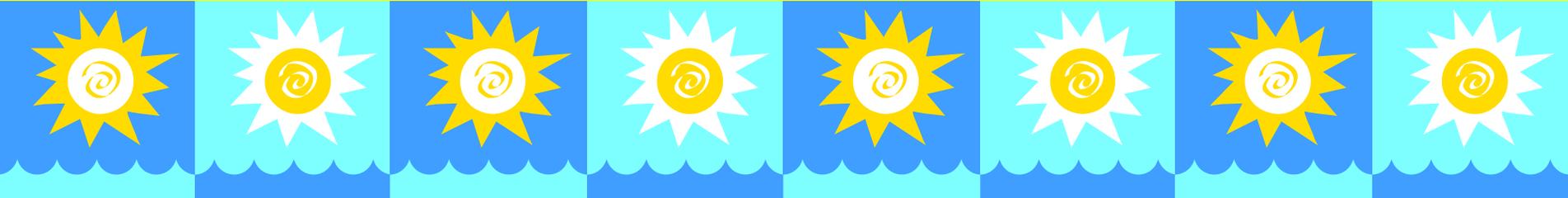
**of conveying the deadly consequences of this disease. It is always about choice and decision making.**



We need to equip health care providers, social workers, educators, etc. with training around death and dying.

The first step for social workers in the future is planning:

**economic imperative**  
**moral imperative**



We are at the crossroads - social workers can take the initiative and demonstrate courage, leadership and great vision. But it is the only road to take - or the effect on our people will be decisive and catastrophic.



“By denying the simple facts about AIDS we recreate the mystique, the horror, and the shame and stigma.

The struggle against AIDS is essentially a struggle for basic human rights.”

(Judge Edwin Cameron, August 2002).

Are the poor entitled to the same HIV/AIDS medicines as the rich?  
Will economic, social and health apartheid around HIV/AIDS result in another uprising in South Africa?

Social workers, arm yourselves with your knowledge, your skills and your compassion. You are commissioned to serve the weak and vulnerable, the disempowered and the poor. People living and dying from HIV and AIDS are demanding your advocacy, your voice, your commitment to ending the War on AIDS.

# AFRICAN SKY BLUE

(Johnny Clegg and Jaluka)



African sky blue, your children wait for  
the dawn

African sky blue, soon a new day will be  
born

African sky blue, African sky blue  
Will you bless my life

African sunshine, soon you will warm your  
children's eyes

The African sunshine will dance and meet  
your morning light

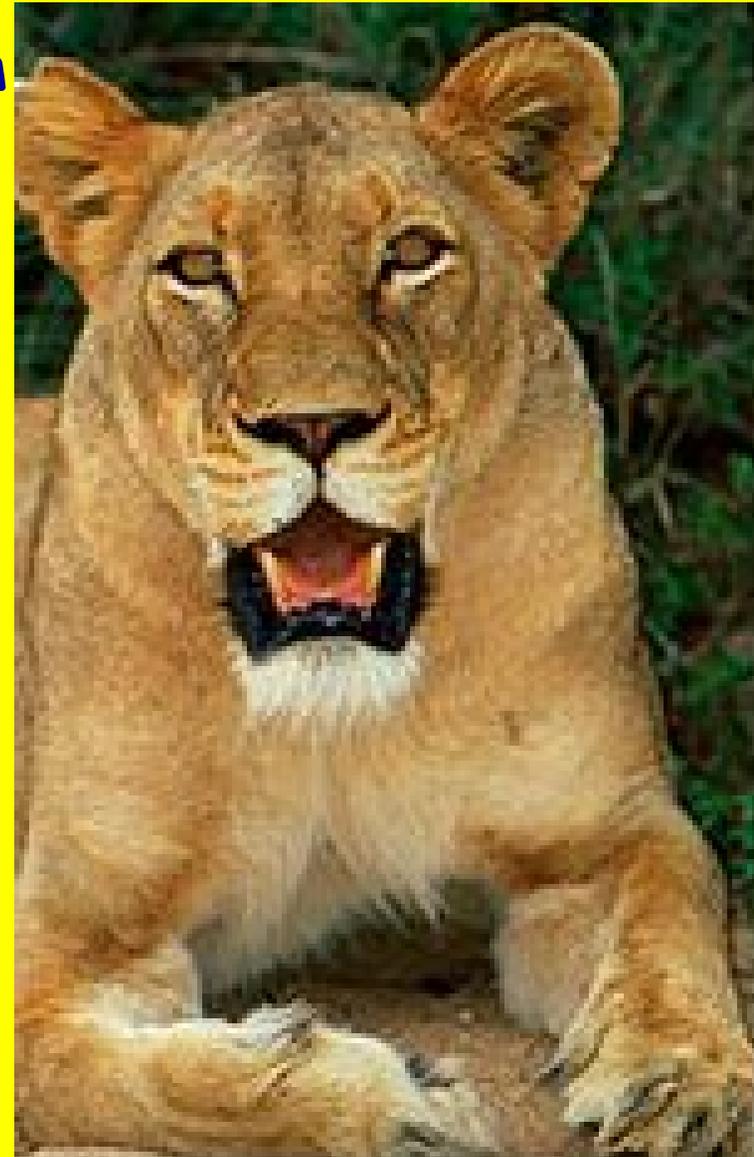
African sunshine, African sunshine  
Will you bless my life

Oh will you bless my life, oh will you bless  
my life

Oh will you bless my life

What can I know, what can I dream  
What can I hope, what will the  
future bring  
You shine through me, but will you  
see me through  
African Sky Blue

African thunderstorm  
Your soldiers march through the air  
The African rain will fall  
And wash away all your tears  
African falling rain, African falling  
rain  
Will you bless my life  
Oh will you bless my life





The warrior is now a worker, and  
his war is underground

With his eyes caught in the  
darkness, he looks the bleeding  
veins of gold

When the smoking rock face  
murmurs, he always thinks of  
you

African Sky Blue, will you see me  
through

In memory of Nkosi Johnson, AIDS warrior  
and role model, aged 12.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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