

# The Prospects of Paulo Freire's Methods in Higher Education in Africa

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# PAULO FREIRE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

- **Context of colonialism**
- **Anti-Apartheid and Liberation struggles**
- **Strategies for de-colonization**
  - Black consciousness – Steve Biko, Barney Pityana – African Renaissance
  - Re-thinking education
  - Rethinking church organization – small Christian communities
  - Popular education and community development
  - Adult/Continuing education and deepening democracy in Africa
  - Community theatre (development, citizenship, literacy)
  - Rhodes must fall ....

# FANON, FREIRE AND CABRAL

- **Freire's input into African liberation struggles**
  - Solidarity – physical & spiritual
  - Conceptual, ethical and political framework
- **Freire's learnings from the African liberation experiences**
  - Varied colonial and anti-colonial experiences (Context)
- **Higher Education as part of the wider struggles**
  - Self knowledge
  - Creating space to learn & lead
  - Critical consciousness
  - Action-Reflection-Action-Reflection

# Development Education Programme (DEP)

- **Eastern Africa** - Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action (DELTA) - participatory community
- **West Africa** - Development Education and Leadership Service (DELES)
- **Southern Africa** - Training for Transformation (Anne Hope and Sally Timmel)
- 1990 to form a network known as the **African Development Education Network (ADEN)** - Harare, Zimbabwe

# TFT AT ARRUPE JESUIT UNIVERSITY

- **B.A. Hons in Transformational Leadership**
  - Working to support the cultivation of a new level of leadership & networks
- **Part of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU)**
  - Jesuit University as “social project” and “place of Reconciliation”
  - Global Citizenship
- **TFT in Practice**
  - De-centralization and networking
  - Partnerships with universities

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**The African University is under siege from the demands of global neo-liberal economic pressures and local political autocracy.**

1. How can African Universities create and defend spaces for cultivating critical consciousness.
2. What strategies could help the development of a new breed of transformational leaders who can contribute to the struggles against consumerism and market driven cultures?
3. How can Universities give hope to the young people of Africa?
4. Higher education institutions in Africa are being turned into corporate entities. Is there any hope for education, critical consciousness and democracy?
5. How can global solidarity for social justice be widened and deepened through higher education?