

# **OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

**ActionAid South Africa Calls for Dialogue, Social Cohesion and an End to Anti-Migrant sentiments**

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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **ACTIONAID SOUTH AFRICA CALLS FOR DIALOGUE, SOCIAL COHESION AND AN END TO ANTI-MIGRANT SENTIMENTS**

ActionAid South Africa is deeply concerned by the increasing incidents of violence, intimidation, and hostility directed towards migrants and foreign nationals in various communities across the country. As an organization committed to human rights, social justice, and the dignity of all people, we unequivocally condemn all forms of violence and actions that threaten social cohesion and undermine the constitutional values upon which South Africa is founded.

ActionAid South Africa believes that addressing these tensions requires a nuanced and constructive approach. While public discourse shaped around anti-migrant sentiments requires objectivity and not mere labels that are by themselves problematic, there is a need to create space for meaningful engagement that can address its root causes and contribute to lasting solutions.

We recognize that many communities are experiencing significant socio-economic challenges, including unemployment, inequality and inadequate service delivery. These challenges, however, cannot justify violence, discrimination or the targeting of migrants and foreign nationals. The protection of human dignity must remain non-negotiable.

We believe that sustainable peace can only be achieved through honest conversations, mutual understanding and collective efforts to address the underlying drivers of conflict. We therefore call upon government, civil society, faith-based organizations, and community leaders to work together to promote unity and reject violence in all its forms.

South Africa's future depends on our ability to uphold the values of solidarity, dignity, equality, and justice. We must reject violence and division and instead build a society where all people can live in safety, dignity, and peace.

Signed:

Sakhile Zungu

Country Programme Manager

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### **About ActionAid South Africa**

ActionAid South Africa is a rights-based organization working for gender justice, good governance and the eradication of poverty. We challenge patriarchy and extractive economic systems, amplify the voices of women and young people to build agency through grassroots organising, partnerships and feminist alternatives.