



**BREAKING THROUGH THE BACKLASH**  
**Transformative Encounters Between LGBTI People and Churches in Africa**  
 24 – 26 June 2019, Olive Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

**CO-FACILITATORS:** Bella Matambanadzo & Davis Mac-Iyalla

<b>MONDAY 24 JUNE 2019</b>		
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SESSION</b>
19.00	<b>Breaking through the backlash: Transformative encounters between LGBTI people and the churches in Africa</b> A public event at the Diakonia Centre followed by a cocktail reception.	<b>A</b>
<b>TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2019</b>		
08.00	<b>Registration at Olive Convention Centre</b> , cnr. Somsteu Road and Sylvester Ntuli Road, Durban	
09.00	<b>Reading the signs of our times</b> Opening address. Expectations of this convening from participants. Panel response to expectations expressed by participants: <i>Nomabelu Mvambo-Dandala, Diakonia Council of Churches</i> <i>Thabo Msibi, Durban Lesbian &amp; Gay Community and Health Centre</i> <i>Teboho Klaas, The Other Foundation</i>	<b>B</b>
10.00	<b>Analysing progress and backlash in the churches in Africa</b> <i>Hanzline Davids, Inclusive and Affirming Ministries</i>	<b>C</b>
11.00	<b>BREAK</b>	
11.15	Breakaway group discussions: <b>What</b> are the signs of progress towards LGBTI equality and freedom that we have seen in the churches in the past 3 years and who has driven it? <b>What</b> are the signs of backlash and where is it coming from in the churches?	<b>D</b>
12.00	<b>Learning loop: The signs of our times</b> Interview-style feedback from small group discussions.	<b>E</b>
13.00	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14.00	<b>Interpreting the backlash and building on progress</b> Interview-style panel discussion with participant engagement.	<b>F</b>
15.00	Breakaway group discussions: <b>How</b> has progress towards LGBTI equality and freedom been achieved in the churches in the past 3 years? <b>Why</b> is there a backlash and how powerful might it grow?	<b>G</b>
15.15	<b>BREAK</b>	
15.30	<b>Learning loop: Interpreting backlash and progress</b> Interview-style feedback from small group discussions.	<b>H</b>
16.00	Depart to Edgewood College, School of Education, University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal.	
17.30	<b>Breaking the backlash at its source: Redesigning theological education for inclusion and dignity of LGBTI people</b> A panel discussion facilitated by Thabo Msibi, Dean of the UKZN School of Education and Chairperson of the Durban Lesbian and Gay Centre. A finger dinner and networking will follow the panel discussion.	<b>I</b>

WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019		
09.00	<b>Transforming backlash into breakthrough: Strategies to seize the moment</b> Interview-style panel discussion with participant engagement.	J
10.00	Breakaway group discussions: <b>How</b> can we seize the moment of the current spotlight on LGBTI issues in the churches to transform the backlash into even deeper and more direct engagement about the core issues at stake? <b>Where</b> should we focus our efforts?	K
11.00	<b>BREAK</b>	
11.15	<b>Learning loop: Transforming backlash into breakthrough</b> Interview-style feedback from small group discussions.	L
11.45	<b>Beyond the backlash: Pathways to progress</b> Breakaway group discussions: <b>What practical ways forward</b> should we focus on to transform the backlash into progress?	M
12.30	<b>Learning loop: Pathways to progress</b> Interview-style feedback from small group discussions.	N
13.00	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14.00	<b>Beyond the backlash: Pathways to progress</b> Interview-style panel discussion with participant engagement.	O
15.00	<b>BREAK</b>	
15.15	Transfer to Central City Mission yaseThekwini (Methodist Church), 74 Samora Machel Street, Durban	
16.00	<b>Service of confession and affirmation</b> A liturgical service of confession and affirmation to wrap up our reflections.	P
17.00	Transfer to closing reception.	
18.00	<b>Closing reception</b>	Q

This encounter is convened bytogether with the Diakonia Council of Churches and the Durban Lesbian & Gay Community Centre, and in partnership with the Open Society Foundations and the Arcus Foundation.