



31 Quinn Street, Fordsburg, Newtown, South Africa. P.O.BOX 31267
Braamfontein, South Africa 2017
Telephone: 27 11 4921103, Mobile: + 27 072 358 8611,
Website: www.hurisa.org.za, Email: info@hurisa.org.za

HURISA STRATEGY TO AVOID SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

Human Rights Institute of South Africa wish to inform its partners and communities about the reality of the Coronavirus which originated from Wuhan, in China from November 2019. The virus is spreading around the world and has arrived in South Africa. The government is updated on developments of COVID-19 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on preventative measures to implement for ending the spread of the virus. The number of people infected by the virus in South Africa has doubled, especially in Gauteng Province since 15 March 2020. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases has set up a **COVID-19 HOTLINE 0800 029 999**.

Here are the details:

“IF YOU DISPLAY ANY SIGN OF THE COVID 19, DON’T GO TO YOUR DOCTOR / PHAMACIST/NURSE AND INFECT THEM OR EVERYBODY IN THE PRACTICE. BY CALLING THE HOTLINE, SOMEONE WILL COME TO YOU TO HAVE YOU TESTED FOR THE VIRUS. SHARE WITH EVERYONE”

We are therefore required to abstain from disseminating information circulated around from social media unless proved from this national authority or the WHO. Please let us all be careful of the spread of information that will cause more harm than prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

In terms of this HURISA has placed sweeping preventative measures to contribute towards government plan to overcome COVID-19 as of 16 March 2020 in line with its human rights programme implemented nationally, regionally and internationally.

National

- The organisation will only allow partners or visitors at its premises through confirmed appointments
- Please contact us from land line **011 492 1103** or mobile **072 358 8611** , **09:00-16:00**
- All meetings, workshops, seminars, media or launch of human rights reports will be conducted for not more than 50 people with official confirmation for attendance of specific event(s). No uninvited or unconfirmed participants will be allowed at HURISA events
- HURISA will administer hand sanitisers on arrival, during and departing from its premises, as well as at its events
- HURISA will continue avoiding the risk of spread of COVID-19 by cancellation of invitations received from partners organising events for attendance of over 100 participants. We will discourage participation by experts, speakers or participants from the high risk countries listed by the government (refer to HURISA social media platform to access President Ramaphosa’s, 15 March 2020 Statement).

- In this regard partners will be required to inform and confirm with HURISA timeously the number of people expected to attend or participate at any event organised by partners, including indicating whether or not invited experts, speakers and participants are from high risk countries.
- HURISA will also avoid the risk of spread of COVID-19 through collaboration with partners that seek to implement preventative measures on COVID-19.

Regional

- HURISA conducts its human rights programme at SADC and Continental levels
- HURISA will cooperate and follow protocols for effective preventative measures implemented by the government to overcome COVID-19 in South Africa and beyond.
- HURISA will ensure colleagues and regional partners adhere to COVID-19 preventative measures, particularly, by providing hand sanitisers, encouraging the washing of hands with water and soap, avoiding shaking of hands and keeping required distance from each other and if necessary taking of medical tests as required by the government.
- HURISA will ensure that only necessary or urgent trips are embarked by the organisation at regional level for both colleagues and regional partners

International

- HURISA engages at UN and BRICS levels
- HURISA has sought to avoid the risk of spread of COVID-19 by cancellation of all planned overseas trips until further notice by the government.
- The organisation has also considered cancellation of all partner (s) and visitor (s) from high risk countries to HURISA for engagement on programme, meetings, and initiatives, as well as others beyond the high risk countries in effort to avoid the potential spread of COVID-19, until further notice from the government.

HURISA wish all colleagues, partners from national, regional and international organisations working towards building a culture of respect of human rights to work together towards avoiding the spread of Coronavirus with much vigour and resilience. The government is making efforts to educate and raise awareness about the COVID19 to citizens. However more still need to be done to effectively reach communities living in rural area, including in townships, hotels, informal settlements. Communication about COVID19 need to be accessible in local languages and use of affordable media platforms, TV channels, community radio stations and print media.

The Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs and Department of Human Settlements Water & Sanitation have started playing crucial roles of reaching communities from the ground and should consider partnering with community based structure and CSOs for ensuring communities in these areas receive information and the necessary basic support.

For more information

Please contact HURISA on the following platforms

- Landline : 011 492 1103
- Mobile : 072 358 8611
- Email : info@hurisa.org.za
- Twitter : [@infohurisa](https://twitter.com/infohurisa)
- Facebook: HURISApage
- Website: www.hurisa.org.za