



ECONOMIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE TRUST

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ACTIVIST SCHOOL

Why an activist school?

At a time when Namibia is still rated as a highly unequal country with the third highest income inequality in the world, there has been a declining interest in activism. Without people willing to become agents of change, we cannot achieve the fundamental changes needed to build a better and more equal society. The Economic and Social Justice (ESJT) therefore identified the urgent need to build a new layer of younger activists to find solutions to inequality and secure a brighter future for all Namibians.

What are the school's aims?

To break apathy and hopelessness and to develop the participants' skills for active citizenship.

To equip the participants with an understanding and practical skills to become activists in a variety of social movements such as youth organisations, trade unions, community-based organisations etc.

What is the school's approach?

The school will provide hands-on and minds-on guided learning activities in a free-thinking atmosphere to help the participants to be creative, innovative, and radical and to understand themselves as capable of initiating positive socio-economic and political changes.

The monthly session will include Interactive seminars, roundtable discussions, film screenings and engagement with community-based organisations to innovate fresh ideas of effective activism against socio-economic injustices.

The form and contents of the activist school will significantly be decided upon by the participants themselves so that the school becomes an example of participatory democracy. The ESJT will merely play a facilitator role by assisting with logistical arrangements, developing the curriculum and seminar materials.

Which from does the school take?

The activist school will is currently offered in 2 forms. Firstly, there are monthly events for 20-25 aspiring activists from diverse grassroots backgrounds that are committed to challenging socio-economic and political issues that affect their communities. These monthly events will explore a variety of socio-economic and political issues and debate possible action to influence positive socio-economic change. The topics covered include inequality, unemployment and poverty; decent housing as a human right; the struggle for a living wage; climate justice and the ecological crisis, political economy; social protection, gender justice and more. The first 2 groups completed their courses in 2022 and 2023.

A second form of activist schools was introduced in 2023, consisting of a 5-day residential course. It was piloted successfully in Okahandja and Windhoek and drew participants from all over Namibia.

Who should apply to participate in the school?

The school is open to people who want to play an active role in fighting for economic and social justice in the years to come. They can come from various backgrounds such as youth organisations, trade unions, NGOs, community-based organisations etc. A specific emphasis is placed on young activists.

For more information & application submission, contact Rinaani at 081 561 5191 or Nafimane at 0817031837 or Herbert at 081 124 3438 or email us at: [esit1\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:esit1[at]gmail.com)