

Power Concedes Nothing Without A Demand: How Civil Society Works to Catalyze the Promises of the SA Constitution

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South Africa's Constitution sets out to shift power towards previously excluded people. The fulfilment of these promises depends on ordinary people and civil society insisting that they matter. Civil society en-acts these ideas in creative and conventional ways.

Community Partners



Youth Capital (YC)

- A youth unemployment campaign centered on community building, research, and advocacy
- **Project Goals:** Facilitate conversations using the Youth Capital conversation card game (*Thetha nge* Unemployment) to explore the power of conversation in tackling youth unemployment across three different groups: business, political, and religious leaders

Center for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (CASAC)

- An initiative led by progressive people who seek to advance the South African Constitution as the platform for democratic politics and the transformation of society
- **Project Goals:** Prepare a policy brief about the possible regulation of short-term rentals (STRs) and Airbnb in Cape Town for CASAC to use in deciding whether to add a public policy campaign around housing to its docket

Research Description

Youth Capital:

We facilitated 20 conversations with leaders in each group and a YC team member. Below is an example of participants from each group, along with the number of conversations conducted for each group:

- Business Leaders (9): [Raymond Ndlovu](#) - Co-Founder of *Black Elephant Vintners and Serendipity Ventures*
- Religious Leaders (6): [Archbishop Thabo Makgoba](#) - *Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town*
- Political Leaders (5): [Brett Herron](#) - *Secretary General of the GOOD Party*

Each conversation was ~30 minutes in duration, engaged ~9 cards (or questions), and each conversant filled out a survey before and after the conversation, and has the option of participating in a longitudinal study a year from now.

CASAC:

The policy brief, in the form of a detailed slide deck, for CASAC includes:

- Relevant constitutional standards in regard to short term rental regulation for both Cape Town and Barcelona
- A problem description: 4 dimensions
- A case study of Barcelona
- A stakeholder analysis: 8 stakeholders
- Policy recommendations
- A full text dossier

Project-Specific Results

Youth Capital:

We found that after playing the conversation game, **11 of 20** participants revised their views on the causes of youth unemployment after dialogue, often drawing directly from what they learned, heard, or reflected on together. Furthermore, when participants truly listened and attempted to connect with one another, their responses in their post-survey and during their conversation revealed a shift in perspective and a willingness to engage and grow through dialogue.

CASAC:

We recommended that The City of Cape Town (and other relevant groups) closely follow and enforce the changed tax classifications for STRs made in the most recent City budget, and that The City of Cape Town (and other relevant groups) with research capacity, independently review and evaluate the claimed impact of Airbnb.

Overarching Takeaways

Youth Capital

- Youth Unemployment is a significant issue that heavily affects the youth of Cape Town, South Africa
- Engaged conversations surrounding this difficult topic, when coupled with specific factual information and organized reflection, can serve to shift perspectives and increase the understanding of why improving employment matters

CASAC

- Cape Town is soon to become the world leader in number of Airbnbs
- The impact of Airbnb on Cape Town needs further investigation and evaluation