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**Freedom Day: CoRMSA calls for Inclusive and Equal Freedom for All.**

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) joins South Africa in commemorating the Freedom Month in this month of April. Freedom Day, on 27 April is an annual celebration of South Africa's first non-racial democratic elections of 1994. It is significant because it marks the end of an apartheid government and regime that suppressed blacks from expressing and accessing their human rights. The 1994 election paved way towards a new democratic dispensation and a new constitution for the country. Therefore, Freedom Day, gives everyone in South Africa an opportunity to reflect on our democratic progress in the transformation of our societies and to examine our human rights challenges more than 27 years later. These elections led to the birth of our progressive constitution that enshrines all the human rights for everyone within the borders of South Africa.

It is unfortunate and disturbing that we are celebrating our "Freedom" for all during these difficult times amid of natural disaster that has destabilised, displaced, and cause loss of lives in KwaZulu Natal Province. May the souls of those who lost their lives rest in peace. Furthermore, it is very alarming and discouraging for everyone especially asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to enjoy their freedom and human rights as enshrined in the constitution due to the uncalled for growing number of life threatening xenophobia incidences and attacks around the country. These unwelcome and inhuman social ills have divided and deepen inequalities in our communities to "Us" and "Them" instead of "We and "Us" not you and them. This betrays the sacrifices made by our human rights activists such as Charlotte Maxeke, Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Hellen Joseph and others that were meant to secure our progressive and inclusive democracy and freedom or all.

Building on the above, CoRMSA has sadly learnt and observed the gross disrespect of human rights engineered by a number of social movements that claims to be advocating for a better South Africa whereas they are advocating for a gross inequality, racial discrimination and social division amongst our society and communities. These Social movements have taken their toll to the migrant communities, wreaking havoc by moving door to door asking for documentation which subsequently infringes the freedom of movement of migrants. These unlawful acts have left a number of migrants homeless, loss of property and in some cases loss of lives.



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CoRMSA call upon the South African Human Rights Commission and the Law enforcement agencies to monitor, discourage and hold accountable those who violates one's human rights for an inclusive and equal freedom for all.

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