

# **JASA**

## Justice Alliance of South Africa

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **JASA BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICANS ARE FAILING TO FACE THE FACT THAT XENOPHOBIA IS PARTLY A LEGACY OF APARTHEID**

JASA believes that we need to think more deeply about the root causes of Xenophobic violence. We suggest there are three such causes:

1. We need to recognise that the racism of apartheid, and the xenophobia in the new South Africa stem from the same flawed belief that people who are from different ethnic or national backgrounds are fundamentally different from ourselves and thus of lesser value and humanity. South Africans who were victims of the apartheid regime may have a tendency to have recourse to violence when times are hard. A person who has received abuse in the past, more readily resorts to violence when under pressure.
2. South Africans need to move away from the mentality which relies on the State for homes and jobs. The threat of foreigners taking jobs should challenge us to demonstrate that we can work harder, and provide as good a service to our employers as anybody else.
3. Only then, as the third root cause, can we point to broken dreams brought about by the failure of government to provide more homes and more jobs.

*“Standing up for Justice in the public square”*

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