



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Khanya College Launches Its 40th Anniversary and Jozi Book Fair Theme

This year, Khanya College marks its 40th anniversary. As part of these celebrations, Khanya will launch the theme for the 18th Jozi Book Fair (JBF), **'Education for Liberation', going back to our Soweto roots!** on 16 May 2026 at Khanya College's House of Movements.

Founded in 1986 in the midst of the struggle against apartheid and apartheid education, Khanya College's mission: *education for liberation* was to provide black students access to tertiary education at the white universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand. Khanya students were required to support trade union, and community struggles as part of their curriculum.

Jozi Book Fair Theme: Education for Liberation

The JBF was formed in 2009 to respond to the already weak culture of reading and writing culture in South Africa. According to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2021, 81% of Grade 4 learners in South Africa cannot read for meaning in any language. While the South African government is aware of the cognitive problems affecting children, they have no plan and no budget to deal with this.

The 18th JBF theme **'Education for Liberation'** takes place against a deepening education crisis in South Africa. More than Thirty years after democracy, the education system in South Africa continues to produce inequality, while elites access well-resourced private schools. Millions of working-class children attend overcrowded and underfunded public schools often with no libraries, poor infrastructure, and limited access to books and reading culture. Children from poor communities continue to be denied the basic tools needed to read critically, and participate fully in society.

50 years of Soweto Uprising

Khanya's 40th Anniversary coincides with the 50th anniversary of Soweto Uprising, against apartheid and apartheid education. The spirit of Soweto is an indictment on South Africa's democracy, and will not rest until new generations redeem the struggle for liberation. The theme demands that we critically assess this society and the education system(s) that reproduce impoverishment, unemployment and class inequality in South Africa today. We need to use the opportunity to examine education at every level of society, from the cradle to the grave. At the same time, we cannot wait on an irresponsible government, how do we encourage our peers – children, youth and women - to read consistently and become critical thinkers?

Education for liberation is about supporting and nurturing intellectual curiosity, creativity, collective learning, and the courage to question injustice. It is about building spaces where learning strengthens communities, values people's experiences, and opens possibilities for a more equal future.

The JBF is the only book fair that provides a safe space for working people, community organisations, and social movements to reflect on these unfinished struggles and to advance a culture of reading, writing and critical thinking.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover this event.

Date & Time: Saturday, 16 May 2026, 10am

Venue: House of Movements, 123 Pritchard Street, Johannesburg

RSVP by 12 May 2026 to info@khanyacollege.org.za / 061 383 8992

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