



**ASSITEJ International -
The International Association of Theatre and
Performing Arts for Children and Young People**

06/04/2021

To the South African Government, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture

Re: The National Arts Council of South Africa

ASSITEJ unites people throughout the world who make theatre for children and young people. ASSITEJ is dedicated to the artistic, cultural and educational rights of children and young people across the globe and advocates on behalf of all children. The members of ASSITEJ are national centres, professional networks, and individuals from around 100 countries across the world.

ASSITEJ stands in solidarity with South African artists and creative practitioners who are demanding accountability and transparency with regards to relief funding for the arts. We call on the South African government, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, and the National Arts Council of South Africa to create an enabling environment for the arts and culture sector in South Africa during this time of global crisis, and to provide much-needed relief to the artists and creative and cultural practitioners who have been dealt a double blow, by COVID and then by the organisations that were designed to support the sector.

We are seeing the support for artists failing all over the world, especially in situations where such a failure of support has enormous, negative impact – on children, education, families, health and social cohesion. The support package in South Africa that was promised and then, according to our information, not properly delivered, dashed the hopes of survival for thousands - not just artists, but those people the artists serve.

This situation is devastating for the reconstruction of a civil society. Arts and culture must be central to recovery, for the sake of future generations as well as the children and families who are suffering through these times. We understand the intention was to support artists as a vital part of our working society: as an international association, we are on standby to share experiences on how this great challenge is being dealt with, from a global perspective.

Sincerely,

Sue Giles AM

President

ASSITEJ International

<https://www.assitej-international.org/>

Seat of ASSITEJ: 16 Via Matteotti - 40129 BOLOGNA

Secretary-General: Louis Valente Sorenson

e-mail: sg@assitej-international.org