

The year in review

DIALOGUE ACTIVITIES

The year was again a busy one and the Trust and its partners hosted 24 events in total around the country. Speakers included public officials, trade unionists, international and local academics, activists and independent analysts.

The topics covered in the Wolpe open dialogues, lectures and seminars represent the broad range of socio-political and economic issues concerning South Africans at the present time. Themes covered this year included democracy, race, various dimensions of the 'developmental state' and questions of citizenship, society and development. The following examples are a good reflection of the range of topics covered in all the centres this year.

In Cape Town, a lively debate was held on Cape Town's political and democratic culture with the DA's Helen Zille, the ANC's Tasneem Essop and the ID's Simon Grinrod and Anthony Altbeker spoke on his book *'the dirty work of democracy: policing a country at war with itself.'* In Durban Professor Fatima Meer spoke on activism for democracy and Archbishop Ndungane spoke on the role of Africans in the development agenda. In Johannesburg, Professor Peter Evans from the University of California looked at the issue of the developmental state while Justice Zac Yacoob touched on the role of the judiciary and socio-economic rights within the framework of the developmental state. In the Eastern Cape Neville Alexander presented a talk on racial identity, citizenship and nation-building and Lionel October spoke on black economic empowerment.

From the attendance lists, it is possible to see that Cape Town events are drawing many more people from local government and business than ever before, as well as journalists from a range of print and radio media. The Johannesburg and East London events also draw a broad cross section of people, while the Durban lectures attract a mix of academics and activists. Some of the events held at other venues such as Grahamstown, Alice and Bisho in the Eastern Cape draw small but committed audiences from the surrounding areas. The size and composition of the audiences vary from centre to centre and, to a large extent, depend on the topic and speakers. In general, audiences range from 80 to 250 people.

