29 December 2021

H.E. Ambassador Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative
Mission of South Africa to the United Nations
333 East 38th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10016-2772

Dear Ambassador Joyini,

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and members of the SPSSI UN/NGO team wish to express our deepest condolences to the people of South Africa at the passing of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, the revered global and moral leader of our time.

Archbishop Tutu, a champion of human rights, fought for social justice through his life, his voice and his powerful work as the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches and Chairman of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He embodied the values of compassion, empathy, and morality. As SPSSI endeavors to continue our efforts towards social justice at the United Nations, we hold tightly to Archbishops Tutu’s optimism and faith in human beings when he noted that “[d]espite all of the ghastliness in the world, human beings are made for goodness. The ones that are held in high regard are not militarily powerful, nor even economically prosperous. They have a commitment to try and make the world a better place.”

At his recognition as recipient of the 1984 Nobel Prize for Peace, the Nobel Awards Committee asserted that Archbishop Tutu and the people of South Africa “…with their concern for human dignity, fraternity, and democracy, incite the admiration of the world.”

Please accept our deepest sympathies.

Sincerely,

Linda Silka
President, SPSSI

David Livert
Dr. David Livert
SPSSI/UN Main Representative

Corann Okorodudu
Dr. Corann Okorodudu
SPSSI/UN Representative

Deborah Fish Ragin
Dr. Deborah Fish Ragin
SPSSI/UN Representative
CC:  Anila Balkissoon  
SPSSI Executive Director

Sarah Mancoll  
SPSSI Policy Director