



Foreword



Much is spoken about thinking globally and acting locally. And sometimes thinking globally with all its manifest complexity can defy our comprehension as to where the overlap occurs and where we, as individuals, might make a difference. Linking communities across the world offers that opportunity; the opportunity to understand the impact of global decisions within a local context. This knowledge brings with it the opportunity to act constructively to redress the imbalance that exists and which globalisation can exacerbate.

Through linking, the complex and asymmetrical nature of global interdependence becomes evident as people from varying economic, political and social situations, connect and challenge each other's understanding of the world. Improved security, justice, prosperity and peace are possible only once we have mutuality, reciprocity and respect and value the worth of others equally.

It is important to reflect upon the ways in which our own perspectives, experiences, political commitments, wider aims in life and social identities shape our understanding. Linking equips us to learn more; not just about people who have different religions, cultures and beliefs, but also allows us to take a step back and analyse our own behaviour – how do our actions, whether we think them to be small or large, negative or positive, affect those in other nations who may live half a world away?

This squaring of the relationship – from ourselves to those we link with, which is then reflected back onto us so that we can learn about ourselves and see what we look like in the eyes of others, is a key outcome of linking. The changes, in some instances will be small, but when all these are added together the impact can be groundbreaking. In the same way that technology has changed the way many live on a day-to-day basis, so the fostering of relationships through linking can alter for the better the way the world works and how people view others, within their own country and in different nations, so that together we can achieve a different and better world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desmond M Tutu'. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Desmond M Tutu Archbishop Emeritus

