

## **A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

The Motsepe Foundation's mission is: **To engage all stakeholders in nation building, and undertake philanthropic initiatives, that will improve the lives of all marginalised South African people.**

This is interlinked to the Motsepe Foundation Women's Unit mandate to **initiate interventions that will bring social, economic and political empowerment to women and girls.**

What we know is that:

The youth make up a third of South Africa's population (aged 18-34), and the average age of South Africa's population is 26 years.

**A platform for youth to contribute to national debates to shape dialogue and to contribute to policy that impacts on their future:** *Universities In Dialogue* (UiD) is a new initiative driven by the Motsepe Foundation.

In order to elevate the voices of young people, to drive policy and share solutions for the problems facing their generation, these dialogues will be held regularly with universities across the country.

The UiD platform will channel ideas and help shape society. The UiD platform will channel student activism toward action and transformation at all levels (locally and nationally, as well as socially, economically and politically).

UiD is a space for students to share their most pressing concerns, and collaborate with others for resolutions.

### **Challenges women need to overcome:**

The WEF informs us that it will take more than 100 years to close the global gender gap.

The Global Gender Index which measures the gender gap in four main areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.