

The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust

NEWS RELEASE

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David Astor Awards Honoured by Archbishop Tutu's Support

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, the veteran anti-apartheid campaigner and Nobel Peace Laureate, has become Patron of The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust.

This comes as the Trust marks five years of its innovative professional development programme to promote, strengthen and support independent journalism in Africa.

“We are deeply honoured and grateful to have the support of such an eminent figure whose high moral standing is recognised not only in Africa but throughout the world,” said David Burke, Chairman of the Trust.

“Archbishop Tutu's patronage will be a great inspiration for the young journalists that take part in our programme,” he said.

The first black South African Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu was an outspoken critic of the apartheid regime and served as chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission after its collapse.

Since 2007, he has chaired The Elders, a group of world leaders working to promote peace and human rights.

The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust is a UK human rights charity that invests in the career development of exceptionally promising and committed young African journalists.

Its aim is to build an expanding regional peer-support network of these next-generation media leaders to promote good governance, defend human rights, and further socio-political development.

The Trust currently makes three awards annually to early-career print journalists working in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The awards involve three-month work experience attachments with newspapers in the UK or South Africa, followed by continuing long-term professional support. A meeting of the full award winners' network is held in one of the three countries each year.

The Trust is named in honour of the late, distinguished editor of *The Observer* newspaper in London from 1948 to 1975, who was a lifelong champion of African development, human rights, and social justice causes.

Endorsing the project in 2008, Nelson Mandela said: "I will always remember the generosity and loyalty of David, both as a friend and supporter of our movement and South African democracy. The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust honours his memory in a fitting and meaningful way."

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For more information:

Jim Meyer

Tel: +44 (0)20 7424 0049

Mob: +44 (0)7942 586630

E-mail: jim.meyer@dajat.org

Website: <http://www.dajat.org>