

African Traditional Religion and Human Flourishing: An appraisal of the situation of a black woman's voice during the TRC Hearings

Lerato Kobe*

ABSTRACT

This paper draws on a well-known narration of “The Gugulethu Seven Incident from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) proceedings with specific reference to testimonies of the mothers of the Gugulethu Seven. Specifically, the paper uses Mrs Konile’s testimony as a case study: testimony of a black woman whose son was murdered by the apartheid government’s security forces. During the TRC hearings, Mrs Konile ‘failed’ to effectively narrate her story which resulted in her testimony being dismissed as being incoherent. This paper examines the underlying attributes of Mrs Konile’s testimony, revisits why she was considered “incapable” of articulating her experience in a convincing manner. The analysis aims to acknowledge, identify and give insights about this woman’s testimony from an African women theologian viewpoint, (specifically with references to Isixhosa cultural perspective), in light of Nussbaum’s observation that “functions, not simply capabilities, are what render a life fully human”.¹

1 Nussbaum M, 2000, “Women’s Capabilities and Social Justice.” *Journal of Human Development*, Vol, No. 2 200