

## Alternative Dispute Resolution System ADR UBUNTU

## **ADR CARES**

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ADR UBUNTU is driven by the belief that improving access to justice for the poor is both a moral and legal imperative for legal practitioners in South Africa. In a country where many cannot afford lengthy and expensive court processes, we offer a practical solution—an accessible mediation platform that empowers individuals to resolve disputes swiftly, affordably, and confidentially.

Rooted in the spirit of Ubuntu, which values human dignity, compassion, and reconciliation, our approach promotes fairness and community-based resolution. ADR UBUNTU bridges the gap between justice and affordability, ensuring all South Africans can resolve conflicts without unnecessary legal and financial barriers.

ADR CARES is dedicated to launching impactful community initiatives that serve two key purposes. Firstly, we aim to educate the public, businesses, and individuals on how mediation can be a practical, effective tool for resolving everyday disputes—without the financial and emotional strain often associated with legal proceedings. Secondly, we are committed to providing access to pro bono mediation services for those who cannot afford costly legal assistance. Through these efforts, ADR CARES empowers communities with knowledge and access, promoting peaceful, dignified, and affordable dispute resolution for all, especially the most vulnerable members of society.

We have come to understand that the success of our initiatives relies heavily on the active involvement of key community stakeholders. Partnering with organizations and individuals already dedicated to serving their communities is essential to our mission. Bridging the justice gap requires that the public be fully informed about the benefits of mediation and have unhindered access to effective mediation support.



With this in mind, we have recently completed the conceptualization and development of our first ADR CARES initiative—the ADR UBUNTU COMMUNITY MEDIATION HUB. This initiative is designed to both educate the public and provide accessible, pro bono mediation services, with 24/7 online access and, in selected areas, physical walk-in hubs offering information and in-person mediation support. While the online platform is set to launch in September 2025, we are proud to have already opened our first walk-in HUB in Mossel Bay, Southern Cape. Discussions are also progressing well to secure the support of key media partners in the region.

We are also in advanced discussions to provide several university-based legal clinics across South Africa with access to our online pro bono platform and our panel of mediators to better support the communities they serve. Additionally, proposals have been tabled to involve our trained and experienced mediators in the upskilling, training, and coaching of legal practitioners at these clinics in the practice and principles of mediation.