



*Office of the Principal and Vice Chancellor*

**Prof Puleng LenkaBula  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor  
University of South Africa (UNISA)  
05 December 2025**

**To:**

**Left-Handers Foundation**  
**By email: [mandlas@lefthandersfoundation.org](mailto:mandlas@lefthandersfoundation.org)**

**Subject: Commendation for Left-Handers**

Dear Sir/Madam

The University of South Africa (UNISA) proudly joins the global community in celebrating left-handed people across the world as we recognize their creativity, resilience, and unique perspectives.

At UNISA, we affirm that diversity is not limited to culture, language, gender, or background. It also encompasses the many ways people think, learn, and experience the world. Left-handed students, academics, and staff enrich the UNISA epistemic community with innovation, originality, and a distinctive lens through which knowledge is created, produced and shared.

We are also mindful of the historical myths, stigma, and cultural misconceptions that left-handed people on the African continent have often faced. In many communities, being left-handed has been wrongly associated with bad luck, disrespect, or negative symbolism. These beliefs have contributed to discrimination, exclusion, and, in some cases, even forced attempts to “correct” or suppress natural left-handedness. As members of the human family, we must actively work to dismantle the stigma that still lingers in some cultures and ensure that our environments are inclusive, accessible, and affirming.

As members of the UNISA epistemic community, we stand firmly against such myths and discriminatory practices. We affirm that left-handedness is a natural human variation, scientifically valid, socially normal, and deserving of full respect and acceptance. As an institution, we are committed to human dignity, social justice, and inclusive education even as we reaffirm our role in promoting knowledge that liberates, challenges harmful stereotypes, and embraces the richness of human diversity.

While left-handed people make up approximately 10% of the global population, most tools, spaces, and systems are still designed with right-handed users in mind. This often requires left-handed individuals to make significant adjustments, at times facing increased challenges or even risk of injury. Yet, despite these barriers, they continue to demonstrate exceptional adaptability, leadership, and problem-solving abilities.

As a Comprehensive Open Distance e-Learning (CODEL+) institution, we remain committed to ensuring that all environments, physical, digital, and social, are welcoming and accommodating for left-handed individuals. This includes creating awareness and designing inclusive learning spaces, tools, and resources.

To all left-handed members of the University of South Africa, the country and the global community:

As an institution, the University of South Africa not only celebrates the gift of left-handedness, but also, the deeper principle that it represents, that is, that every human being, regardless of difference, deserves dignity, acceptance, and the freedom to be authentically themselves.

Your resilience in navigating a world built for right-handed privilege is inspiring. Your creativity broadens our perspectives. Your presence strengthens our institutional commitment to equality, inclusivity, and compassion.

Best regards,

**Electronically signed:**

Professor Puleng LenkaBula  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal  
University of South Africa (UNISA)