Some new "activity boxes" for Towards Ubuntu

Clive Harber & Jeff Serf -- July 2020

Chapter 2 – A brief history of South Africa

Use an internet search engine such as Google to learn about South African history in the post-Mandela period since 1999.

Do you think that South Africa has maintained its democratic ideals?

Chapter 5 – Democratic schools

It could be argued that the core values displayed on page 24 of Towards Ubuntu are the foundations of any democratic society.

Does England in the 2020 live up to these values?

Chapter 6 – Race, racism and education

Use an internet search engine such as Google to find more recent information about (a) xenophobic disturbances in South Africa, (b) antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of racism in England and c) the BLM movement in both countries.

Do you think that non-racism is a successful outcome of the education system in either country?

Chapter 7 – Sexual responsibility and citizenship

This chapter is basically about health and sex education. Do you think these topics are still relevant? What other health-related issues have come to the fore since 2003, for example Covid-19?

What do they suggest about equality amongst the different groups with a) British and b) South African societies?

Chapter 8 - Homosexuality and human rights

Use a search engine to find out more about the **No Outsiders** programme at Parkfield Community School in Birmingham. Is this programme more about inclusion and human rights in general than LGBT rights specifically?

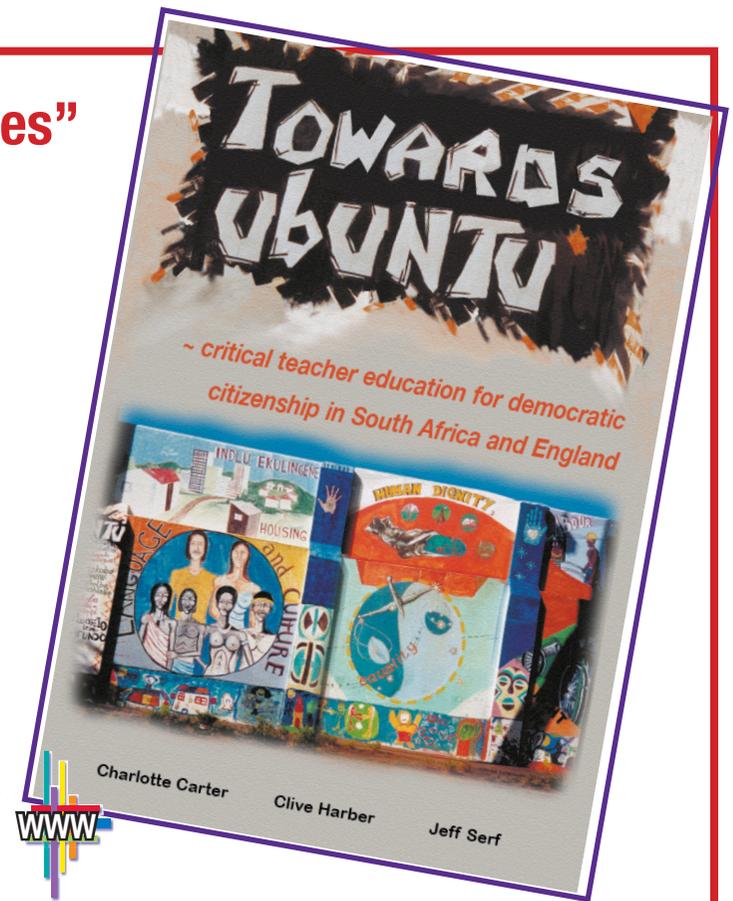**Why was there controversy about the initiative?**

Chapter 12 – Environmental Education

Many argue that there are increasing signs of climate change in both South Africa and the UK and that this is the most serious issue facing societies and education.

Should combatting climate change be the key goal of formal education, right across the curriculum?

Chapter 8 on green and sustainable development in C.Harber (2014) *Education and International Development : Theory, Practice and Issues* (Oxford:Symposium) might be of use.

Is going on a climate strike from school a more useful experience for a day or two than attending school?

Chapter 14 – Teaching controversial issues

Teaching controversial issues in the classroom has always been important but difficult. Has the advent of such fundamental and divisive issues as climate change and Brexit in England made this task even more difficult?

Has the tone of political discourse in society, and thus in the classroom, also changed in a negative way because of the use of anonymous social media and the rise of populist politicians in many countries?