Spring of 2017 was a significant moment for the IASWECE Council to meet in South Africa. The political activist Ahmed Kathrada had just crossed the threshold, leaving South Africa carrying his longstanding question, originally stated in 1994, regarding the end of apartheid: What have you done with the freedom you have gained? Kathrada was imprisoned at the same time as Nelson Mandela and is considered a giant in the movement for freedom. His story is told in the newly published book, Conversations with a Gentle Soul (PanMacmillan 2017).

Alongside this echoing question there was, and continues to be, active political unrest as more and more people are unhappy with the perceived corruption of the current leadership. Calls for country-wide strikes were common while the Council was there. I saw handmade protest signs leaning against walls in many private homes. President Jacob Zuma, in power...