



## **Honorary Doctorate in Environmental Justice**

### **Bullard, Robert Doyle (Prof)**

Often referred to as the father of environmental justice, Professor Robert Bullard is a leading figure in environmental justice scholarship and activism worldwide. Professor Bullard has dedicated his career to revealing environmental racism and its impacts, and promoting environmental and climate justice. He has published 18 books, numerous book chapters and journal articles and is one of the most highly cited environmental justice scholars worldwide. Two books are worthy of mention. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality* is considered seminal in the teaching and scholarship of environmental and climate justice. In another book, *The wrong complexion for protection: how the government response to disaster endangers African American communities*, he and Beverly Wright highlight how inadequate government responses to environmental disasters, for example, after Hurricane Katrina, unfairly impact communities of colour.

His work has contributed significantly to the conceptual foundations of intersectional justice in environmental and climate change scholarship and praxis. He has also actively contributed to environmental advocacy and has served as a witness in several high-level court cases.

Professor Bullard has won numerous awards and accolades. For example, in 2018, the Global Climate Action Summit named Dr Bullard one of 22 Climate Trailblazers. In 2019, Apolitical named him one of the world's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy, Washington State University honoured him with the William Julius Wilson Award for the Advancement of Justice, and Climate One named him the Stephen H. Schneider Award for Outstanding Climate Science Communication. In 2020, WebMD gave him its Health Heroes Trailblazer Award. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) honoured him with its Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award, the UN's highest environmental honour. In 2021, President Joe Biden named him to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council. In 2022, the University of California, Berkeley Ecology Law Quarterly gave him its Environmental Leadership Award. Georgetown University awarded him an honorary doctorate, and he was elected to join the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

South Africa and Africa have a long history of social and environmental struggles that have shaped our social, political and economic landscape. The University of Johannesburg has a firm commitment to pursuing social and climate justice, particularly for Africans and the diaspora. Today we honour an

exemplary scholar and activist who has made an immense contribution to our understanding of environmental injustice and provided us with the tools to reimagine a more equal and healthier planetary future for Africans and other marginalised groups.