

## **Human Rights – Conversations Across Generations**

### **Episode: Unity Dow**

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#### **Transcript of audio conversation**

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:04

Hi, welcome to our podcast, Human Rights, Conversations Across Generations. I'm Meredith Lockwood, founder of Lockwood Creative, a purpose-driven creative agency. And I'm here with my dad.

BERT LOCKWOOD 0:16

And I'm Professor Bert Lockwood, the director of the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights at the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:27

Together, we are your father-daughter co-hosts.

BERT LOCKWOOD 0:29

For over 50 years, I've had a front-row seat to the evolution of international human rights.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:35

And now, we're sharing that expertise with you by connecting to the powerful stories and insights of human rights voices from around the world.

BERT LOCKWOOD 0:43

We bridge the past and the present, making complex human rights issues more approachable and understandable.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 0:50

So, pull up a chair and join our table as we speak with Nobel Peace Prize recipients, political leaders and the world's leading human rights scholars and activists.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:52

Welcome Unity. Thank you so much for joining us today. And dad, how we like to kick off our show, with you and our honored guest Unity Dow is how you two met, which I believe might have been from 1993.

BERT LOCKWOOD 2:09

I first, became aware of unity through Sue Tatten, who had in the Peace Corps in Botswana. And I don't know if, unity that Sue's connection with you was through your husband at the time had also in the Peace Corps, I in Botswana. Would Sue have met Peter first?

UNITY DOW 2:34

I cannot recall, you know, but, uh, Sue very know, person, I believe I met her through a program, a project that was doing, teaching young people how to type, you know, young women. And that's my recollection.

she came to, you know, to, to me and then to you really, she was looking for law school and she told me how she's going to law school. the US, you know, to your school. NOAA: by that time, that's when I was talking about, what now is called the Dow case. So, really, initially, that's how we met When

BERT LOCKWOOD 3:15

did Cheshe go to Kenyon?

UNITY DOW 3:17

Oh, that's years later.

BERT LOCKWOOD 3:18

That's years later. Okay. Okay.

UNITY DOW 3:20

Yes, that would be years later because between Sue, you know, and Cheshe, I received mainly students from your law school.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 3:28

So, Unity, so we started off in 1993 when you and my dad met, let's go a year back in 1992. This is the landmark legal victory in Botswana for our listeners. The case is the Attorney General versus Unity Dow case two, where Unity challenged the Discriminatory Citizen Act of 1984, which denied Botswana citizenship to children born to a Botswana citizen mother and "The high court ruled the act unconstitutional, affirming that the Constitution guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to all citizens, regardless of sex." This decision was very significant for promoting gender equality and challenging discriminatory law. So And I would love for Unity to start off letting us know about your work on this case, 'What what brought you to this case, and then I know my dad has lots of questions.

UNITY DOW 4:24

Well, where do I start? I guess, 1986 and, the civil rights civil rights, human rights, women's human rights movement in Botswana. And my with a woman called Athaliah Molokomme, who later became the attorney general of Botswana. And how, as young lawyers, we started to talk about, the space of women in society, space of women in law, and the space of women in marriage, you know, rights of property and issues like that. um, and at this time we were organizing and running workshops for rural women, rural people generally around, rights, you know, and, um, and claiming rights, asserting rights. And, then over time, the issue of citizenship, let's keep on coming up. Why was it coming up? in 1984, Parliament had changed

the law that was then in the books that was regulating citizenship or nationality. And they took act what happened is that before there was citizenship by birth, which you find in many countries, so that if you are born in a particular country, then you become a citizen of that country. So we had that. But we also had a citizenship by descent, so that if you're, if you are born in marriage and your father is a citizen of Botswana, you became a citizen. So what happened is that, the law was changed to remove citizens by birth, so that you did not get a right to citizenship by being born in the country. That left only citizenship by descent. And it became discriminatory because before, even though the law had always been discriminatory, but it wasn't so evident, because most children are born in the countries of their parents. So before, even though we had this law that was already discriminatory, but it was not so evident. For me, it became personal, it became, you know, it actually affected me directly. But it didn't just affect me directly, it affected many other women. You know, we are a country that is smack in the middle of southern Africa, which means that we have many borders. We have, you know, and if you know borders in Africa, you will know that a few of them are straight lines, know, d villages. So you had, you know, in the south people in Borolong area, for example, who actually are related to people in South Africa, and this impacted them. So you had many, many children who were actually, um, were in Botswana, but they were not Botswana citizens because of the operation of the new law. And over time, we're discussing this, what to do. Some people will say, okay, you need to, you know, to lobby government, to change the law. you know, there's a lot of agitation around this issue, and some of us, me included, said, you know, we need to test this in the courts. Because I was persuaded, I believe, that our constitution, our 1966 constitution, a protected women's human rights. It wasn't an ambivalent constitution, it wasn't a clear constitution. So some, some people have said, no, no, no, no, y not going to win that. And if you don't win, you're going to set us back even, you know, worse than we are right now. So that's really how the, the case started. And for me, why was I personally affected? I was personally affected because I was married, then married to an American. And I had, you know, children, in that marriage, who then suddenly, uh, were not Botswana citizens because they were born after the, law was And, what is most also important is again, you know, sometimes, the law can be there not affecting until your personal circumstances has changed. You I was a young lawyer. My husband was a teacher who then decided to go back to to, to go for a master's here in Botswana as well, who was still American. And suddenly, we were told that because he was dependent on me, he wasn't working anymore. He could not have dependence, you know, depending on him. Um, so basically, that because my children were not Botswana citizens, they had no right to live here because of you have to work, I mean, a residence the right to even live here, your parent, that's him, must be And it became really kind of complicated because, a, a, a dependent cannot have a dependent. And the kids cannot be, you know, with me because they are not Botswana citizens. So, that's really the complication. So, it seemed like, no, I don't think this is fair at all. If I were my brother, this wouldn't happen. If I were mine, this wouldn't be an issue. So, that's really how the case started. I said, no, I don't think this is fair and I don't think this should be allowed. That's how I started the Dow case.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 9:03

And then Unity, if I may ask, since the ruling was, in 1992,

currently, how do you view the long-term impact of that legal victory on the evolution of women's rights in Botswana and across the region as well?

UNITY DOW 9:21

I mean, okay, mean, first of the original ruling was 1992. The, attorney general appealed the case and went to the court of appeal. That's the last, know, court of the land. And again, they were ruled in my favor. How did it, I mean, first of all, it forced public and public discussions about women, this place of women. And I mean, you'd be shocked if you were to look at the newspaper cuttings from that time. I mean, just know, how strongly people felt, you know, how know, strongly some people who is this woman? how can her husband allow her to do this? I mean, she must go to the United States if she wants to be married to an American, you know? So the debate was, you know, hot. I mean, I, I that, I probably for at least two years. My name was mentioned in the morning news at one o'clock and in the evening news almost every single day for years. I mean, after a while you I don't know. It has something to you where, I mean, first of all, it hardens you. And think, yeah. Um, those years where. I mean, they made me who I am today, one of the things that also happened is that, after the last decision, what happened is that the government actually commissioned a study of all the laws in Botswana that discriminate against women and started to then one by one deal with those laws to amend them, to make them fall in line with the decision in the Dow case, in the Dow decision. It also, if you recall, I write, 1995 was the year of Beijing. You know, the Beijing conference, was a big conference, about women. And, uh, so my government didn't want to go to Beijing with this hanging over Beijing, because remember, what happened is that after the last decision, let me just, you know, I'll go back a little bit. After the last decision of the Court of Appeal, the government thought, I mean, if you are told that a law is discriminatory, you can, level up upwards or downwards. You can decide to take the rights of the people who were ahead. So you can decide, so that was really the discussion, that maybe what they should do, know, is, uh, cancel, the right, you know, if one of your parents is non-citizen, whether male or female, then you are not entitled to position a citizenship. That was mooted as well. So how do we level this without giving women rights? Some people were thinking, you know, then take away the rights uh, have been given to men. So there were actually a kgotla meetings, a kgotla meeting means, meetings in villages where the chief is actually presiding of the meeting. So they were within the country with asking, you know, should comply with the Dow decision or not? So again, it was every single day, you know, fr village to village at the attorney general, you know, the minister of state, he then called the minister for presidential affairs. Go from village to village asking the question, do you think we should have comply? Do you think women and men are equal? Do you think women and men should be equal? Do you think women are entitled to rights? And, you know, some people said yes, some people said no. s it was a very interesting, and this went on for five years.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 12:24

Five years.

UNITY DOW 12:25

Because, remember I filed the case in 1990. So even though the last issue was 1992, still, you know, it came, it was about five years before parliament decided to file into that chamber and change the law. It took about five years, yes.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 12:41

Wow. Unity, your team, your both appeals against the attorney general. and then, Dad, I know you have a story on that note.

UNITY DOW 12:50

Mm-hmm.

BERT LOCKWOOD 12:51

Well, we sent one of our, uh, students, to work with Unity on her brief, and what I recall, about it sort of from, um, the, uh, educator's view is that uh, one of the arguments that I understood that our student suggested got picked up in the, high court's uh, reasoning, reasoning in Unity's favor, which was of nice to see. If I recall, it was using an argument, something along cruel and unusual punishment, uh, some argument along those lines that the the discrimination had, uh, negative effect then, because one of the problems with the Botswana Constitution was there wasn't a specific provision that outlawed gender discrimination. Um, and so under customary law, which reflected sort of the, uh, patriarchal patriarchal system, and the Attorney General, uh, at the time, or Deputy Attorney General, felt that this was very, uh, important. to maintain the patriarchal uh, society society Botswana. And so the government did not consider this a case that was simply simply would a few more kids get Botswana citizenship, but saw it as a frontal frontal assault upon the patriarchal society. So that was one of the reasons that the government invested so much effort in combating it. And you asked Unity uh, what was the effect. And I recall on one of my trips to Botswana that I met with the attorney general's. uh, the Attorney I think it was all the lawyers. There were about 18 or 19 people around the a table. I think it was the staff of the then attorney general. This is a number of years after the uh, decision. And they said basically there was a code that they used, which when they got cases, whether it was going to be Unity Dow case, and what they meant by it was that they saw how the court approached the constitutional question as to whether or not um, they took a liberal approach in terms of broadening their view of individual rights and freedoms, that,that that was a Unity Dow case. So that the the, the, impact of the decision was beyond, beyond simply the question of gender discrimination, but it actually affected the way that the government's lawyers were uh, considering the case. The other thing the Unity Dow case, why it was so important and one of the things that I think was a wonderful story, which I have shared with my my seminar students, students and human rights students, is is that The the then attorney general that was the pivotal uh, person in the government's opposition um, opposition, subsequently became, became, on the high court and then the court of appeals, he was like the chief justice of Botswana. And in the last decision that he handed down, which involved a question of, I believe it was a criminal law that criminalized uh, homosexuality, he he handed down a forceful decision in in striking down this criminalization. And, And throughout the decision, there was references to the, the Unity Dow case. So it was a very important decision because Africa has been quite divided with, even I

think Uganda at various times, passing legislation that would impose the death penalty upon homosexuality, so that issue is still, in Africa, a sensitive issue. And he was interviewed by the press. Unity sent me the interview, and what I recall was the interviewer said to him, the question was, in your long and distinguished legal career in Botswana, is there any instance which you, on subsequent reflection, felt that you made wrong, that you would have changed? And without hesitation, he said, yes, the position that I took in the Unity Dow case, I realize now that I was on the wrong side of history. And so Unity's influence uh, within Botswana has been enormous, and I think it is reflected in um, that that particular quotation from the retiring Chief Justice of the impact that she has had. she has had.

UNITY DOW 17:58

And you were talking about Justice Kirby, Ian Kirby, the judge who was the Attorney General at one point, or arguing in favor of the Attorney General's in the 90s, and then became a judge himself later, and went to the Court of Appeal. He was never the Chief Justice, But he was a brilliant judge. if you read his judgment anything, he has a brilliant mind, I'm not surprised that he actually, did say that he was the wrong side of history. And I mean, as you recall, I mean, his, his argument, the argument of the Attorney General at the time was that the whole fabric of Customary law was gender discriminatory and therefore the constitution must be interpreted in that- with that in- in mind. So...

BERT LOCKWOOD 18:42

Well, yes, Unity, but the, and, and one of my Botswana, I uh, uh, to his chambers to, to meet him. Um,

UNITY DOW 18:51

uh,

BERT LOCKWOOD 18:53

I recall his saying to me uh, he always wanted to lose the Unity Dow case.

I didn't believe him.

UNITY DOW 19:03

And I didn't believe him. Nobody wants to lose anything, you know, so,

BERT LOCKWOOD 19:08

Unity's actions,uh, uh, within Botswana, are not simply related to that case. I can remember there was another decision that I was listening on the radio Our radio station here was carrying something from the BBC and they mentioned that there was this important uh, decision involving, I think it was another, u,gender , issue. and I think it was about a 75-page decision. I, I remember, uh, printing it out and, and, and reading it and I emailed Unity and said that that 75-page decision could summed up in two words, uh, Unity Dow because they, they must have mentioned about 19 times, the Unity Dow case in the court's reasoning. And I said, you know, the next frontier, the next challenge is, gay rights, homosexual, uh, rights. If you get a case and

want our assistance, I be happy to support it. Less than 10 minutes later, I got the response, I've got a case, yes, a I would love your assistance. And we actually sent one of our graduates. He had just graduated and we sent him, I think it was a summer to go work with Unity on this initial case that was dealing and I'm not sure how many years ago that was, but we have sent our students, I think, virtually every year for probably now 25, 30 years to Botswana. And they have had absolutely incredible experiences working Unity in her various capacities. I do remember when Unity was appointed the first female judge in Botswana and served on the, uh, poetically on the high court of Botswana for 10 years that her a law clerk. And that was significant.

because Botswana at the time, and I don't know presently, but did not have the institution of law clerks, which are young lawyers, typically graduates that work... ..for a judge. In terms of helping them with their... the cases and doing... ..memoranda and, researching. But I can remember the other judges were very envious that Unity had a law clerk and were sort of lobbying if we could send more Cincinnati students to work with them. I don't recall we... ..if we... sent additional students to work for other judges or not.

UNITY DOW 21:55

You did. You did.

BERT LOCKWOOD 21:56

Oh, good.

UNITY DOW 21:58

You did send students for the other judges. but also we have to understand that, with, with our system, sometimes the government will appeal an issue. So that is settled once and for all by the court of appeal.

BERT LOCKWOOD 22:10

Okay. your court of now I recall back then, we were a little nervous about how that decision was going to But part of it was, I don't know if there was any Botswanan on the court of appeals. I know the majority were other countries.

UNITY DOW 22:33

I in, in terms of the composition of uh, our bench, it was always been great because people were carefully selected. It , it's really interesting because, to be on our bench, I mean, the court of appeals basically, we didn't have any local judges at the time. Now we do, but they were selected because of outstanding work in their own jurisdictions. So as a result, they came brought together, Uh, the kind of judge that you want, the pro-human rights judge, I mean if you get South African judges at the time, it means judges who were actually against apartheid. Judges who had actually defended Black people in South Africa, and there were white judges. Then you had judges from Ghana and Nigeria as well, and these would be judges who acquitted themselves, you know, in their own jurisdictions as being pro human rights. So it was really interesting that that's really the selection criteria, uh, to a large extent. So, yeah

BERT LOCKWOOD 23:27

Something you just said, uh, kindled a question, which I, I don't know if know. I know when you studied law I think it was Edinburgh or Scottish law. Did you actually go to,

UNITY DOW 23:40

yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 23:41

Scotland? Oh, okay. So that, that is where you studied. Okay. I didn't know if they had some kind of African program.

UNITY DOW 23:49

No, they didn't have a program in Africa. You had to go to Scotland to study.

BERT LOCKWOOD 23:53

And, am I correct that somehow Scotland had a relationship with Botswana?

UNITY DOW 23:58

Yeah, it's, it's, it's, uh, I don't know why and how. Remember, in 1966, when we got our independence from the UK, from Britain, there was no University of Botswana. there There was a university of Botswana in Swaziland. I mean, there were very few people graduates in, in the country. to, when I decided to go to law school, I don't think I had ever met anybody graduate degree, you know, let alone a postgraduate degree. So it was a very young country, just out of poverty, um. Had just, uh, discovered diamonds in 1971, was beginning to mine them in 1972, so by the time I went to finish high school in 1977, the country was pretty poor, and, we had all kinds of programs for people to to university, so, some studied locally, many went abroad, went to, the US, went to Canada, went to Scotland, so many of my age, studied abroad.

BERT LOCKWOOD 25:00

Now, were there many female attorneys, I mean, relative to male attorneys?

UNITY DOW 25:06

No, in my my classroom was on, there were seven people, and I was the only woman, and then we had a group from Swaziland, seven people as well, with one woman, s the only two women, in my class of 14. U, when I went to law school.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 25:21

So, um, so, for our listeners, I did want to talk to Unity about her work with indigenous groups in Botswana, and the San people are traditionally hunters and gatherers, and presence in Botswana dates back at least 40,000 years ago, of the Bantu-speaking people of the region. their region in Botswana is the size of Denmark, which was, in 1961, the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, the biggest in the world. and presently, they work on farms, mostly cattle farmers,



and as laborers and casual workers, through the cattle posts and in different towns. they work in the tourist industry, but unfortunately, unemployment relationships are often highly exploitative, with wages systematically low. Um, and Unity, I would love to talk about your work, for their rights, and if you could tell the ruling concerning the rights of the San people, and the complexities of balancing indigenous rights with Botswana's national development goals.

UNITY DOW 26:24

Um, and the, um, the, the, um, the, um, the issue of the San people, is a very complicated one. It's a very tricky one because, when you are few in number, you know, in terms of just population, your voice gets muted. I think that's just a fact when you don't have representation in government at the local again, you don't have the, the ways and, the method or the, the ability to articulate your views, you know, as you would. So, I mean, all over the world, majority suddenly generally push minorities into small corners and they have to fight back from there. So that, that's a problem. But, the issue of the Basara or the San people or the Bushmen people or the Central Kalahari Game Reserve that I had to deal with. The question was whether or not they had been forcibly removed from their indigenous homes, indigenous locations. first you have to understand this. Bot is the size of France with a population of 2.3 million people. Botswana is the size of France with a population of 5.4 million people and then you had a community, communities of people, living in an area, the size of, I think you say Belgium, know and in terms of the number, I mean, you had or seven as I recall, and one of the villages has 14 people, the whole community being 14 people, and then the largest, you know, the village of Molopo, you know, had more people, I think maybe 100, But the issue was this, it was obviously expensive for government to deliver services there. The roads are really bad, the area is really, you know, wide, so at the beginning of term, a government truck had to go there to pick up the children, to take them to boarding school. At the end of term, they had to return them to their parents. Every month, they had to, you know, go deliver services, you know, everybody, because everybody there was poor, because there's a, you know, there's a method by which you determine whether or not you are entitled to what they call destitute rations. Okay, so everybody there was, by definition, a destitute, because they were not working, they had no income. So a government truck has to go there, know. If you're in the middle of nowhere there, and a woman, you know, goes into labor, you know, that is tricky, because then a government truck has to take this pregnant woman, you know, for five hours, six hours to the nearest clinic. So the government had this great idea that why don't we get all these people together and move them to one location? Sounds like brilliant idea. And I have no problem with that. The only problem is how do you engage people to actually, so that it is their decision to move. Okay. So, the government tried all kinds of tricks, speak, you know, kind to talk to them, some people agree to move, some people didn't agree to move. And then they decided, Hmm, how can we get these people to move? This is the cut off the services. They cut off the water. They stopped delivering food. So basically they were starving them out of the CKGR. So for me, the question is whether or not the government could legally, know, legally, you know, validly stop services, especially because they're actually announced as a policy position that they will deliver services in the CKGR as long as there was people in there, you know, so they stopped, also they, they used to be able

to hunt. So they also canceled their hunting licenses. So basically they were forcing them out of the CKGR. So that was really the question, did they move voluntarily or were they forced out? And my view was that they had been forced out. You know, it was the most expensive trial, this country had ever, had to deal with because of course, you it was a long trial. You know, there were lots of witnesses and there was, uh, we had to go on a side visit to the CKGR, which is an expensive enterprise as well. but it forced the whole country, just like the Dow case did to really interrogate the issue, the question of the Basara and position in society and whether or not, you know, they were giving, getting a fair shake. won, they won, you know, so it was a panel of three, we hand out different decisions, something like each one, we wrote our own opinions, but we agreed on many of the points, that the government had actually forced them out. So, because the issue is not whether or not a government, I mean, it is quite possible that, I may have to move from my village, you know, for, for good reason, but that decision has to be taken rationally, reasonably, you know, it has to be taken lawfully and you can be, I cannot be tricked out of moving out of my village because the government has a really great idea of how I should live better. So for me, it was, you see, and that's one of the things that the government actually did was, the officials did because, again, you see the Basara, I think the women build the houses, you know, and the men hunt. Okay . and also the, their marriage is not going to be registered in the same way that know, the big villages or in, in big cities that register. So they'll come to a family and say, whose house is this? Whose compound is this? The woman will say, it is my compound. Okay. And then they will say, you know, so they will persuade her to move while maybe the man doesn't want to move. And then if she says yes, then they would dismantle her house. Okay. Do you know they'll break it apart that really forcing the men to move even if she had a different decision about moving. So it was really breaking up families as well, putting them against each other. And then also they would also maybe get some money and they, you know, so also they were giving them a lot of money. you know, the idea that money will persuade you to move. but what happened, these people had never had bank accounts and never handed so much money. So they would come and assess your compound and say, okay, you get so much money, take you in a truck, go to, to,uh , to Hukuntsi, which is the, the nearest town to the CKGR. You catch the money and you've never handed money, you turn around and give some of it to the driver, some of it to the social worker, because you, you've never had a bank account. You know, you don't know how to use money. Your resource is animals, your resource is, you know, hunting and gathering. So again, it was really forcing people to make decisions that they were not trained to, you know, their life styles had not really trained them to make.

BERT LOCKWOOD 32:48

Uh, Un, I used decision in that when I interviewed in China and, uh, their, their principal, uh, uh, radio, station and one of the issues in China was building these big dams, and basically the government going in and displacing people without a real show of, uh, uh, concern uh, over the people that were displaced, this being, you know, the greater good of society, for this, uh, improvement. uh, what I was, interviewed, it was clear that the interviewer expecting me to, say that I thought that the greater good of society sort of trumped the, the rights of the people that were being displaced and I, uh, uh, uh, uh, was able uh, respond your reasoning and

decision in, the San it was very helpful because that issue that you had in Botswana is one occurs in many, many, many countries. I thought it was a very important,

UNITY DOW 33:55

Oh,

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:55

uh, decision.

UNITY DOW 33:56

Thank you. Yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 33:58

So, Meredith, the relationship that we've had uh, Unity has a variety of experiences for our students because of the key roles that Unity has, has played. I think we have sent students work with her when she was the Minister of Education. Uh, and then even when she was the Foreign Minister we, we sent a student. Uh, and so in addition to when she was on the high court and as an activist lawyer the students have been able to, have a range of different legal experiences. And uh, when we've had uh, uh, occasional awarding of William J. Butler Human Rights Medal. We awarded one to, uh, Unity. probably about five years ago or, uh, around it was wonderful to see, our graduates, come back and that there was sort of a Botswana clan of our graduates, if you will, uh, share this experience as I say, in different aspects of, law in Botswana. And, they really of felt, a common bond of, having worked with Unity. I think it might uh, interesting for our listeners also know about the Dow Academy. It's not the first time that Unity has been involved K-12 education in terms of trying create a academic institution

quality education young people in Botswana, but the Dow Academy the latest effort, and it's in community Mochudi. I know we at least one student to work there. Unity, can you talk a little bit about your vision with the Dow Academy?

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 35:59

if I may, if I could just explain to our also how much it ties into the theme of this podcast that I've been honored to start with my dad, which our theme is multi-generational conversations. And the Dow Academy, Unity, you started with your brilliant daughter, who's become a friend of mine, Cheshe, and you work together on providing incredible curriculums for K-18, as well as, I believe, daycare, preschool. In Botswana, it goes from primary to secondary. It's an international school. And what I find incredibly innovative about the model that you both have put together for parents and students is you not only have an academic program, but you also ensure to provide technical, vocational, and life skills to your student body.

UNITY DOW 36:49

Ok, first of all, it seems like it doesn't matter what I do. The Urban Morgan Institute is right there. I mean, I have a student, you all through the last 35 years, sometimes two at a time. So right from when I was doing NGO work for many years. First of all, when I started with the Dow

case, and then when I was running Metlhaetsile Women's Center, then when I became a judge, and when I went back to practice, when I was a minister, and even when I was doing the Dow Academy. So it seems like there's always been a role. And in fact, I'm receiving one more student this year. that I'm a parliamentarian, who's going to be working with me, as we are possible legislation to be presented to the July session of parliament. So I must say thank you very much to Bert, and thank you very much UC for always being there. I just must add that when I started with, you know, with the Urban Morgan Institute of Human Rights, I was in my 30s. So these students were in their 20s. So they were not so much younger than I am. And over time, I'm thinking, oh, why is Bert sending me these babies? And I realized, no, they're still the same age. I'm the one who's, you know. So it's been a wonderful

BERT LOCKWOOD 38:12

time. I had that experience, Unity, in teaching in Beijing. The students looked awfully young. They

UNITY DOW 38:19

Yeah.

BERT LOCKWOOD 38:20

keep

UNITY DOW 38:20

No,

BERT LOCKWOOD 38:20

getting younger

UNITY DOW 38:21

they keep staying the same. You are the one who's getting older.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 38:28

Well, and you both have, you know, welcomed your next generation with your grandchildren, Yahya. on our end, we have Antonella and Sebi. for us, it's also been wonderful to share the journey of our extended families together.

UNITY DOW 38:41

Yep .

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 38:42

and Unity, I went to journalism school at the Scripps School of Journalism, way back in 2004. And one thing that I'm so inspired and proud of the Dow Academy is your school of STEAM Plus. and for our listeners, STEAM Plus is initiative that you guys provide for technology series. Um, you have programs to rebuild laptops, music, a media club, robotics, computer coding, entrepreneurship, which is, that's my bread and butter as a social impact entrepreneur. You

also have newspaper and journalism. And also I think it's incredible because this initiative you and Cheshe started amongst your community is on average about 13% of high school school graduates in Botswana achieve six C's or better. And your data and how much you've improved for your academics is absolutely incredible. that you're also helping set them up for the next stage in their life journey.

UNITY DOW 39:40

No, that's true. I mean, our view is that, you know, really with modern technology, your address shouldn't really determine your future. You can, um, you can do robotics anywhere. You can do, you know, um, with modern technology, you should be able to compete, now and in the future with anybody in the world. So, and also skills. And when young people enjoy education or enjoy their school, they're more likely to do even better. So that for us is very important. And although I don't teach, of course, but I critical thinking workshops the seniors and I'm impressed at what I see later in life. In fact, one of my interns this year is one of my former students from the Dow Academy, who's going to be working with the student UC. So for me I'm proud of these young people, what they can do and they want to do and how focused they are. So, it all starts with education, with a good education, education should give you confidence. Education should strengthen you for self autonomy. So for me, a very important part of our journey with my daughter. My daughter's actually and, you know, my son in law. So, both my daughters, yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 40:57

And, Dad, your student who's going to be going over to Botswana soon, it's his first time going abroad.

BERT LOCKWOOD 41:04

He's so excited. He's just the nicest kid, this is going to be his first foreign trip. But he just feels so honored to going to Botswana and the opportunity of working Unity is, basically says that, you know, it's dream come true kind of thing. And it's you know, yes, very looking forward to his experiences. Unity, I wanted to talk one of the most unusual things you did, which is when you were on the high court Botswana for 10 years,

you wrote four novels and each of those novels had a certain human rights theme to them. I mean, drawing, I mean, they were all set in Botswana. As I recall, this was a rather unusual thing, because I think you were the first person from Botswana to write fiction that was published outside Botswana, with a foreign publisher and the like. A so it not something would occur apparently, to most people in Botswana. What fascinated me was, I recall when you were first offered the judgeship, that, didn't really want to be a, a judge, uh, because the judicial role constrains what you can say politically in terms of trying to affect political change within, the country, and it wasn't something that came naturally, I recall seeing, I think it was actually a Chinese produced, video about you, I think it was about 20 minutes long or 30 minutes long, there's a humorous part where, I someone in the government calls your father to basically put pressure on you to accept this honor of becoming the first, uh, judge, in

Botswana that your father played a role in saying that you needed to take the judgeship. am I correct in that?

UNITY DOW 43:13

Uh, yes, you're correct on, on, on Well, I mean, first we have the right to a fiction as well because I've been, you know, uhm, in the trenches defending women, defending children in court. My days were chaotic. I didn't know who was going to walk through the door, you know, and what kind of case was going to walk through the door. And so I had many urgent cases of the high court, majesty's court. So my time before, you know, and I guess very similar to now as a member of parliament, my time before, but you know, particularly, so, you know, it was very difficult to structure your day. So then I became a judge and suddenly there was this organized life. You know, the case comes to you in nice neat files and you can schedule them. You can decide how many days, you know, you can decide when you're going to write a journal. So for me, even though it was a busy uh, job, job, busyness that could be managed. And so I then got this kind of process in my life, you know, and, uh, that's when I started writing, when I was not writing judgement, then I was writing fiction. it's, And since then, I haven't had the time, really. I think, yeah, for me, it was the best time for me to write. Because also, you And hear people's stories in court, you know, in those files when you're listening to evidence. And it relates to the work that you did before. So my stories, so my books are really about the life around me.

BERT LOCKWOOD 44:44

And did you find that, affected people's attitude towards you? Well, I mean, possibly not wanting to be in one of your novels, uh, because yeah, I mean, you were focusing on, as I say, there of human rights kinds uh, situations, or facing Botswana. I, I just, I wondered if it, if it affected your relationships with, either your colleagues on the court or,

UNITY DOW 45:08

No, because fiction is fiction. I mean, you, um, so it wasn't stories of real people. It was stories real situations. So, I didn't get a pushback from my work, you know, in terms of my fiction work. No, I didn't, I wanna know is that when I first became a judge, you know, remember was be the youngest judge, the only female judge. um, when judges before had been male, before male and white and then male and black. So now I was, it was, so it was, uh, um, I think there was caution at first, you know, um, local judges came from most of the business world. I were, nobody came from the NGO society world. So the assumption that, you know, I'm going to be biased. Nobody thinks that somebody who's, you know, was defending banks and other commercial enterprises is going to be biased in favor of banks. But somehow, you know, th was the idea, but people, know, quickly realized that no, It's about the facts in front of you. It's about the law. Of course, you know, I, I. I looked at life maybe different from some of the judges. I can give you an example, for example, if I had a woman in front of me who had been convicted, you know, and maybe was appealing or was appearing before me, convicted or charged with what we call child, baby dumping, you know, so throwing away a baby and then you're charged with, obviously, you know, infanticide, murder, so I may come, from the, know, position that, know, every mother, you know, every baby, calls for, for, for protection. If I were

to leave a baby on your doorstep, your first response is to protect the baby, even if, you know, it's just, I don't know, maybe they ooze out some hormones as they protect me, I don't know, but that's how, you know, babies are, you know, are put together. So, for someone to actually dump a baby that they've just given birth to, uhm, I may say, oh, something horrible must have happened to them. But another judge who may say, she must be a particularly evil woman for her to dump a baby, you know. So, we're going to, you know, ask the question differently. I would say what motivated her to do that and try to look into her personal circumstances. So, I'm thinking also, you know, if you're talking about a baby that's been dumped, I mean, babies are made by two people. Where is the other person? Why is that person not in front of me as well? Being charged, I mean, she, he must have known that there's a pregnant woman somewhere. So, but the other judge, a particular judge in mind will say, she's just an evil woman. And therefore, because mothers generally protect their babies, so I'm going to send her the stiffest, possible sentence. So, you look at life because of your philosophy or, you know, so, I will say that would be the main difference. So, but otherwise, yeah, it was an interesting work at the court. As a judge for the 11 years that I was there.

BERT LOCKWOOD 48:07

and why did step down from the court?

UNITY DOW 48:11

Why did I step down from the court? You know, why have I ever done anything? Um, you know, if you, if you look for a reason, you may not find it.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 48:20

I like that.

UNITY DOW 48:21

Um. I had been a judge for 11 and a half years. I had always said to myself, when I'm 50, I will, you know, change my life and do what I want to do with my life. You know, once my kids didn't need my support I was wrong. They still needed my support. Kids need your support forever. Okay. Just keep that in mind. but yeah, I just wanted to do something different. I didn't feel, I didn't feel, um, energized. I didn't feel challenged. felt, so I decided, I'm going to do something else.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 48:57

And Unity, from there, um, quite a few of our listeners, work in the nonprofit space in global NGOs. And I wanted to talk about your transition from your incredible legal career, high court judge into your political career, former minister of education, foreign minister of Botswana. And I know you've had a significant role in co-founding different nonprofits, particularly focused on human rights, women's empowerment and health. Uh, for instance, co-founding the women in law in South Africa research project, as well as the AIDS action trust. And I wanted to focus on your work through the AIDS action trust, which is an organization that addresses HIV and the AIDS epidemic, which has a significant impact on Botswana. And if I could bring it to present day here through the United States, the devastation we are seeing

unfold every day due to the Trump administration. Um, I wanted to give our listeners some statistics so that they can know that, our global impact with cutting our global funds is incredibly significant and impactful. Um, from 2024, the United States, we help provide HIV treatments to more than 20 million people around the world, uh, we tested 84 million people for the virus and provided preventative care for several million as of this past January. we had about over 270,000 health workers supported by our emergency plan for AIDS relief. we were told in January that our health workers have to stop all patient care, um, And if the global funding is not restored immediately, the researchers estimate 2030, there will be 11 million extra HIV infections around the world, par impacting Africa. And if we do not do something about this up until 2040, there will be 15 million more deaths. And I was wondering, through your hand-on experience working on AIDS crisis on a global level, if you could talk directly about the impact President Trump's cutbacks will have

UNITY DOW 51:04

Okay. I mean, first of all what you're saying is correct. But often we only look at that impact. I mean, the number of people who are going to be affected and infected and possibly die, which, of course, we have to look at that. But we often fail to also look at, you know, what happens when you- that is not going to just impact the people who are going to die or the countries where these people are. every health crisis helps you deal with the next health crisis. So when you don't deal with HIV/AIDS, what you are doing is two things. First of all, the researchers, the health care workers, the, you know, the experts who used to come from the U. S. from abroad to come and deal with this, they will- they will lose the knowledge. And therefore, when something else comes, they don't know what to build on. So, I mean, if you look at the tests for COVID, for example, to be able to find a test method for COVID so quickly, you had to build on what you learned from HIV/AIDS, from AIDS. And then, you know, you know, this knowledge doesn't come from the air. Every , every health crisis gives the opportunity to researchers, you know, to doctors to learn about the next epidemic, or the next, um, danger that's coming your way. So it's not just people in, who are the receiving end of this help, who are going to be affected. It's also the whole, whole world, because they are losing information that they could use to protect themselves when the next health crisis hits. And also, if you think about it, people think, oh, you we're cutting, you know, help to Africa. You're also cutting help to yourself because who actually gets the accolades, who gets the awards, you know, for all this work HIV/AIDS. Who does? It's not the patient. It is the, the researcher. It is the American with expertise, you who gets, you know, the, so it's, it's not just a one way street, and the other, t other thing is, of course, where do we get our drugs? We don't make drugs. So a lot of the, the money goes flows back the, to, um, the people who provide aid. So aid is not just a one way street. Aid is, you know, is trade, you know, because at the end of the day, an expert must come from the US to come and study, this situation. They must, you um, learn more, they must collect data. They must, you know, see how, if you look at the, the very good work, you know, that, the Harvard-Botswana partnership has done in terms of the studies, the, the, the trials, the trials around mothers to child transmission through milk, you know, from breastfeeding and how that actually, that, of course, you know, the, you know, help with one. But it also helped. I studied the trials around managed to child transmission through milk, you know, from breastfeeding and how that actually that, of course, you know, the help



was one, but also helped the rest of the world. It also helped the researchers who did the work and also progressed those people in their careers. So this idea that aid is a one way street, it is not. It is trade.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 54:09

Absolutely. And I think that's an incredibly important point. And for our listeners from the American lens also, the president has proposed shutting down our National Institute for Minority and Health Disparities, which will not just cut the funding for those communities, but it's going to cut the jobs of the researchers, the scientists, and we will be behind decades of the work we've done. So you're absolutely right. It's not always about the exact patient, you know, and those statistics that will happen for the health care, death, et cetera. But it's the lack of the research and the studies and the funding that goes into that for preventative care.

UNITY DOW 54:47

I mean, I was proud to see among great scientists around the world of COVID, a woman I knew as a young scientist from America when she first came here after her, you know, her first, you know, her graduate degree, postgraduate degree, and was working for Botswana have a partnership here in Botswana, and then I see her mentioned as this, you and when she learned that, she learned that, you know, when she was in Botswana, and then she was contributing at a different level, and we have to, to realize that, you know, yeah, but I guess often we are myopic in the way we look at things.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 55:25

Absolutely, another topic I'm deeply passionate, um, and continuing to be inspired by your work in women's rights, to a full circle moment with, the work you did on the Unity Dow landmark legal victory and advocacy that significantly reshaped the understanding and enforcement of women rights in Botswana. I was curious if there's any enduring challenges that remain in achieving the full gender equality in the region. I'm sure that is a very detailed, long answer you could provide, um, in juxtaposition that we're seeing here with, you know, the government taking away Roe versus Wade and coming after women's rights in healthcare, education, voting, et cetera.

UNITY DOW 56:09

I would say one of the biggest challenges right now is gender-based violence. You know, it's really, I mean, if you look at the stats, we, uh, one of the highest incidences, you know, are recorded in this country, it's appalling, it's shocking, and everybody seems to be just completely, um, confused and, yeah, frustrated about what to do next. Why are we having that level of violence against women? I cannot say, but, so right now, my work is around really looking, re-looking at the law that we have right now, and seeing the extent to which in this amendment and the responses, you know, responses, when, when the courts are faced with, with these cases. So it's, yeah, if you were to Google that, you'd be shocked at the stats, actually, it's shocking. I read somewhere that 67%, you know, of women in Botswana have, uh, suffered some form of gender-based violence.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 57:13

I just looked it up, you, you have the number spot on 60, you're right, absolutely, 67%. Um, and, uh, to tie into that 62% of women face, domestic violence through intimate partnership.

UNITY DOW 57:25

um, and, um, you know, if you look back, this spikes, if you look back, if you look at during HIV/AIDS era, when people were dying, of HIV before the drugs, there was a spike. If you look back around, COVID was also, there was a spike. Now, I don't know if you know, but I mean, just, um, the economy is not so great. It's not as great as been in the past. this country depends on diamond revenue and diamonds have not been selling so well. So people are generally in, in terrible situation, you know, in terms of economically. And whenever you get that, you get, you know, a lot of,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 58:10

Uh,

UNITY DOW 58:10

I don't know, I guess, violence within homes, frustrations within homes. And I mean, if you look at the past, so that concerns A then of course, you know, um, we just got hit with 37% tariffs. I don't know what that means in real, you know, we will know how that impacts us in, I'm sure in the next few months, but we sell primarily diamonds to the US. tariffs means they are more expensive and luxury goods go before people buy milk. They'll buy milk before they buy diamonds. so yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 58:48

And Unity, do you know what the number one question that was Googled the day after Trump won? , it was, "What is a tariff?"

I kid, I kid you not. That was the number one Googled question. The second question Googled the most the day after the election is, "Can I change my vote?" well, I'll just, I'll just let the silence take that on because you cannot change your vote

UNITY DOW 59:16

"Nope

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 59:16

a day after an election. Um, the point I make about the tariff and, you know, global implications it's going to have is that people in America did not know what the word tariff meant. They didn't understand how citizens, we absorb the cost of that. And then what happens to our global partners and fellow countries and allies and how it's going to affect their workers, their economy, the entire socioeconomic ladder. and you know, to speak to you and my dad, you both have dedicated your career to education. And I think now more than ever as an American, I'm seeing the devastation of lack of education in our school systems starting at a very young age. and the work you're doing at the Dow Academy and then both of you are

doing in higher ed is more than ever imperative because there is the lack of education and unfortunately lack of education causes ignorance and people don't understand basic basic civics, basic law. and we're starting to see that unfold in very real time. And I'm, I'm sure dad, you have, you know, a lot of opinions on that, as you continue to teach law law school students every day.

BERT LOCKWOOD 1:00:23

Yes, but I'm going to switch to a topic, uh, because I know we're nearing the, the end here. Unity, Botswana went a difficult period in, uh, uh, the rule of law, uh, which, uh, surprised, many people, but I recall with uh, with our, uh, communication you were particularly concerned and, uh, somewhat, targeted, if you will. And the rule of law, issue affecting Botswana, I know came as a surprise uh, many that follow, uh, Africa because Botswana has been held out as, um, being, one of the, the, the bright spots in terms uh, uh, democracy and, and, and, and rule of law. But I wonder if you could talk something about why this happened in Botswana but, uh, I know the situation has changed now, but how that change came about.

UNITY DOW 1:01:26

first of all, I must say that I'm happy to say that after 58 one party winning elections repeatedly, uh, last year in November, uh, the Botswana population decided to change, you know, and voted in a different party. So it is not my party as the UDC and BCP, but I'm still happy. I'm very pleased that you know, people realize that it is possible to actually change government because for the longest time, it seemed like that was not possible. And, uh, one of the reasons I'm sure that the government was changed was the realization that things were not going so great after all, after so many years. So, if you're talking about the rule of law, if you're talking about my being targeted, is that after 2019, I was in the, the ruling party that just lost elections in November. And after, uh, within eight months of the new president taking over after the elections, I, I did not believe that I could serve under him. I did not believe that we agreed on essentials. I was of the view that we have a democracy and he had a different view. So I quit, um, being a minister, which nobody does. And if you do, then, you know, the government doesn't, you know, it becomes very unhappy. And, then I just, you know, really started to be targeted by the intelligence, um, apparatus of the country. It, it was, it was a rough four years. Uhm, after quitting the party, being a minister, then I quit the party as well. you know, it's, it's a long story. Safe to say that they did not make my life easy at all, not at all. I mean, they targeted me, they threatened me, they created pseudo accounts to spread lies about me. They threatened my family and, it was a tough four years. uhm, but at the end of the day, you know, the, it seemed like for the first time, the system that I thought should be able to investigate this was powerless. The police were powerless. I mean, they, yeah. And suddenly, after elections, the account that has been, you know, threatening me all along just disappeared. It just disappeared. It's not, it's not targeting anybody anymore. I mean, and that it was, run by the government. There's absolutely no doubt about it. Absolutely no doubt about it. So, they sued me for saying that it was a government, um, enterprise. I defended myself, and said, yes, it was a government enterprise, because for them to be able to say the things that they were saying and do the things they were doing, uhm, because often lies are

based on some truth. You know, so, and I knew that information could only be known to certain people. Uhm, so, They

sweeping up all kinds of stories about me, but yeah. It was, it was a tough four years. It's over now.

Yeah. They were sweeping up all kinds of stories about me. Yeah. It was, it was a tough four years. It's over now. I'm And I guess the, the, the, yeah. And I guess the moral of the story is that, you know, when I was a judge, you know, I used to be very naive. You know, I thought all you needed in life was good laws and good institutions. That's all. I didn't realize you also need good people.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:05:12

Yes, yes. More than ever.

UNITY DOW 1:05:14

Yeah, Yeah. I, I honestly saw, you know, I mean, I didn't realize you could actually have told the two different countries because who's running it without anybody changing any law

BERT LOCKWOOD 1:05:23

Yeah

UNITY DOW 1:05:23

at all. And the power of the person who's sitting at the head of the table. I mean, they decide, I mean, they, they create the culture of that table. They said we can talk and we can't talk, we can talk loudly. I mean, it's incredible. The power of the leader is incredible. Yeah.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:05:42

Abs. In the last part of our podcast, I like to reserve for like thoughts and reflections. So I just have two more questions for you. One interfacing and one outer facing, more so for advice. The first one I wanted to you know, again, your remarkable career as a human rights advocate. like you said, all the experiences you have been through, the challenges, the joyful ones have made you who you are today and continue in your evolution as a human rights advocate. Particularly when it comes to advancing the women's rights and challenging discriminatory laws in Botswana. What aspects of this work have brought you the most profound sense of joy and fulfillment? And additionally, how do these experiences continue to inspire you presently?

UNITY DOW 1:06:31

What gives me joy? Wh gives me joy? What gives me joy is the knowledge that, I mean, I know my north. I know where I'm going. I know you cannot describe with your own description. If it doesn't fit me, it doesn't fit me. So I don't know how to explain it. For example, you know, people say, you were not so upset when this troll was saying all these things about you. I said, I was upset, y know, b it was disturbing my life, but I wasn't, it doesn't touch me because it's not true. know, so for what's given me joy over the years is knowing, believing that truth always

triumphs. And the good always triumphs, you know. And now what inspires me is walking through the UB campus like I did two weeks ago. And I meet all these young people and all of them says, oh my God, we're so, you know, great to meet you. You know, the fourth year law student, he says, look, you know, in first year, I, basically every single year, have to learn about something about the unified case. Either it's about human rights, it's about procedure, it's about the Constitution. So, they would say, you, one of them says, I came to school, it looks like, to learn about you. So, I never thought I'd meet you. And

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:07:47

Wow.

UNITY DOW 1:07:47

so, for me, it gives me joy to know that, uhm, all the struggles of the past are not in vain. You know, and that real people are benefiting. And uhm, I recall my son, my son is a lawyer as well as you were, my daughter, one of my daughters is a lawyer as well. But, when

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:08:04

Mhm.

UNITY DOW 1:08:04

he was studying law at UCT in Cape Town, mean, he would say, look, suddenly I was, I had to learn about myself. I mean, I had to test about, about myself, you know, so, uh, because now we really cannot study law in the commonwealth system without studying the Dow case. We just can't.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:08:23

Well, and, and I can tell for both of you, uhm, it's been incredible for me, when I've had friends in law school and family in law school, cousins uhm, who have said, oh my goodness, I learned about Unity Dow today. You, you talk about her all the time. And then also, oh, today we read, you know, an article in the Human Rights Quarterly. We learned about your dad. so, I can just say, speaking to myself, my siblings, Unity, your children, just how incredible it is to be able to read about both of your work. and that was the perfect segue for my final question, which Unity, do you have any advice for those young persons we just spoke about, who are passionate about pursuing careers in human rights and social justice today?

UNITY DOW 1:09:05

I think my advice is that I think we need good people now more than any other time, in the past, the modern world with technology, with, you know, the ability to distort, uhm, the ability to reach across oceans, you know, across countries, the ability to just influence. there's never been a time, I think in history that we need good people. Because the potential for badness, the potential for everything to go south is so huge. Uhm, it is just shocking what people are, you know, what people who are power, who got money, you know, who can influence, are willing to do. so, yes, And We need the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights and institutions like that more than we've ever done in the past, I think.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:10:00

Absolutely. And Unity, is there also any way that our listeners can support the Dow Academy?

UNITY DOW 1:10:08

There is a Dow Trust.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:10:10

Uhm, mm-hmm,

UNITY DOW 1:10:10

the, the purpose of which is actually to support, because, I mean, not everybody who was going to a school, has the money for that. So, we offer scholarships, for example, you know, know, parents or for, for children who cannot afford, school fees because it is, it is,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:10:26

mm-hmm.

UNITY DOW 1:10:26

it is, it is a fee paying enterprise because otherwise you cannot pay teachers. So, yes, we have a trust.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:10:32

I will make sure to include in our show notes for our listeners, you can go to the website and I'll provide all the information about how you can support that trust. and I'm going to hand it over to my dad for any final comments, and Unity, again, just, you are such a dear friend, family friend of ours. I grew up with you, and it's just been an honor. Thank you so much for joining our podcast. Uhm, it means the role to both of us. and dad I'll hand it off to you

BERT LOCKWOOD 1:10:56

Yes well I want to end on thanking Unity for her love and friendship over these many years

She is one of my best friends and I very much have been inspired by her. But the friendship above all else has truly meant the world to me and I've said to her many times that I wished we in the same land as opposed to having an ocean between us, I do want thank her incredibly for all the, uh, experiences that she's given to, my students and uh, contributions that she has made to, justice, around the world and I end with my love, thank you, Unity.

UNITY DOW 1:11:43

I mean, you're welcome, and, uh, you know, my dream has always been to bring together what I call the Muchudians, you know, all those students who are now all over the world, all over the United States, practicing law all over, you know, so, and many of them doing great work, you know, so my dream is one day for us to have a get-together in Botswana. Maybe it will happen, who knows.

BERT LOCKWOOD 1:12:05

Oh,

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:12:06

Well, I can be very confident to know that many of them are gonna be our listeners, and I love organizing trips and events. Dad, you can attest to that. so, Unity, I will, I will take that up, and I, I will be there as well, because we would love to come see you in Botswana. It would also, as a family, be wonderful to come see your family there and spend quality time together.

UNITY DOW 1:12:26

That would be great. That would be just great.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:12:29

Thank

BERT LOCKWOOD 1:12:29

Thank

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:12:30

you so much. All our love Unity. U.

UNITY DOW 1:12:31

Thank you.

MEREDITH LOCKWOOD 1:12:39

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