

..... **LOPECO**

PRESENTS

2ND ANNUAL

**YOUNG WOMAN PEACEBUILDER AND
16 ACTORS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

AWARDS

2023

GALA DINNER
Programme

08 December 2023

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CONNECT
EMPOWER
ADVOCATE



16 ACTORS SUPPORTING

The Lady of Peace Community Foundation (LOPECO) is concluding an extensive search initiated at the commencement of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children in 2023.

The primary objective of this search is to acknowledge, magnify, and express gratitude to individuals like yourself who contribute significantly to their communities. These are individuals who actively combat violence against women and girls and refuse to be bystanders.

As a campaign driven by civil society, it receives backing from the United Nations through the Secretary General's UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women initiative. This year, the #OrangeTheWorld campaign commemorates activism, promoting a message discouraging bystanderism and encouraging everyone to take action.

As an engaged citizen who elevates the standards during the 16 days of activism against violence on women and children, your advocacy carries a powerful impact. Your efforts predominantly focus on preventing and ending Violence Against Women and


Girls in your community.

We aim to acknowledge, amplify, and highlight your work. The 16 Actors exemplify values that align with their actions against violence on women and children. Their initiatives must encompass responsive or preventative approaches to combat violence and address the needs of marginalized groups falling under women, gender non-conforming persons, or children.

LADY D

Dieketseng Diale
Executive Director
(LOPECO)






The Young Women Peacebuilder Awards is a collaborative initiative by partners implementing the South African National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace & Security (WPS). The awards aim to recognize and highlight the exceptional contributions of young women across local, national, and continental levels who are actively promoting and implementing the objectives of the NAP on WPS.

Focusing on enhancing the meaningful involvement of young women in the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, the awards seek those engaged in combatting issues like gangsterism, xenophobia, gender-based violence, and those involved in peace efforts during the 2021 July unrest. Nominees also include individuals working across all four pillars of the NAP on Women, Peace & Security within their communities.

Acknowledging the vital role young women play in addressing the rising incidents of violent conflict and unrest in South Africa, Africa, and beyond, the awards aim to empower and amplify the impact of these women. The recipients, chosen with the support of the Institute for Justice & Reconciliation and sponsored by the Embassy of Ireland, Embassy of the Netherlands, and UNWOMEN, are expected to inspire others and contribute to positive change.

Gratitude is expressed to the supporting organizations and government departments for their unwavering support, and the belief is expressed that the recognized young women will inspire a new generation of peacebuilders.

The awards, a testament to the commitment to fostering a culture of peace, hope to encourage continued efforts for a more peaceful and just society.



Channon Filander



Channon Filander, a resident of Scottsdene Kraaifontein Cape Town, hails from a community grappling with high crime rates, teenage pregnancies, and rampant unemployment. She is an active member of the LOPECO FOUNdation PeaceKona™ Network, where she not only contributes as a netball coach and administrator but also extends her dedication to community development.

Channon's professional journey includes working at Burhose from 2013 until its liquidation in 2021 during the COVID pandemic. During her unemployment period in 2021, she gained valuable insights into the challenges faced by the youth in her community, witnessing firsthand the impact of high unemployment rates.

Motivated by her extensive netball experience, including being named Sportswoman of the Year in high school, Channon, along with her sister Myrtle Filander, initiated the LOPECO Netball Club in April 2021.

Starting with minimal resources, such as netball poles with old tires and improvised netball rings, Channon dedicated herself to teaching children in the community who had little to

no netball experience. Through various activities and fundraisers, she expanded the club, acquiring necessary equipment and even securing sponsorships for netball attire.

Channon's commitment goes beyond sports. She actively engages in community activities, from organizing a color run to providing essential items for back-to-school drives. Her involvement extends to education, as she helps the young ladies in her community with their homework after a full day of work as an ICT and administration assistant at Watsonia Primary School.

Known for her honesty, reliability, and pride in community service, Channon Filander stands as a dedicated individual making a positive impact in both her professional and community roles

Channon Filander

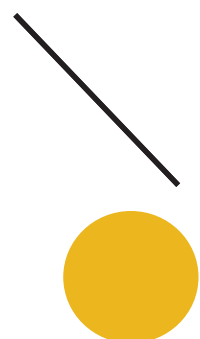
Age: 33

Province: Western Cape

Peacebuilding Methods:

Sports

Recreational Activities



Thuli Khoza

Patience Thuli Khoza, a vibrant 25-year-old residing in Tembisa, Gauteng, is not just a self-motivated educator assistant at Isekelo Primary School; she is a dedicated peacebuilder actively contributing to the development of crucial peacebuilding skills among learners.

In her role as an educator assistant, Patience goes beyond the traditional responsibilities. She actively engages students in understanding the concept of bullying, imparting valuable insights on how to prevent it and, importantly, how not to become bystanders. Her commitment to addressing this prevalent issue showcases her dedication to fostering a safe and supportive learning environment.

Patience's work involves offering guidance to learners on conflict resolution, conflict prevention, and the significance of sustaining a peaceful atmosphere. Her approach is not merely about imparting knowledge but instilling a sense of responsibility in each student to actively contribute to a harmonious school environment.

Drawing inspiration from those around her, Patience strives to embody integrity and a resilient work ethic in her pursuit of advocacy. Her work transcends the conventional boundaries of educational roles, actively contributing to the

Thuli Khoza

Age: 25

Province: Gauteng

Peacebuilding Methods:

Education



creation of a nurturing and peaceful educational space.

Motivated by the opportunity to promote peace, Patience fearlessly tackles challenging situations, viewing each obstacle as a chance for personal and professional growth. Her proactive approach to learning new things reflects her commitment to ongoing development and improvement.

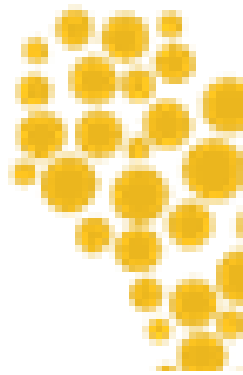
Patience Thuli Khoza stands out as a positive force in her community, significantly contributing to peacebuilding initiatives. Her unique combination of passion, resilience, and commitment defines the type of peacebuilder she is, making a lasting impact on the lives of learners and the community.

Through her efforts, she not only helps students understand and combat bullying but also inspires them to actively contribute to the cultivation of a compassionate and harmonious school environment.

#YWPA

7

Wazana Moncho



Wazana Moncho, a dedicated Youth Ambassador for the Institute of Afrikology and a recent graduate in Environmental Science and Sociology from the University of Cape Town, is more than just a name. Known as fruitful_thinking, she is not only an aspiring poet but also the visionary founder behind the impactful campaign fruitful...thinking. As a fervent youth activist, Wazana stands not only for her generation but also alongside them, bringing a passionate focus to environmental issues, climate change, and social upliftment. Her educational background and diverse work experiences, including youth mentoring, transformational speaking, skills transfer training, facilitation, and community development, reflect her unwavering commitment to improving the environment.

Wazana finds immense pleasure in working with the Sankore Children, where she believes enriching young minds can usher in new values and innovative ideas. Her commitment extends to the holistic betterment of people, with a positive attitude and a determined mindset that fosters sustainable outcomes.

Recognizing both the challenges and the extraordinary efforts of young individuals worldwide, Wazana endeavors to cultivate a culture of mutual support. Her numerous contributions and well-informed approach to problem-solving have paved the way for effective solutions within her community.

Wazana Moncho

Age: 23

Province: Kwa Zulu Natal, Inkwali

Peacebuilding Methods:

Education

Wazana emphasizes the need for collective action, urging individuals to come together, connect, and collaborate to shape a future aligned with shared aspirations. Her vibrant and adaptable nature resonates through her initiatives, reflecting a passionate understanding of social issues and a keen interest in practical problem-solving within her community.

Wazana's involvement spans various impactful roles, from being an Allan Gray Fellow and actively participating in the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation to serving as a Youth Ambassador and Coordinator for the Institute of Afrikology. Her outreach extends further through her role as a Campaign Ambassador for Fruitful_Women, contributing to entrepreneurial development and skills transfer at the Durban Business Fair, and leading the #GIVEPEACEACHANCE CAMPAIGN, which creates spaces for peaceful discussions. Through her Fruitful Thinking Foundation, Wazana promotes empowering youth dialogues, fostering a sense of community and collaboration for a brighter future.





#YWPA
#TIME4PEACE

Y O U N G
W O M E N P E A C E B U I L D E R

ORANGE

The UN General Secretary proclaimed the 25 of each month as "Orange Day" to raise awareness and take action to end violence against women and girls.

Orange day calls upon Activists, governments, and UN Partners to mobilize people and highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls, not only once a year on the 25th of November (The international day for the elimination of violence against women, which is also the start day of the 16 days of activism against women and children in South Africa).

TheLadyofPeaceCommunity Foundation as a member of the UNWOMEN Generation Equality Forum action coalition on gender-based violence acknowledges 16 Actors against violence on women and children with an award ceremony on the 21st of December 2022.

Using 16 Actors against violence of women and girls to stand against violence, UNWOMEN and LadyofPeace Community Foundation will award activists who pride themselves in raising the bar against violence on women

and children, advocating against bystanderism.

This adheres to the principles of the UNiTE campaign to honour women movements and highlight survivor-centred movements which provide preventative or responsive support to the marginalized groups of women and girls in areas of high violence.

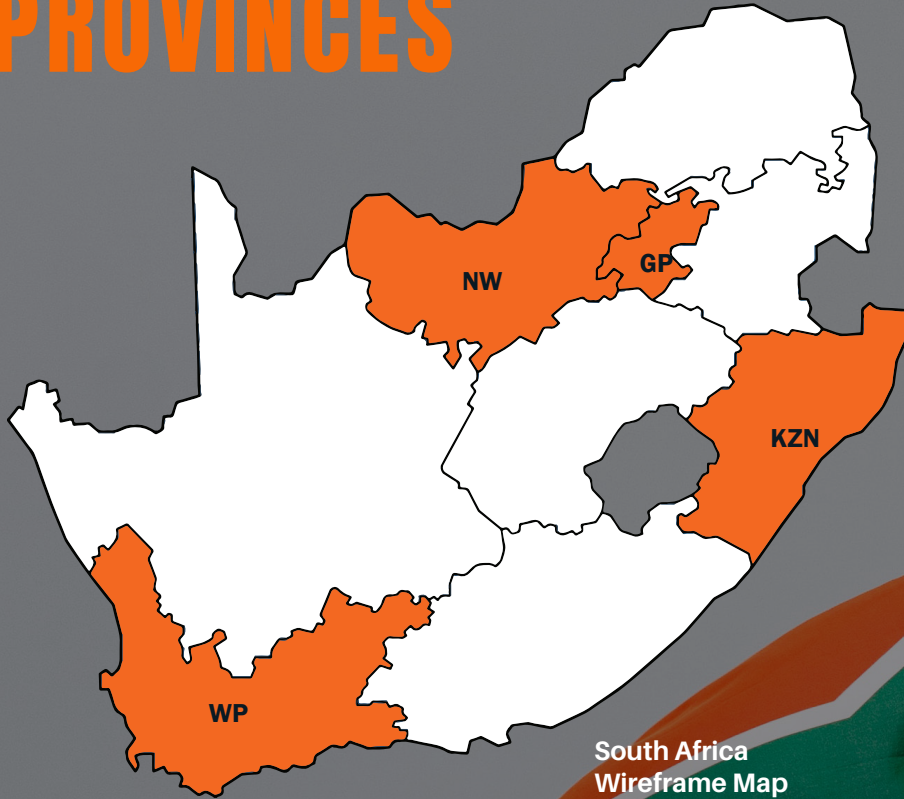
The Objective of the social media messaging is to advocate and advertise the global campaign #OrangeTheWorld through the colour schema and use of the hashtags set by the UN Secretary General alongside the 16 Actors against violence on women and girls campaign.

"Take Action, Raise the Bar"

Orange
the
World

WORLD YOUR

16 ACTORS - 4 PROVINCES



South Africa
Wireframe Map

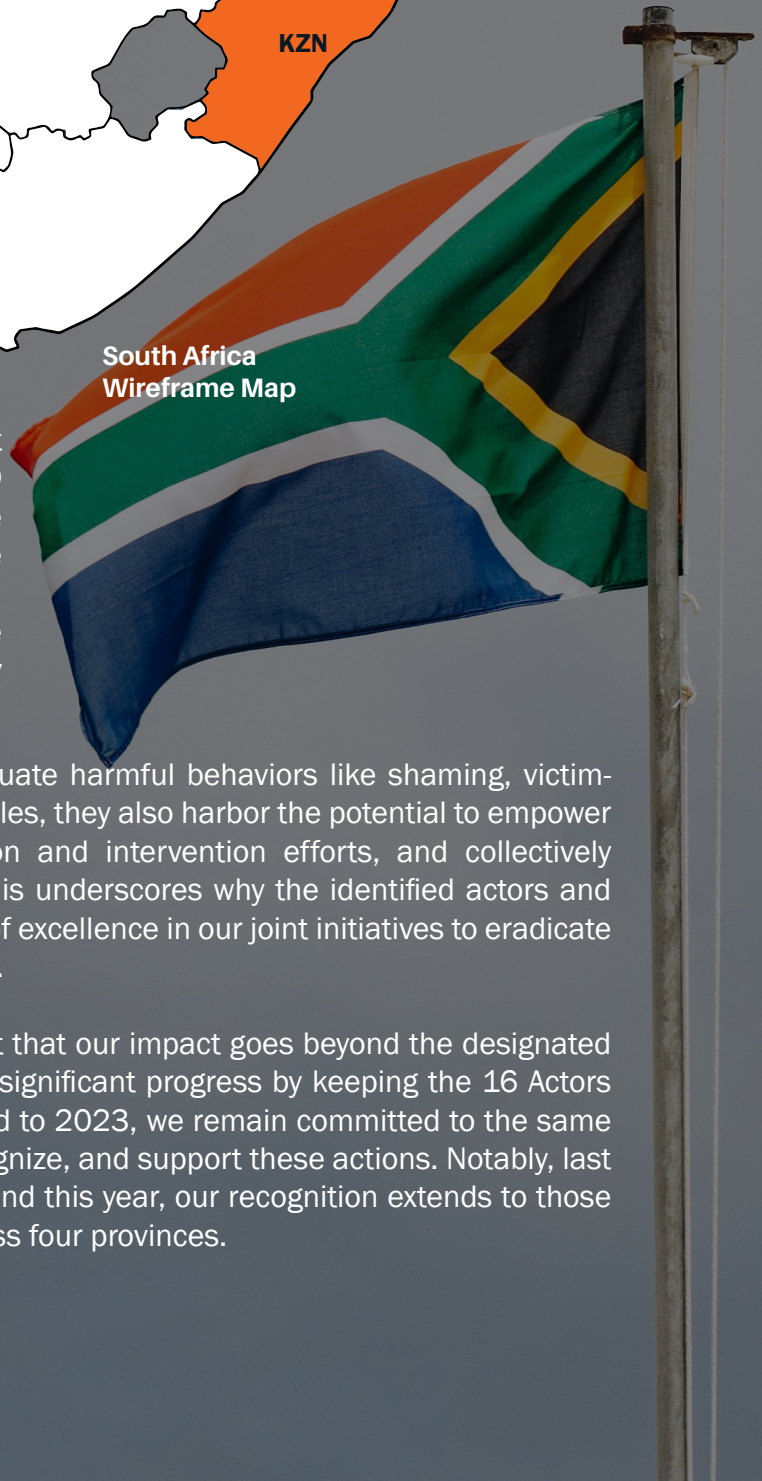


In its pursuit to combat violence against women and girls in South Africa, LOPECO has identified 16 community actions. These initiatives are situated on the frontline of endeavors dedicated to ending such violence, emphasizing the critical importance of successful prevention programs firmly rooted within communities

While communities may sometimes perpetuate harmful behaviors like shaming, victim-blaming, or endorsing detrimental gender roles, they also harbor the potential to empower women, engage in collaborative prevention and intervention efforts, and collectively establish new norms of gender equality. This underscores why the identified actors and actions must serve as real-world examples of excellence in our joint initiatives to eradicate gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

Throughout our research, it became evident that our impact goes beyond the designated 16 days of activism. In 2022, we achieved significant progress by keeping the 16 Actors in our PeaceKona™ Network. Looking ahead to 2023, we remain committed to the same trajectory in 2024, continuing to uplift, recognize, and support these actions. Notably, last year's focus was on the Gauteng Regions, and this year, our recognition extends to those who go above and beyond the 16 days across four provinces.

**We change world by uniting towards
#OrangeTheWorld one actor at a time.**



Felicia GOOSEN

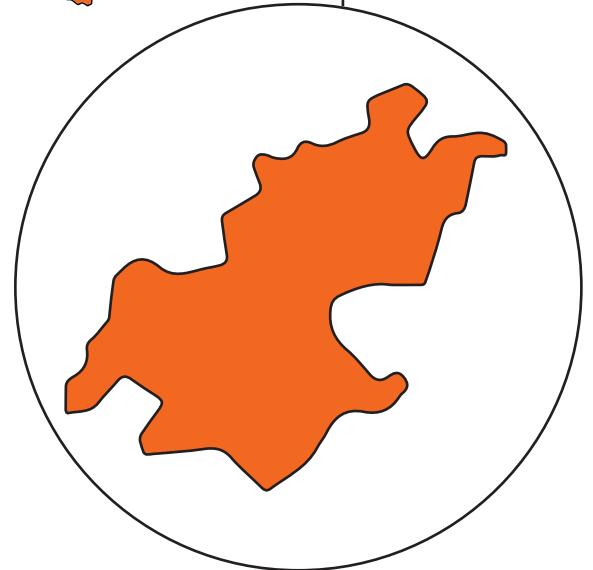
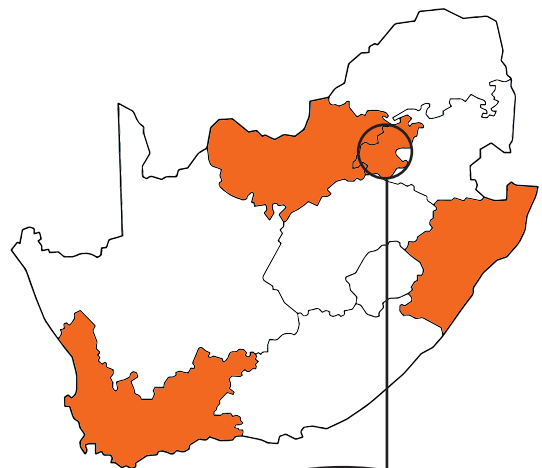


Felicia Goosen, a former Thai prison-born individual, has defied expectations to become a leading Wellness Counselor, Certified Life Coach, Author, and Motivational Speaker. Recognized as the most promising student by Standard Bank's CEO at 19, Felicia's early experiences of separation from her mother in prison motivated her life's mission to support and guide young people.

As the founder and CEO of FGwellness, an online mental health and wellness center, Felicia holds a BSc in Psychology and Child and Youth Development. Her career spans education, healthcare, and faith-based sectors, where she practices as a youth wellness counselor. Advocating for youth mental wellness and inclusion, she established a non-profit foundation in 2016 to reshape young people's perspectives on mental health.

In her debut book, "Prison Child," Felicia shares her transformative journey, offering a unique view on the challenges faced by today's youth. The book serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring resilience. Felicia conducts workshops and masterclasses, shedding light on wellness strategies to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma. She is a sought-after speaker, featured in numerous media outlets, sharing her story and mental health awareness.

Felicia runs impactful campaigns like 'I CHOOSE TO HEAL' and 'YOU ARE NOT ALONE,' focusing on prevention, intervention, awareness, and breaking the silence of shame in youth mental health. Her work has inspired people across South Africa and Africa, showcasing the transformative power of resilience, hope, and mental wellness. Felicia Goosen's story and initiatives highlight her unwavering commitment to serving and empowering the youth



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Heidleberg.

Dimakatso

MOLUSI



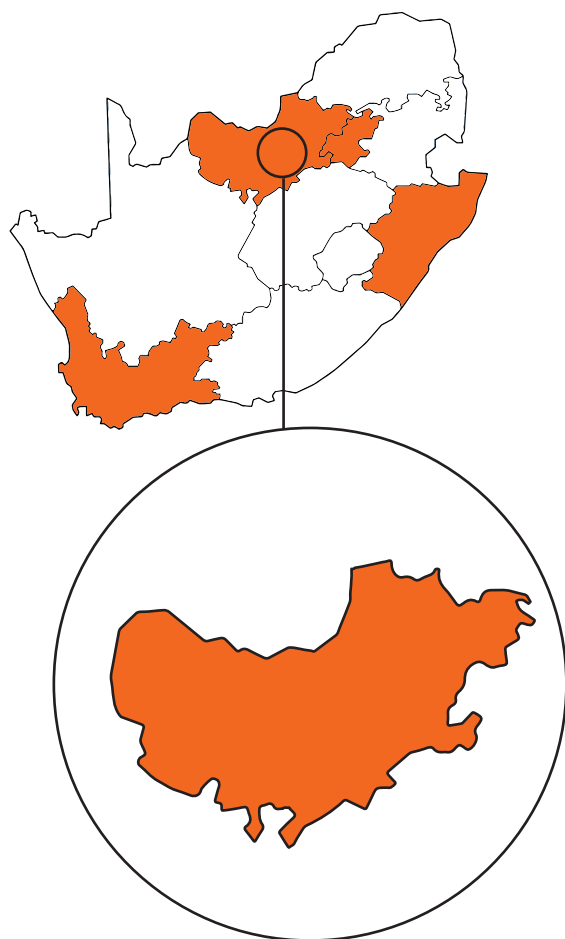
Dimakatso Molusi, a formidable violence survivor, stands as an exemplary advocate for the LGBTQI2A+ community and a distinguished leader in her community. Her journey is one of unwavering resilience and dedicated activism, with a focus on fostering inclusivity and promoting human rights.

Beyond her personal triumphs, Dimakatso passionately advocates for the LGBTQI2A+ community, driven by her own experiences of overcoming adversity. Her advocacy reaches far and wide, as she actively engages in initiatives aimed at creating a safer and more accepting environment for individuals who have faced discrimination and violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

As a respected community leader, Dimakatso goes beyond the surface, taking the initiative to educate traditional leaders on the significance of the South African Constitution. She firmly believes that the Constitution is the paramount law that community members should abide by, as it serves as the foundational document safeguarding against violence and upholding human rights. Through her efforts, Dimakatso strives to bridge understanding and promote the values of equality and tolerance within traditional leadership structures.

Dimakatso's leadership extends to grassroots levels, where she actively fosters dialogue and understanding among community members. Her advocacy is characterized by compassion, resilience, and a genuine commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those within the LGBTQI2A+ community.

Her belief in the Constitution as the cornerstone for protecting human rights underscores Dimakatso's dedication to ensuring a just and equitable society. By sharing her story, educating leaders, and advocating for change, Dimakatso Molusi exemplifies the transformative power of resilience and the importance of upholding the principles enshrined in the South African Constitution.



A non-bystander in the Northwest Province, Taung.

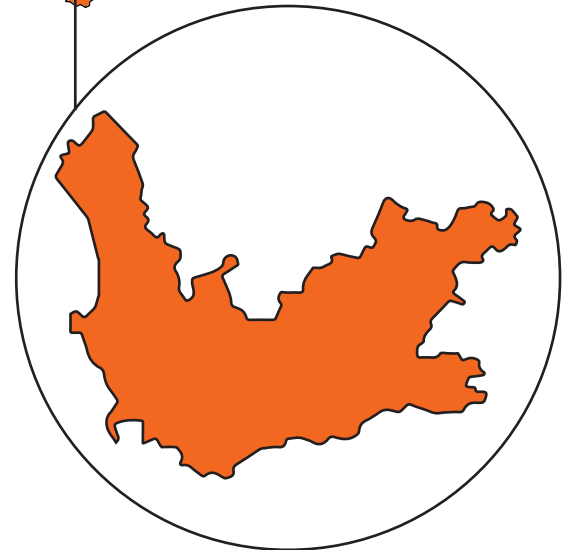
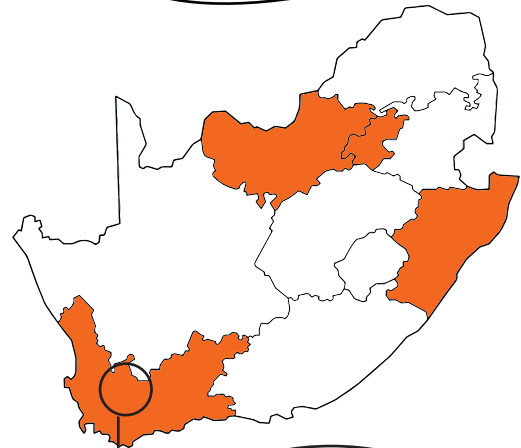
Hilton TITUS

Hilton Titus is a compassionate advocate deeply committed to aiding individuals grappling with drug addiction, particularly within the context of South Africa and his local community. Witnessing the daily impact of drug addiction on households and communities, Hilton has dedicated himself to providing assistance in every possible way.

As the founder of an NGO, Hilton's mission is to empower individuals to overcome drug addiction and lead healthy, productive lives. His approach involves direct engagement through contact sessions, facilitation of entry into rehabilitation programs, and the delivery of motivational and testimonial speeches. The comprehensive strategy addresses the physical, psychological, and social aspects of addiction, aiming to equip individuals with the tools for lifelong recovery.

Beyond addiction recovery, Hilton collaborates with "Each One Help One" to extend the impact to broader community issues. The NGO's projects encompass poverty alleviation, disaster aid, gender-based violence, skills development, and environmental preservation. Hilton emphasizes a needs-driven approach, striving to meet at least the basic human needs for mankind. The core focus includes projects that enhance shared knowledge about poverty alleviation and promote local participation in preserving natural assets.

Hilton's commitment extends to assisting other organizations with similar missions of community service. Services span areas such as basic education, gender equality, environmental development, disaster relief, human rights advocacy, primary healthcare, and food supplies. The projects, including daily and monthly food drives, essential item hamper distribution, water supply solutions, relief aid, gender-based violence workshops, and skills development initiatives, collectively contribute to creating a better, economically participative, and sustainable society. Hilton Titus's bio reflects a holistic approach to addressing societal challenges and a profound dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of those affected by addiction and broader community issues.



A non-bystander in the Western Cape Province, Kraaifontein.

Kholiwe DLAMINI

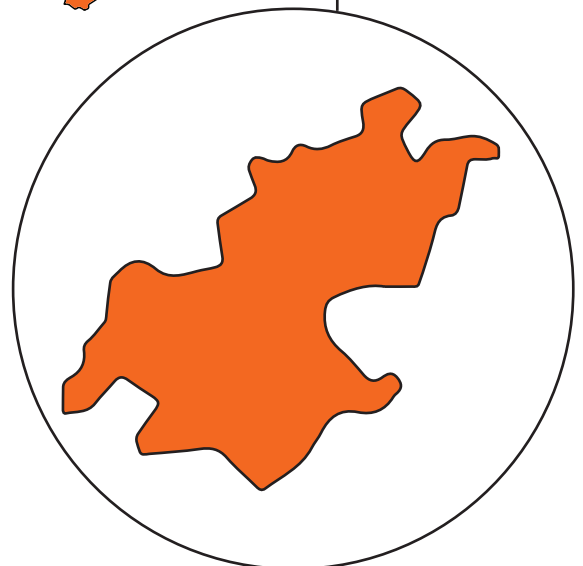
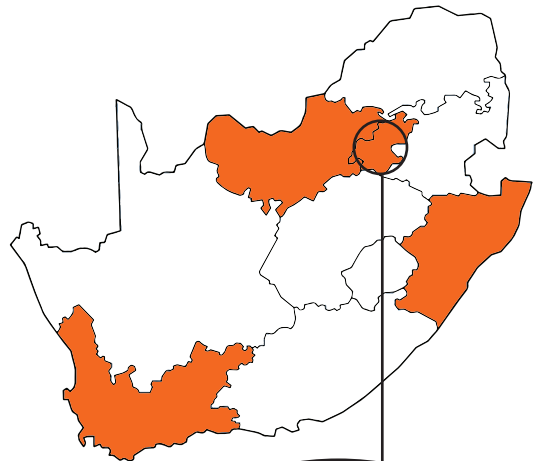
Meet Kholiwe Dlamini, a 41-year-old individual with a compelling life story that unfolds in the backdrop of Ophongola Simdlangentsha. Born in this quaint setting, Kholiwe's early years were intertwined with the charm of her grandfather's home, Etimbalini, located in Encotshane Section B—affectionately named “the flower place” due to her grandfather's deep love for flowers.

Tragedy struck during Kholiwe's tender teenage years when both her real parents passed away. This challenging chapter led to her upbringing in different Christian households, each contributing to the tapestry of her resilience and strength. Her journey took an academic turn, culminating in a Diploma in Hardware Technologies, a testament to her determination and pursuit of knowledge.

However, the professional realm had a different path for Kholiwe. Unable to secure a job aligned with her educational qualification, she seamlessly transitioned into administration, dedicating 11 years to this role. It was during this period that the seeds of her true calling were sown—a calling to be a Humanitarian, driven by a profound desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Fast forward to the present, and Kholiwe is the founder of Human Trafficking International, an organization that gained notable media awareness during the challenging times of Covid. This transformative journey also gave rise to another project close to her heart—Lehae Labana, spearheaded by her 18-year-old daughter. The project's primary mandate is to impart computer knowledge to children, guiding them from infancy to teenagers, ultimately nurturing their skills in programming and robotics.

Kholiwe Dlamini's narrative is one of resilience, purpose, and dedication to community welfare. Through her organization and her daughter's project, she continues to shape a brighter future for the younger generation, leaving an indelible mark on the intersection of technology and humanitarianism.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Lawley.

Mahlogonolo

THLAMELANG

Mathlogonolo Thlomelang, a Programs Officer at Kgorogo Social Investment, is a dedicated individual committed to fostering positive change in communities. With a focus on Adolescent and young people's inclusivity, Mathlogonolo is passionate about building self-awareness, strengthening family bonds, addressing gender-based violence, and reinforcing robust support structures within communities.

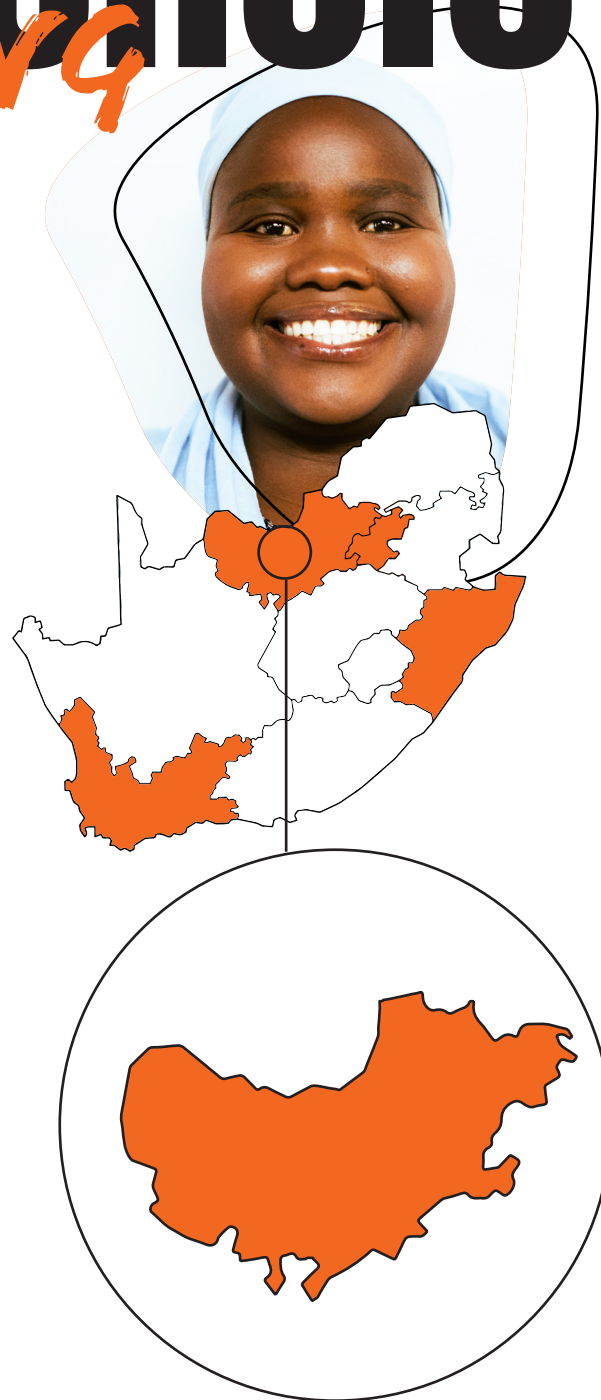
Recognizing the challenges that originate at home and spill into the streets, Mathlogonolo actively works to overcome issues stemming from a lack of support and understanding, emphasizing the need to reevaluate the existing curriculum.

To address violence, Mathlogonolo advocates for the implementation of the organization's principles in practice, aiming for peaceful communities and the eradication of violent groups. The promotion of a non-bystander culture is a key component of this strategy.

Implementing change strategies, Mathlogonolo believes in the power of young people educating their peers, utilizing relatability and influence. Activities designed to encompass elements of fun, personal growth, and opportunities are instrumental in creating a positive impact.

Measuring the success of these initiatives involves a multi-faceted approach, including education and information sharing, survey responses from workshops, baseline surveys, peer-to-peer education, and the collection of case studies and testimonials.

In summary, Mathlogonolo Thlomelang is at the forefront of transformative initiatives, striving to create lasting change through inclusive programs, community engagement, and the cultivation of non-violent, supportive environments.



A non-bystander in the Western Cape Province, Khuma.

Mientjie PROZESKY

Introducing Mientjie Prozesky, a compassionate advocate for the vulnerable, abused, and abandoned. For 15 years, Mientjie and her husband, Wouter, have been champions for babies and toddlers in need. The heart of their mission resides in the haven they've created named "Rock of Hope," a place of safety providing love and stability for 235 infants over 12 years.

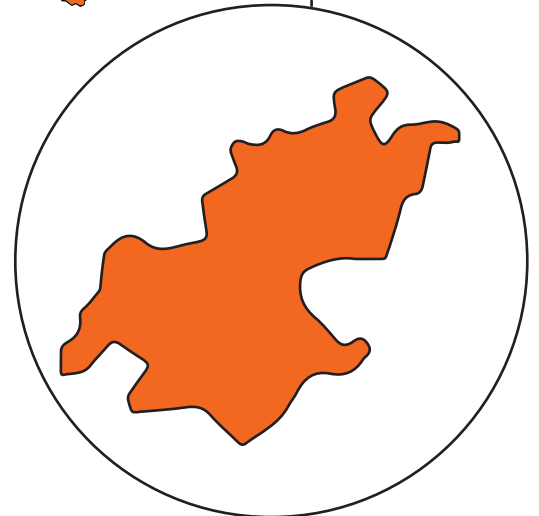
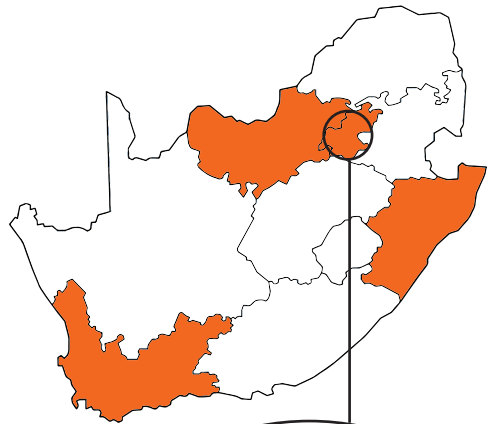
Rooted in her upbringing, Mientjie's passion for defenseless children stems from her mother's role as a house mother at Jacaranda Children's Home. Despite the overwhelming challenges of baby abandonment, child trafficking, abuse, and poverty, Mientjie and Wouter persist, witnessing miracles of transformation through love, care, and stability.

Their journey, marked by shared dreams, took an unexpected turn after facing numerous miscarriages. The couple, adopting two children and fostering another, expanded their family alongside their 24-year-old daughter from a previous marriage.

Caring for a fluctuating number of children, averaging between 12 to 16, comes with challenges, yet Mientjie and Wouter emphasize the small price to pay for changing lives forever. Mientjie, a teacher with 27 years of experience, currently serves as the Vice Principal of a school for learners with ADHD and high-functioning autism.

In response to the pressing need, the couple established The Rock Place of Safety in 2019. This initiative has grown to encompass eight houses caring for 101 babies and children, totaling 500 over the years. The transformative power of love guides their work, and Mientjie sees God as her Rock, providing strength in the face of challenges.

Despite the sacrifices, Mientjie remains humble, expressing gratitude for a prestigious award nomination and extending well wishes to all nominees. Her remarkable journey exemplifies the profound impact one couple can have through love, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to changing the lives of the most vulnerable in society.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Magalieskruin.

Moloko

DZHOMBE

Enter the world of Moloko Joseph Dzhombe, a 33-year-old husband and father residing in the vibrant township of Lebanon in Mabopane. A man with a mission, Moloko dedicates his time to volunteering at Cornerstone Woman, where he spearheads the impactful Cornerstone Man project.

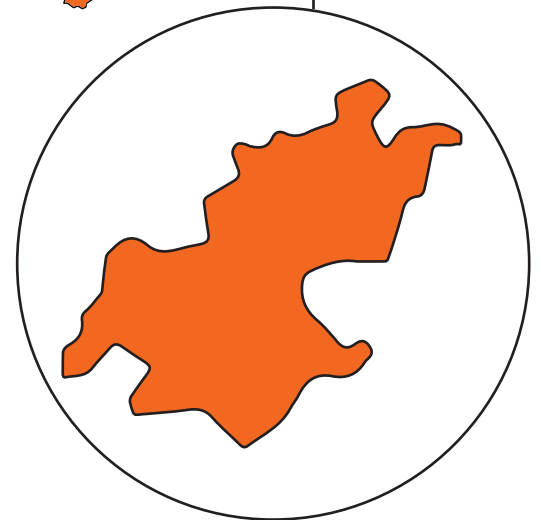
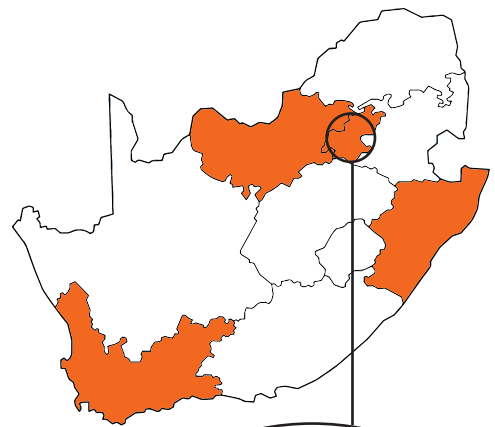
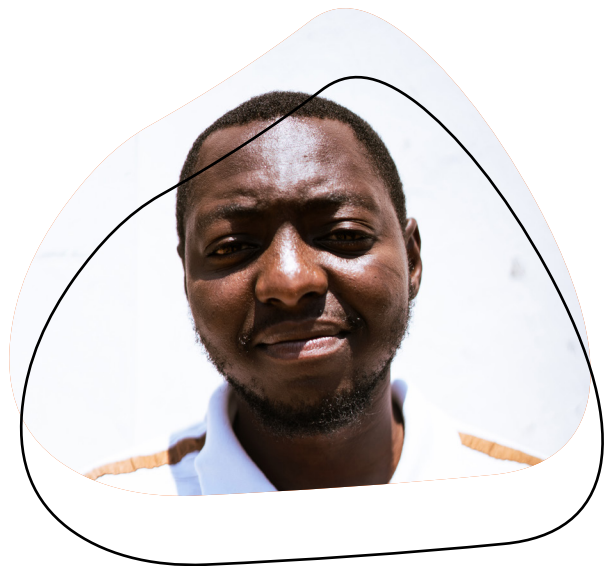
Moloko's journey is fueled by a deeply personal experience—he navigated the challenges of life without a support system, inspiring him to become a steadfast voice for men facing similar struggles. As a devoted family man, his commitment extends beyond his immediate circle to the broader community.

In the realm of advocacy, Moloko's focus is on combating Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). His efforts have seen him collaborate with various government departments, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to addressing societal issues. Notably, Moloko's reach extends across age groups, from boys to young men and the elderly, highlighting the inclusivity of his initiatives.

A distinctive feature of Moloko's approach lies in his belief in collaboration and breaking down silos. Working with diverse stakeholders, he brings together unlikely allies to collectively combat GBVF. This collaborative spirit stands out as a hallmark in his career, showcasing the power of unity in effecting positive change.

Navigating the challenges of gathering men in one place and encouraging them to open up is no easy feat. However, Moloko understands the transformative impact of shared stories. By narrating his experiences and fostering a sense of relatability, he turns those present into ambassadors of his vision and projects, creating a ripple effect of awareness and advocacy.

Moloko Joseph Dzhombe's journey is marked by resilience, compassion, and a commitment to amplifying the voices of men facing adversity. Through his work at Cornerstone Woman and the Cornerstone Man project, he emerges as a catalyst for positive change, transcending personal challenges to make a lasting impact on the well-being of men in his community.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Mabopane.

Mondli MHLONGO

Meet Mondli Mhlongo, a dedicated student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, passionately charting a course in the realm of Computer Science and IT. Currently pursuing an Undergraduate Degree with a double major in Computer Programming and Applied Mathematics, Mondli's academic journey is marked by a commitment to excellence and a multifaceted approach.

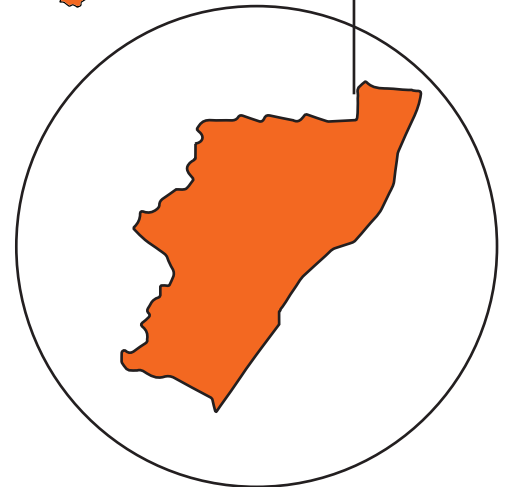
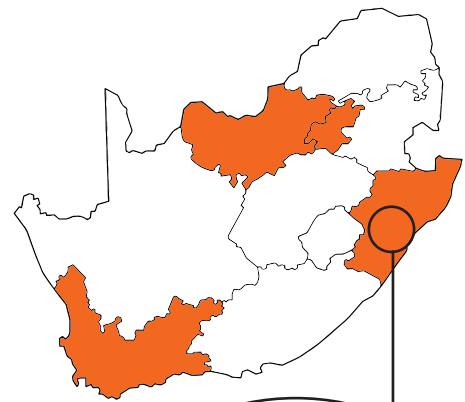
Beyond the academic realm, Mondli emerges as a Digital Content Curator, utilizing his platform to share informative documentaries that illuminate prominent companies, distinguished figures, and pressing social matters. With a keen eye for storytelling, he aspires to create an everlasting empire that transcends generations, standing on the shoulders of the youth.

Mondli's impact extends beyond his academic pursuits and content curation. With over half a decade of experience in Youth Advocacy and Policymaking for Youth@SAIIA, a renowned organization, he passionately equips young minds with valuable skills, fostering adaptability and resourcefulness.

His leadership prowess is evident through chairing multiple Youth Intercessions, including the KZN Model United Nations 2023, KZN Youth Climate Action Plan Conference 2022, KZN Model Legislature 2022, and the Sustainable Transformation Portfolio at the esteemed Young Leaders Conference 2022 under the aegis of Youth@SAIIA.

Mondli's innovation garnered international recognition as he stood alongside high school students from prestigious schools in the Trust For Sustainable Living Essay Competition in 2020. Notably, he was part of a proficient duo that reached the National Finals in the 2019 Young Researchers Symposium, formulating inspiring solutions to combat Climate Change in Urban Cities.

What sets Mondli apart is his belief that actions speak louder than words—his work communicates visually, aiming to inspire every individual towards a brighter future. His journey encompasses academia, advocacy, and innovation, reflecting a holistic commitment to creating positive change.



A non-bystander in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province,

Nobuhle

AJITI

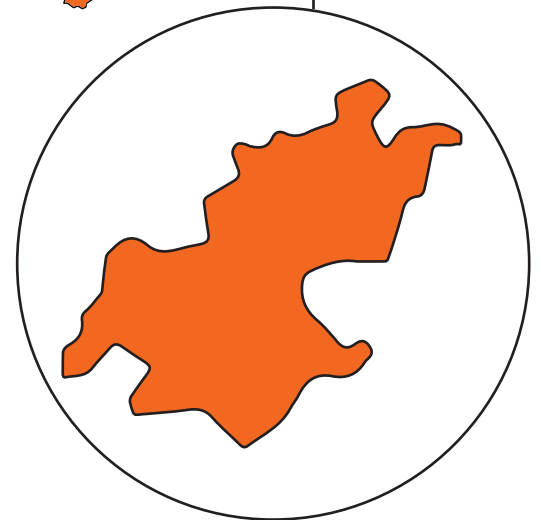
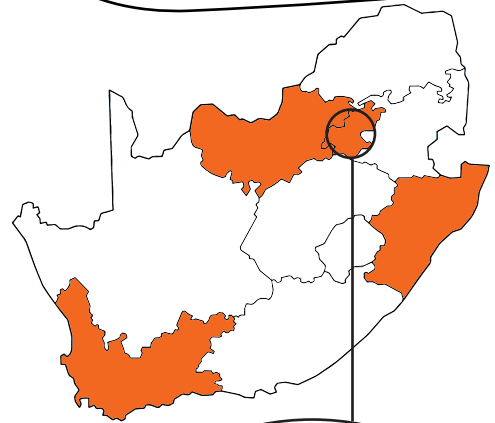
Meet Nobuhle Virgie Ajiti, a tenacious GBV and Humanitarian Activist committed to championing the rights of all GBV survivors. Her personal journey as a survivor of a horrific gangrape, enduring stabbing and being thrown out of a moving vehicle, has fueled her relentless pursuit to improve the lives of GBV survivors, transcending national borders.

As a Zimbabwean national, Nobuhle faced challenges accessing health services after her traumatic experience, motivating her to advocate for survivors, irrespective of their origin. Her voluntary service extends across various organizations dedicated to addressing Gender-Based Violence. Notably, she was a courageous voice at the first GBVF Presidential Summit in 2018, sharing her harrowing story.

Having once lived on the streets, Nobuhle now directs her efforts towards serving over 500 homeless women through a weekly soup kitchen. Beyond providing sustenance, she engages in Domestic Violence interventions, follows up with survivors, and offers voluntary repatriation assistance when needed.

Currently consulting for RiseUpAgainst Gender Based Violence, Nobuhle is instrumental in their approach to addressing GBV with men in taverns. Her multifaceted activism underscores a commitment not only to direct aid but also to systemic change by engaging with various aspects of GBV prevention and support.

Nobuhle Virgie Ajiti stands as a beacon of resilience, turning personal trauma into a catalyst for positive change. Her comprehensive approach to GBV advocacy reflects a deep understanding of the complexities survivors face and a determination to create lasting impact in their lives.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Hillbrow.

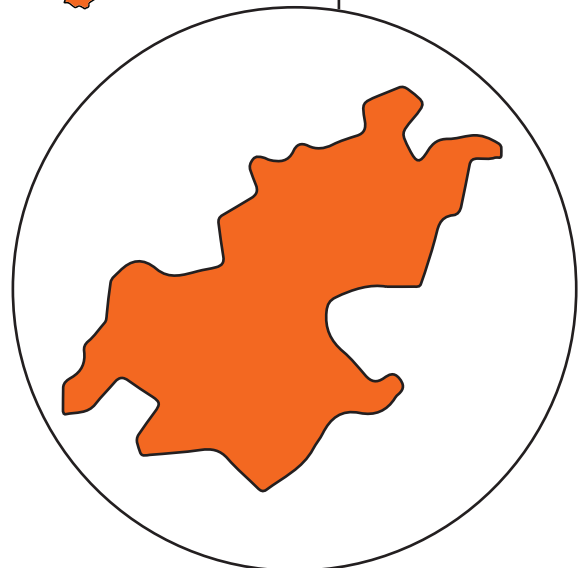
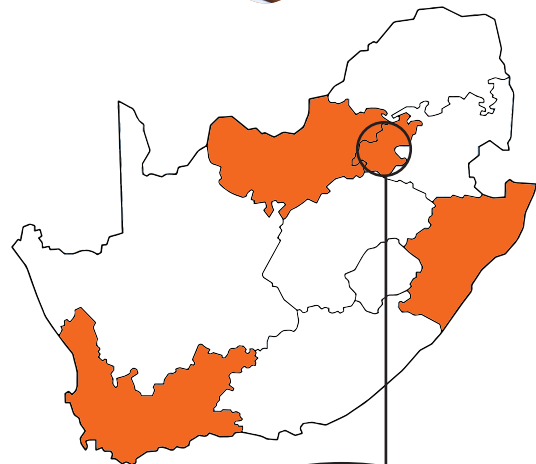
Noluyolo MABUZA

Noluyolo Nowonga Mabuza, an expressive poet, and activist was born into the complexities of life, raised by her late grandmother on the dusty streets of Katlehong. The daughter of Xhosa father Godfrey Mqakalana and Swazi mother Zelda Nomaswazi Mabuza, her childhood was marked by the separation of her parents when she was just a toddler. As the second of three children, Noluyolo's resilience and fighting spirit emerged early in life, overcoming health challenges as a baby and later confronting bullies in high school.

Inspired by literary giants like Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Audrey Lorde, and Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali, Noluyolo found her voice as a poet, expressing thoughts that words failed to convey during the early years of high school. Drawing strength from social misfits like Nina Simone, James "Jimmy" Baldwin, and Muhammad Ali, she embraced her identity as an outlier, aiming to stand out rather than fit into a world unfamiliar with itself.

Breaking generational curses, Noluyolo became the first graduate in her family and currently serves as the second serving President of SAWLA SC, representing and serving women from all walks of life. Her profound love for black women and her passion for gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) fuel her activism. Moved by a friend's painful experience, she dedicated herself to anti-GBVF efforts, advocating for women's protection and empowerment through self-defense instruments.

Her rallying cry for the 16 days of Activism against GBVF encapsulates her ethos: "I come in peace but I mean business; women should not ask for their power back, they should take it." Noluyolo Nowonga Mabuza's journey is a testament to determination, purpose, and a commitment to making a difference in the world.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Hillbrow.

Oamogetswe

CHIKWADO

Oamogetswe Chikwado is a dedicated activist making waves in the realm of social change and women’s empowerment. Currently serving as part of the Black Girls in Caucus Division within the Black Women Caucus, Oamogetswe’s journey began with a notable background, excelling as a high school prefect and later delving into the challenges and triumphs of university life.

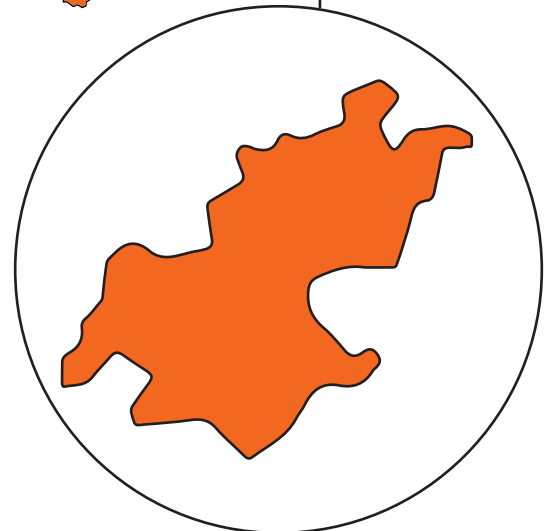
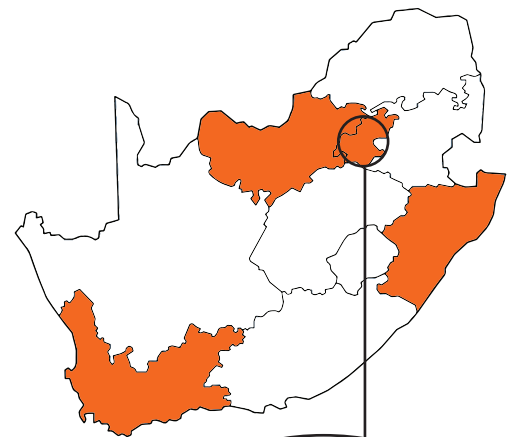


At the forefront of her initiatives is the Feminist Movement, a powerful force driving her work. Through projects like “Bereka Mosadi,” Oamogetswe addresses the specific needs of women in informal settlements, recognizing the intersectionality of challenges faced. Her impactful #OperationFuthumala focuses on ensuring that children in need have warm winter clothes for school, illustrating her commitment to tangible change.

Oamogetswe spearheads “Black Girls in Caucus,” providing essential sanitary care packs to those in need. Additionally, #LetsaPhala introduces a groundbreaking concept of using whistles as a call for help, emphasizing accessibility and safety in grassroots communities.

She faces challenges head-on, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts among organizations combating violence against women and gender-based violence (GBV). Oamogetswe adheres to the South African National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence & Femicide, using frameworks for effective implementation.

As a diligent activist, her day-to-day involves continuous research, including social media platforms like TikTok, ensuring she stays abreast of current social issues. Beyond the 16 days of activism, her motivation lies in speaking positively on GBV awareness, making a lasting impact, and fostering feminist collaboration for community transformation. Oamogetswe Chikwado is not just an activist; she is a catalyst for change, embodying the resilience needed to create a more equitable society.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Hillbrow, Proclamation Hill.

Pretty NDLOVU

Pretty Ndlovu stands as a beacon of compassion and change within the realm of social work, currently serving as a dedicated member of the National Children and Violence Trust. Her journey is rooted in a personal background that shaped her commitment to making a difference.

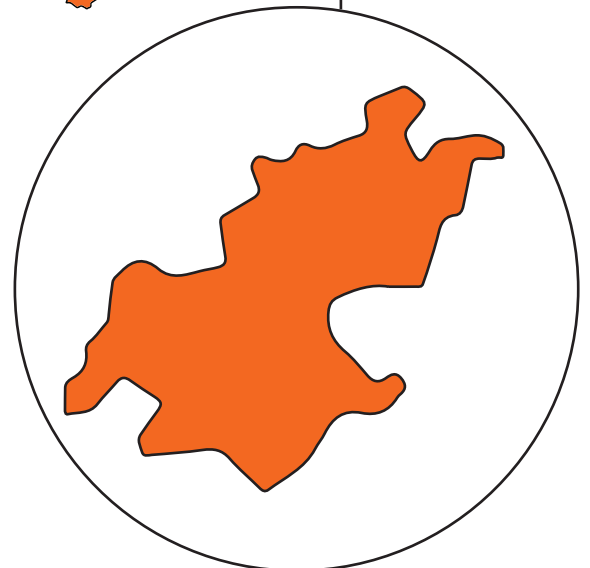
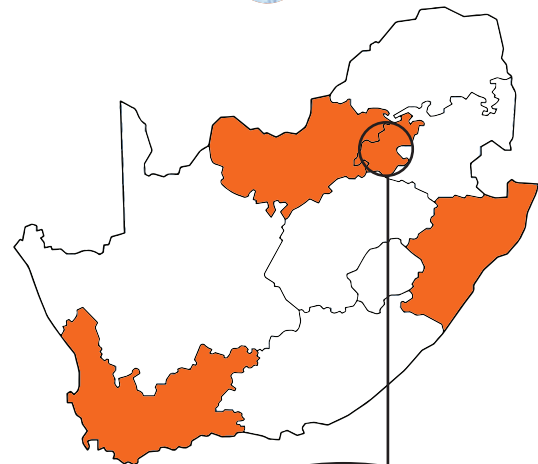
Raised by her grandparents, Pretty's realization of the need for change in her community dawned upon her at the tender age of 14/15. Despite initially registering for a law degree, she pivoted towards social work, recognizing the profound impact she could have on the lives of those in need. Personal experiences, including an incident of abuse from a friend, fueled her dedication to becoming a source of support.

Pretty's initiatives extend beyond traditional roles, encompassing adoption agency work, marriage counseling, and counseling in children's homes. She actively engages with abused victims, working tirelessly on the ground with different cases and visiting old homes to offer solace.

Notably, Pretty spearheads school campaigns, focusing on anti-bullying initiatives. The year 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, became a pivotal moment. It prompted her to acknowledge the exacerbated issues of abuse during such challenging times, compelling her to take action.

What sets Pretty apart is her motivation to go beyond the 16 days of activism. For her, activism is timeless, and there's no dividing moment.

Her commitment to creating lasting change and supporting vulnerable individuals reflects a deep understanding of the ongoing struggles faced by those affected by violence. Pretty Ndlovu is not just a social worker; she is a compassionate force working towards a more empathetic and supportive society.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Eldorado Park.

Refilwe

MADISA

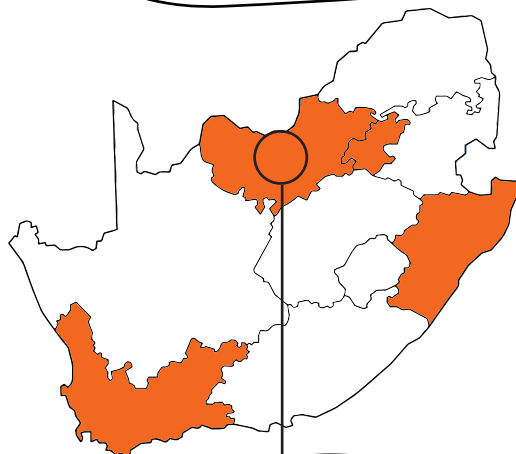
Refilwe Madisa's journey in the South African radio industry is not just a professional trajectory; it's a testament to resilience and an unwavering commitment to advocacy against gender-based violence (GBV). From her early days as a child TV presenter, Refilwe's innate communication skills paved the way for a career in radio, where she emerged as a trusted and influential voice.

Her career began with weekend prime shows, capturing audiences with her engaging style. Alongside her professional success, Refilwe faced personal challenges as a survivor of GBV. However, these experiences didn't deter her; instead, they fueled her dedication to addressing this critical societal issue.

Refilwe's radio programs extend beyond entertainment—they serve as platforms for raising awareness about GBV, offering support, resources, and crucial information to those affected. Her advocacy is unique; it carries the weight of personal experience, granting her a profound understanding and empathy for fellow survivors.

At Mahikeng FM Community Radio, Refilwe's commitment to advocacy shines. Her programs empower survivors, encouraging them to speak out and contribute to breaking the cycle of abuse. Her efforts haven't gone unnoticed; nominations for awards recognizing her stand against GBV underscore the extraordinary impact she's making.

Transitioning from a child TV presenter to a prominent radio content creator showcases Refilwe's versatility in the media landscape. Her story is more than professional success; it's a narrative of personal triumph, symbolizing resilience and courage. Refilwe Madisa stands not just as a voice for change but as a beacon of hope, inspiring others to join the fight against gender-based violence. Her advocacy carries a profound commitment to creating a safer world, making her an exceptional force for positive change.



A non-bystander in the Northwest Province, Mahikeng.

Rezaldon

LOSPER



Rezaldon Losper, a dedicated pastor affiliated with Hebhziyah House of Prayer, embodies the essence of compassion and service in his role as a spiritual leader. His journey as a born-again Christian, marked by a profound spiritual awakening, has been a guiding force in his commitment to making a positive impact.

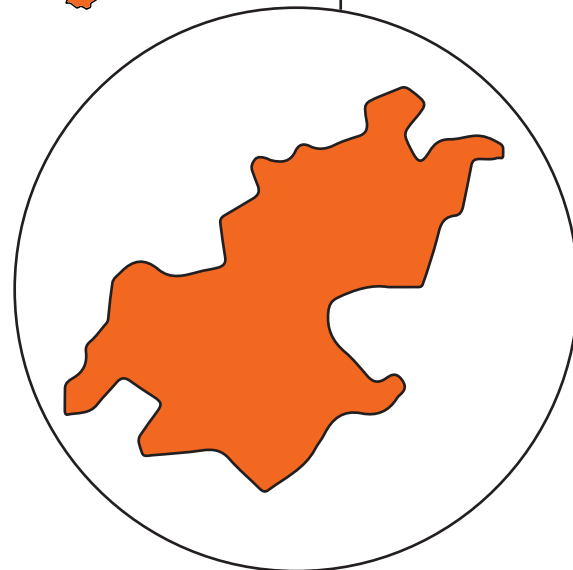
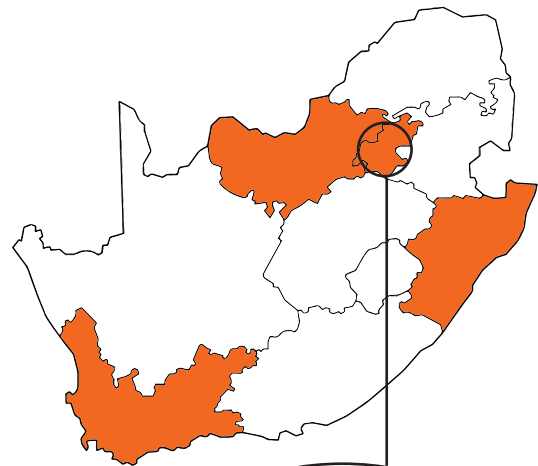
With a background steeped in Christian values, Rezaldon has actively engaged in youth structures and worked closely with survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). His association with the Tshwane Leadership Foundation further enriched his understanding of community dynamics and the need for spiritual guidance.

Navigating through key challenges, including power dynamics in the legal system and resistance within the community, Rezaldon remains steadfast in his commitment to raising awareness and protecting the dignity of survivors. He emphasizes the responsibility of the church to be a pillar of support, advocating for open doors and a constant presence to operate in love.

One of the cornerstones of Rezaldon's approach is to remind victims of the love of God. Drawing from his experience working closely with survivors, he has witnessed the transformative power of faith. However, this path is not without challenges. In reaching out to those who may not share his beliefs, Rezaldon encounters resistance from non-believers within the community.

When met with skepticism or resistance, Rezaldon draws from the teachings of love and compassion found in the Gospel. He understands that acceptance can be a gradual process and believes that, through persistent love and understanding, hearts can be touched. His encounters with non-believers serve as a testament to the ongoing journey of planting seeds of faith and love, even in the face of initial reluctance.

Motivated by a profound closeness to God, Rezaldon's commitment extends beyond the 16 days of activism. He seeks to facilitate transformative change in the lives of individuals, driven by a deep spiritual connection and a belief in the power of love and community support.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Centurion.

Sharon

KHOZA



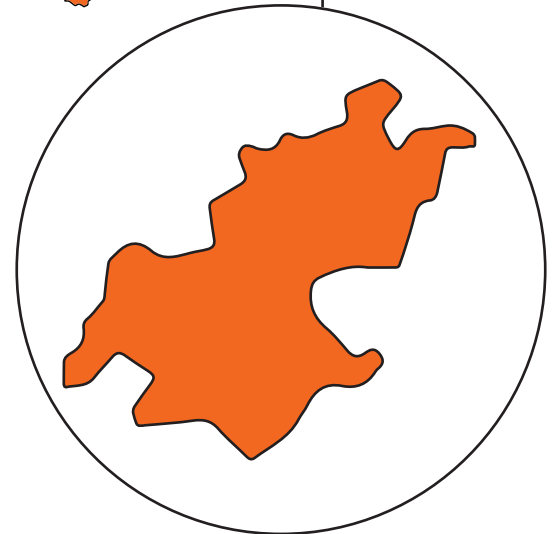
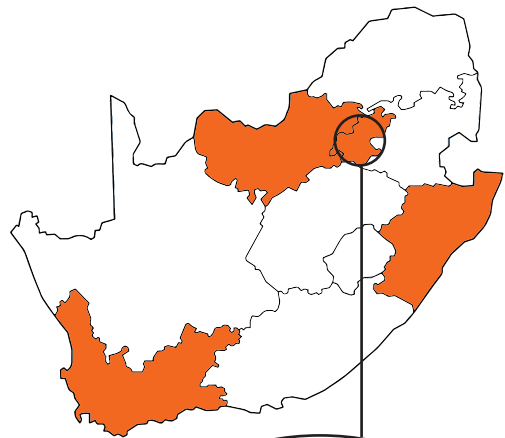
Sharon Simphiwe Khoza is an exemplary educator and advocate, dedicating her life to empowering individuals through education and prioritizing digital safety. Her unconventional educational journey, from matriculating at Palm-ridge Combined School to studying technology at Thuthukan Ma Afrika Development Center and Siyafunda CTC, reflects a commitment to continuous learning.

As a Cisco IT Essentials Certified Instructor, Sharon's expertise is evident in her roles, including Coding and Robotic Facilitator during her Africa Tikkun Internship. Recognized as a Cisco Global Citizen Recipient, her contributions at Siyafunda CTC and involvement in expos showcase her commitment to cybersecurity and online safety.

Digital safety is a consistent focus in Sharon's initiatives, seen through her role as a DIGiGirlz Scratch Facilitator and recognition as the First Siyafunda CTC Huawei Artificial Intelligence Certified Female Instructor. In programs like Digify Africa and 365 GBV Campaign, she emphasizes digital skills, online safety, and entrepreneurship.

Sharon's impact extends nationwide through collaborations with government bodies, promoting digital education and safety. Her leadership at Siyafunda CTC, breaking gender barriers, demonstrates commitment to inclusivity. She champions digital literacy and online safety for learners with special educational needs (LSEN), ensuring accessibility.

Expanding her reach, Sharon trains teachers in coding and robotics, recognized as the first Siyafunda CTC Huawei Academy Award Receiver. Her dedication to fostering digital literacy, online safety, and promoting responsible internet use, especially for unique needs and young learners, establishes her as a beacon in education and cybersecurity. Sharon's work continues to inspire, empower, and educate, contributing significantly to building a safer digital world.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Vereeniging.

Thato MPHUTHI

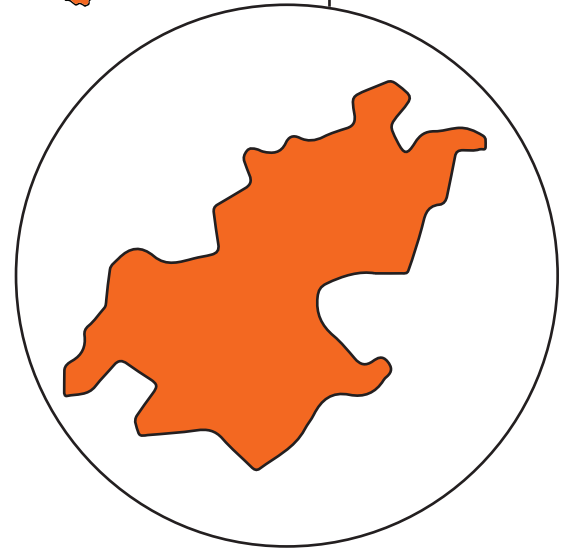
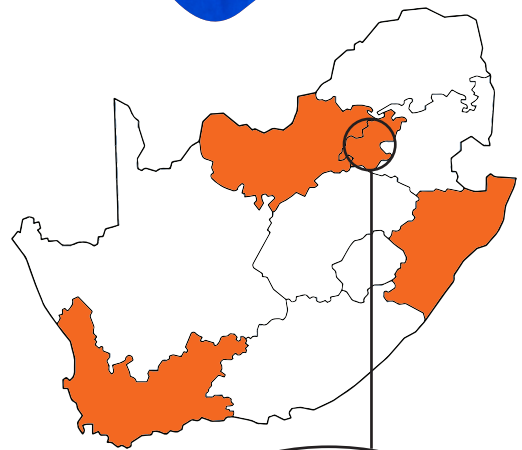
Thato Mphuthi, a dynamic force as a Social Entrepreneur, Activist, Professional Speaker, and Changemaker, is the visionary behind Enabled Enlightenment, a transformative organization dedicated to shaping perceptions and fostering positive change within the sphere of disability. Diagnosed with a disability at the tender age of 8, Thato embarked on her activism journey at a remarkable age of 9.

Thato's unique ability to articulate her lived experiences as a person with a disability transforms her into a compelling advocate. Her discourse challenges societal norms and brings about shifts in thinking, especially in discussions concerning sexual and reproductive health. Beyond her activism, Thato passionately communicates on vital issues such as active citizenship, the balance between unpaid caregiving and dignified employment, self-care, and leadership.

Enabled Enlightenment, under Thato's guidance, actively supports parents raising children with disabilities, provides economic empowerment opportunities, and offers targeted empowerment programs for young women and girls. Her initiatives extend to crafting and implementing policy frameworks and fostering psycho-social support through strategic partnerships.

Thato faces the challenges within the disability advocacy landscape, confronting discrimination, economic exclusion, stereotypes, limited access to education, and insufficient psycho-social support. Undeterred, she counters ignorance and utilizes language to remain relevant, actively raising awareness through churches, community leaders, and traditional leaders.

The impact of Thato's work is tangible, evidenced by powerful testimonials, making a difference, and ongoing consultations. Her motivation extends beyond the designated 16 days of activism; she is fueled by a profound desire to heal the inner child within every person facing challenges associated with disabilities. Thato Mphuthi stands as a beacon of empowerment, inspiring change and inclusivity in society.



A non-bystander in the Gauteng Province, Soweto.



take
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action

PROGRAM

AWARDS

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE COMBINED CEREMONY OF THE 16 ACTORS AND YOUNG WOMAN PEACEBUILDERS AWARD

Programme Director: Khotso Sello

17:00 – 18:30 Photo Shoot of finalists, Registration, and Seating

19:00 – 19:10 Opening of Proceedings by Singing of the National Anthem - Programme Director

19:10 – 19:20 Welcome | Ms. J Van Wyk, President LOPECO

Celeste Diale | LOPECO YOUTH Desk - Opening Remarks

ENTERTAINMENT | COPA Band – Momo & Didi

19:30 – 19:50 Messages of Support: (3 min each)

Dr Hazel Gooding | UN Women Multi-Country Office Representative

Ms. Sibusisiwe Nkosi | Irish Embassy

Dept. Ambassador MS Janneke Vrijland | The Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy

Ms. Nthabiseng Malefane | DIRCO

Ms. Mmabatho Ramagoshi | Mmabatho Foundation for Women Development (MFWD)

DJ Punk Mbedzi

20:00 – 20:20 Messages of Support: (3 min each)

Ms. Penny Mabule | Chairperson of the Gauteng Local Government Youth Development Forum

Ms. Charlene Moshidi | ELCSA PWL Secretary

Ms. Jabulile Maseko | 16 Actors on Violence Against Women & Girls 2022 Award - Recipient

Miss Liyema Bengu | Young Women Peacebuilder Awards 2022 - Recipient

Dinner (Buffet) | Prayer - (Ret.) Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana | Ethiopian Episcopal Church, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches

21:00 – 21:15 Key Note Address:

Gauteng MEC for Health | Ms. Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko

ENTERTAINMENT | Ntlaks the Journey (15min)

21:30 – 22:30 Awards

Remoneilwe Diale | Ditebogo Enterprises - Gender Focal Person

Video play

Presentation of Awards (UNWOMEN, EMBASSIES, MFWD, LOPECO

Young Woman Peacebuilder Award

16 Actors Award

22:30 – 22:35 Vote of Thanks:

Ms. Nthabiseng Khwinana – SAWLA, LOPECO

Group photo & Entertainment (Ntlaks the Journey)



YOUNG
WOMEN PEACEBUILDER

&



16 ACTORS
AGAINST VIOLENCE ON
WOMEN & GIRLS

BY



LOPECO AWARDS 2023

www.lopecofoundation.org
www.unwomen.org