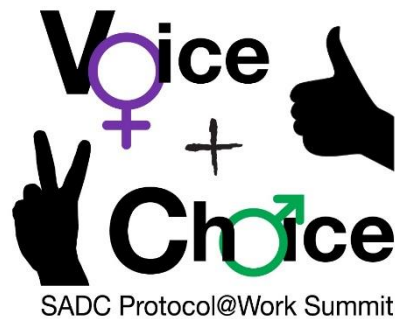




GENDER LINKS
FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE



In partnership with
Canada

AMPLIFYCHANGE




LEARNING AND SHARING SUMMIT 2025

**RWVL Joint Campaigns Template
Movement Building: “South African Women
Championing Change”**

(South Africa, Johannesburg, 5 March 2025, Lusanda Monale)

We are the ones we’ve been waiting for...

Women’s Voice and Leadership Learning and Sharing Summit 2025

A photograph of four individuals standing in a row indoors. From left to right: a man in a black suit and pink clerical shirt; a woman in a white and black patterned headwrap and a light-colored patterned jacket; a man in a light blue blazer; and a man in a black suit and patterned tie. All four are wearing red lanyards with white ID badges. In the background, a banner with the text 'SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN IN DIALOGUE' is visible.

SAWID Trustee Dr. Criselda Kananda with three speakers on Caring Masculinity at the UNISA SAWID Dialogue at UNISA in August 2022. From Left to right, Bishop Musa Sono from Grace Bible Church, Dr. Criselda Kananda, Mr Nick Nzama and Dr Jerry Mofokeng from Boys to Men CK.

We are the ones we've been waiting for...

Summary

- SAWID is a 22-year old women's dialogue organisation with the vision of **representing the voices of women** on all platforms where decisions are made that impact on their lives.
- More than **22 000 women have attended SAWID dialogues** over 22 years.
- In 2003 women identified **poverty as the greatest obstacle to their agency and productive self-reliance** and SAWID piloted a **psycho-social poverty eradication** approach between 2006 and 2015.
- The approach focused on **utilization of social auxiliary workers to professionalise and remunerate the unpaid work of women in family development**. Our sister organisation, WDB Trust, refined this model, using family development workers, as their Zenzele Model.
- Our greatest achievements include the **advocacy towards the establishment of a women's ministry** and a planning structure, **representing women's voices in all policy spaces**, and in 2025, under the theme, **"Acting and Impacting"** we seek to advocate for the implementation of women's perspectives and best practices in the systems that govern them.



Speakers at the first SAWID Annual Dialogue in 2003. From left to right, Ambassador Mavivi Myakayaka Manzini, Ambassador Mohau Pheko, the late Dr Vuyo Mahlati, Ms Mpho Letlape and Ms Elize Delport.

A photograph of a group of women in a meeting. In the foreground, Dr. Anne Letsebe, an older woman with short grey hair, is speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a white top with a blue floral pattern. To her left, a woman in a colorful patterned shirt and a purple headwrap is seated. In the background, other women are visible, including one in a red top and grey jacket, and another in a blue patterned top. The setting appears to be an indoor meeting room with a window in the background.

Dr Anne Letsebe, previous President of the South African Black Social Workers Association and Board Member of WDB Trust, speaking at the SAWID/WDB Trust Breakfast Roundtable with the Minister of Women, Youth and People with Disability on 14 February 2025.

We are the ones we've been waiting for...

Initiatives and strategies

How will your initiative contribute to building stronger and more inclusive movements?

- SAWID closely collaborates with our sister organisation, WDB Trust, who started African Women In Dialogue in 2018, and successfully gathered 1000 women from 54 of the 55 African countries, for the third time, in 2025.

What strategies will you use to strengthen collaboration and solidarity?

- Partnerships and strengthening of Provincial and regional structures: SAWID has longstanding MOUs with WDB Trust, since 2014, with UN Women, since 2020, with UNISA, the largest distance university in the Southern Hemisphere, since 2016, and with SALGA, since 2014. We also have partnerships with the University of Pretoria and the Walter Sisulu University.
- In 2025 we seek to strengthen provincial structures and link women's organisations in all nine provinces, (using an inclusivity checklist that includes more than 20 categories,) to the Gender Focal points in all nine provincial government departments, in collaboration with the SALGA Women's Commission and the Ministry of Women, Youth and People with Disability.



AfWID Founder Mrs. Zanele Mbeki, Former AU Commission Chair Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Former South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Dr. Naledi Pandor, and Zambian feminist Sara Longwe in Plenary at the African Women in Dialogue (AfWID) 2025 Forum.

Governance & Resource Allocation

How will you ensure active participation and decision-making from all members?

- In 2024, under a New Executive Director, we started Ways of Working Workshops with provincial coordinators and structures, to strengthen provincial structures and accountability.
- We are about to host an Onboarding and Induction Workshop in March using a New Standard Operating Procedures Manual with the identified provincial structures, and we sought funding to create a vibrant database of existing women's organisations in provinces and municipalities

How will you distribute resources across partners to promote equity and sustainability within the movement?

- We sought funding to host nine provincial dialogues and will allocate funds directly to the newly strengthened structures to host dialogues with identified women's organisations, linked to the gender focal persons in the different provincial government departments, for gathering of women's priorities and linkages to solutions.



Ms Ela Gandhi, peace activist and former politician, and granddaughter of acclaimed Indian Lawyer and Political Ethicist Mahatma Gandhi, waiting in line to speak at the first SAWID Dialogue in July 2003.



The panelists discussing various women's issues at the Breakfast Roundtable with the Minister of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities on February 14, 2025, moderated by Ms Keitumetse Moutloatse, Chairperson of Black Womxn Caucus.



We are the ones we've been waiting for...

Inclusive Leadership & Coordination

How will you leverage expertise and diverse connections to strengthen advocacy efforts?

- SAWID is well connected through its founders and trustees, and especially through its work with partners like UN Women, SALGA and UNISA, as well as close partnerships with African Women in Dialogue, (AfWID), African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN), the Progressive Women's Movement of SA (PWMSA), and the International Women's Forum of South Africa (IWFSA).
- By linking these resources to grassroots women's organisations, we hope to resource South African women and to strengthen their linkages to implement the best practices they have collectively designed and piloted.

What strategies will you implement to coordinate campaigning?

- By using existing resources like the 400 women's organisations gathered by the Total Shut Down (TSD) during the Presidential Summit of 2018, collaborating with the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO), AWWN, PWMSA, IWFSa and AfWID, we seek to build on the collective leadership of African women to attain transformative practices based on the experience and perspectives of women.



SAWID Board Chair Ms Thoko Mpumlwana and previous Trustee Dr Brigalia Bam pass the baton to a new generation. Here with young political activist Ms Naledi Chirwa in a 2012 SAWID event supported by partners.

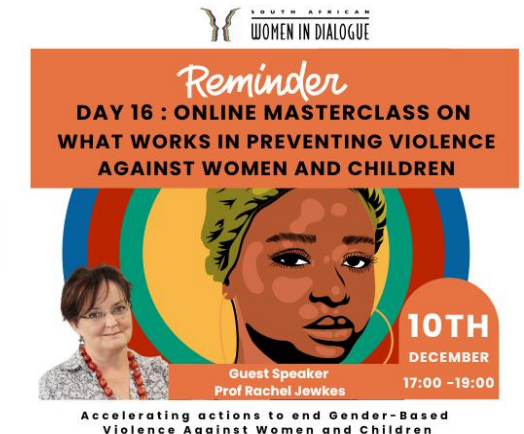
Linking & Learning

How will you foster a culture of continuous learning and best practice sharing?

- SAWID has adopted the theme **“Acting and Impacting”** for 2025. SAWID has previously conducted action-learning approaches in piloting our psycho-social poverty eradication approaches, and we are planning a Social Work Capacity Enhancement Planning Meeting to learn from the 9000 unemployed social workers how to best serve both them and the communities they serve.
- We have trained and capacitated women in healing and mental health methodologies and will onboard and induct provincial structures in an upcoming Ways of Working workshop.
- We will also seek to share women’s best practices in a large national workshop to be convened later this year.

What mechanisms will you use to document and share lessons learned?

- We have used Social Media, Masterclasses and Dialogues and Panel discussions with up to 1000 women. In 2024 we hosted Masterclasses in AI, Breast Cancer Awareness, What Works in preventing VAW, and various other subjects during the 16 days of activism against VAW and children.



Voice and Choice Learning and Sharing Summit 2025



Highlights

HER RISING LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR GIRLS



Connecting & Community-Building

What approaches will you use to build and sustain relationships within the advocacy community?

- Collaboration on projects with partners (UFS) and communities, as well as cross-pollinating ideas and conversations with the Mmabatho Foundation to amplify voices of women.

How will you facilitate mentoring, convening, and peer exchanges among professional advocates and emerging leaders?

- We have started a Her Rising Leadership program with young girls between the ages of 12-16 to mentor a new generation of emerging young leaders, and we have 9 provincial dialogues and a large dialogue organized for 2025 to convene and allow peer exchanges.



Next Steps

What will be your key priorities moving forward

- Supporting South African women's leadership through purposeful networks of influence to achieve sustainable results at family and community level.
- A database of women's organisations in the country, and a data management tool to have live, updated, information by sector, readily consumable.
- Nominated, (and potentially placed), relevant women to positions of influence
- Develop a formal annual curriculum for mentorship and coaching developed for the Her Rising Leadership Programme
- Conduct training for twenty-five young girls (between 12 and 16 years old) annually
- Optimizing under-utilised social work capacity to address family-and community-related social ills.
- Convene a scoping and programme design dialogue
- Develop a family and community social development services catalogue, informed by dialogue outcomes



We thank you.