GENDER LINKS
FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

Voice + Choice
SADC Protocol@Work Summit

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AMPLIFYCHANGE

THE GREAT PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA

WOMEN'S VOICE & LEADERSHIP SOUTH AFRICA

LEARNING AND SHARING SUMMIT 2025

Story of Change Presentation

South Africa, Johannesburg, 06 March 2025

Presented By Zintle Khobeni de Lange

SYNOPSIS

Describe the change that will occur.

What the change will be?

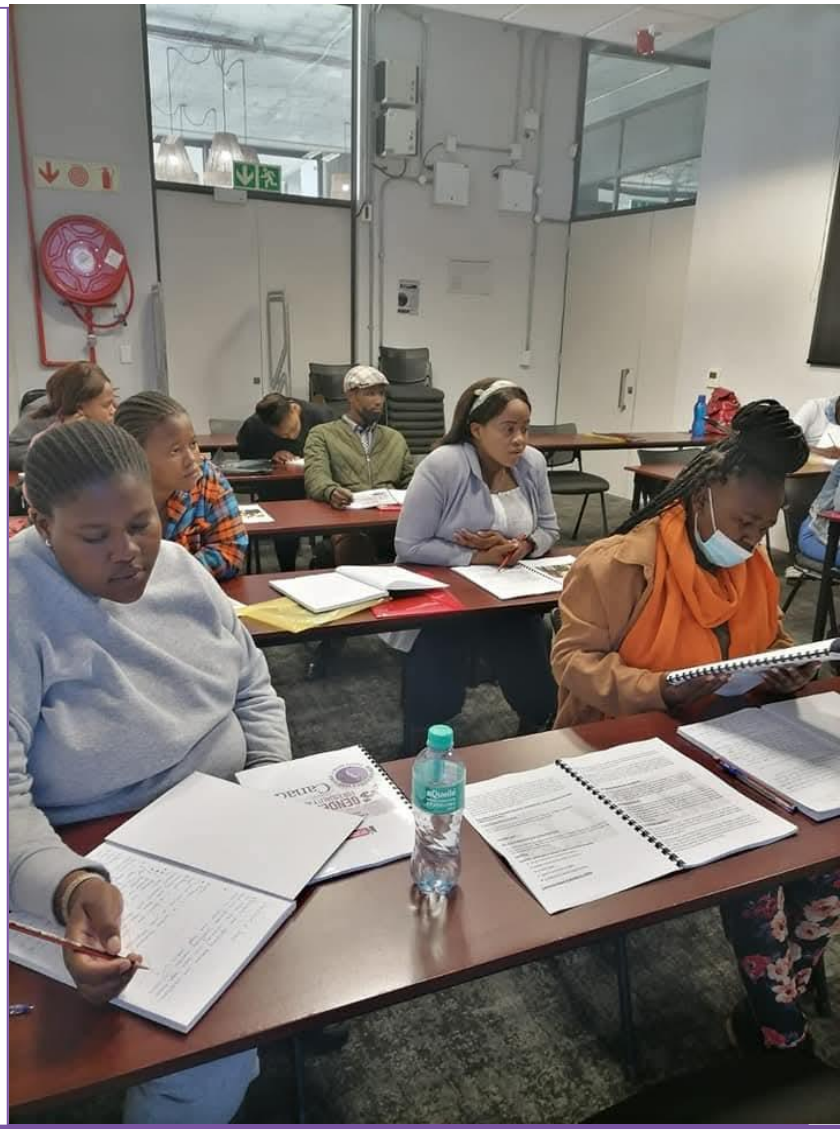
- ❑ This project will build on the success of our previous WVL-funded initiative, which empowered GBV survivors with basic legal skills & communities with human right education.
- ❑ Encouraged survivors to report their experiences, both formally and informally.

When and where it will take place?

- ❑ The new phase will be implemented in the City of Cape Town, specifically targeting GBV hotspots in the Cape Metro. (Isivivana Centre)
- ❑ Implementation will take place over the grant period.
- ❑ The project will focus on increasing survivor support, capacity building, and public engagement to challenge GBV-related stigma and ensure that survivors can access justice and support services.

Who will lead and participate in bringing about the change.

- ❑ Led by TGPSA, in collaboration with trained GBV survivors, local community-based organizations, and key stakeholders, including service providers and law enforcement.



OBJECTIVES

What will the process/project aim to achieve?

- ❑ Expand survivor-led advocacy and support networks.
- ❑ Increase reporting in GBV cases
- ❑ Increase public awareness and reporting of GBV cases.
- ❑ Provide capacity-building training for survivors and community members.
- ❑ Advocate for fair and transparent survivor selection processes in GBV support programs to avoid political interference.





Planned Activities

What evidence or means of verification will you have for this change?

We will track progress through:

- ❑ Documentation of survivor testimonies and case referrals.
- ❑ Training reports and participant feedback.
- ❑ Media coverage, including social media engagement and traditional news reports.
- ❑ Policy and procedural changes in how GBV programs are implemented.
- ❑ Comparative analysis of reporting trends in targeted hotspots before and after the project.





Contribution to change

What contribution will your organization make to this change? *Please describe the advocacy work and actions your organization plans to take to contribute to this change.*





- ❑ Train new GBV survivor leaders to extend peer support and advocacy.
- ❑ Facilitate community engagement sessions to shift attitudes around GBV.
- ❑ Engage local media to amplify survivor voices and advocate for systemic change.
- ❑ Work with relevant authorities to ensure that GBV survivors are not excluded from support programs due to political affiliations.

Population Group this change will impact

Category	Women	Men	Total	% Women
Direct beneficiaries	1000	150	1150	**86 %**
Indirect beneficiaries (e.g. through other networks)	250	50	300	**83 %**
Online beneficiaries (e.g. website access, mailing lists, scholarly articles)	500	100	600	**83 %**
Total	1750	300	2050	**85%**

Significance of change

What will be the significance of the change? *Please provide further information on what this change will mean for the movement and its goals, and what effect this change may have on the next steps in this area of work.*

- ❑ This project will strengthen survivor-centred GBV prevention and response mechanisms within Cape Town, ensuring that support is available to all survivors regardless of race or background.
- ❑ The initiative will also contribute to broader efforts to combat GBV through public participation, media advocacy, and survivor leadership.
- ❑ Lessons from this project have a potential to inform national strategies on GBV and improve survivor support in other peri-urban and rural areas.

RESULTS

Please share some of the results you aim to achieve.

- ❑ **Women's empowerment** – More survivors will gain paralegal and leadership skills and become peer advocates.
- ❑ **Public participation** – Increased community engagement in GBV prevention and response.
- ❑ **Media coverage** – Greater visibility of GBV issues and survivor-led advocacy.
- ❑ **Capacity building** – Expanded training for survivors, service providers, and community groups.
- ❑ **Changes in gender attitudes** – Reduction of stigma and increased support for survivors**.**



Cape Times, Tuesday, 28 June 2022

SUPPORT

Survivors turned paralegals help victims of GBV for the greater good

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VICTIMS of gender based violence and femicide (GBVF) in impoverished communities in the Cape, can receive support from survivors who are now working as informal paralegals, through community-based organisation, The Great People of South Africa.

The paralegals help to ensure that legal processes are followed and that contact with authorities is less bruising for survivors who often experience further distress when interacting with the justice system.

The organisation operates in the Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Gugulethu, Delft, Kuilsriver and Cape Flats areas, all of which have been flagged among the national GBVF hotspots.

"The Great People of South Africa celebrates the great things we can do, despite the circumstances in which we find ourselves. By joining together, our members, 80% of whom are survivors of violence, abuse, and rape, can help others who often come to us before approaching the police or health authorities," said the organisation's founder, Zintle Khobeni.

"Often, we are called upon to help women who have moved here from the Eastern Cape and are victims of abuse. Many do not have ID documents or birth certificates for their children.

"The lack of these documents means that they become virtual prisoners of their environment; unable to find jobs and access education, or the grants that could provide them with independence from their abusers and improve their lives, we work closely with the Department of Home Affairs in this regard," she said.

Khobeni, now a third year Law student at UNISA who survived two rape incidents in 2015, said the organisation offers counselling sessions as well a self-defense programmes to equip women to fight back.

Since establishing the organisation in 2019, Khobeni said her reward was seeing perpetrators being brought to book through her organisation.

"We do mostly psycho-social support and do referrals to some organisations that we work with, as well as group counselling sessions which involve the community like parents and children of the victim because GBV affects everyone directly and indirectly," she said.

The GBVF Response Fund has identified the organisation as one of the 110 high-impact non-profits across the country to receive a grant from its first tranche of R69 million to help fight South Africa's GBVF epidemic.

The Great People of South Africa will use this financial lifeline to benefit the women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and other vulnerable people in disadvantaged communities in the region.

"All too often, we hear that survivors of GBV do not report the crimes against them due to fear of secondary victimisation, or because they are unsure of how to navigate the justice system.

"Our communities, and our country as a whole, need more people like Zintle Khobeni, and her team of paralegals, to assist survivors through the difficult process of bringing the perpetrators to book, so that we can help put an end to GBVF in our lifetimes," said GBVF Response Fund chief executive Lindi Dlamini.

To contact the organisation, call: 079 409 3061 or visit their facebook page via: The Great People of South Africa.

Evidence

What evidence or means of verification will you have for your organization's contribution to this change?

1. Survivor Engagement & Leadership Development

- ❑ Training Reports & Attendance Records: Tracking the number of survivors trained and the skills they acquire.
- ❑ Survivor Testimonies: Personal stories highlighting increased confidence, leadership, and support for other survivors.

2. **Increased GBV Reporting & Access to Support Services**

- ❑ Referral Records: Documenting the number of survivors referred to legal, medical, and psychosocial services.
- ❑ Comparison Data: Analysis of GBV reporting rates before and after project implementation.

3. **Community Engagement & Awareness Raising**

- ❑ Community Dialogue Reports: Feedback from participants on awareness sessions.
- ❑ Public Attitude Surveys: Assessing changes in gender perceptions and GBV awareness.

4. **Media Coverage & Public Advocacy**

- ❑ News Articles & Broadcasts: Coverage in newspapers, radio, TV, and online media.
- ❑ Social Media Analytics: Engagement metrics (likes, shares, comments) demonstrating public interest.

5. Institutional & Policy Influence





Anticipated Challenges and Lessons to Learn

What are the main challenges you anticipate? How do you plan to overcome these challenges?

- ❑ Mistrust in formal reporting systems – Strengthen community-based reporting mechanisms.
- ❑ Resource constraints – Leverage partnerships and media engagement to sustain momentum

SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICATION

How will the work be sustained/kept going?

- ❑ Ongoing training programs and mentorship for survivors.
- ❑ Strengthened community partnerships to continue advocacy beyond the project duration.

How will the work be shared or cascaded to other organisations?

- ❑ Documentation and sharing of best practices with other organizations to replicate and scale the model.

NEXT STEPS

What will be the key priorities moving forward?

- ❑ Expanding survivor-led paralegal training, community awareness programs and advocacy beyond the Cape Metro.
- ❑ Strengthening engagement with policymakers for systemic reforms.
- ❑ Securing additional funding to sustain and scale the initiative.



