

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA

First Annual Report: 2016-17

THEME: Becoming a Formal Entity Ready to Add Value to the Work of Coalition Members

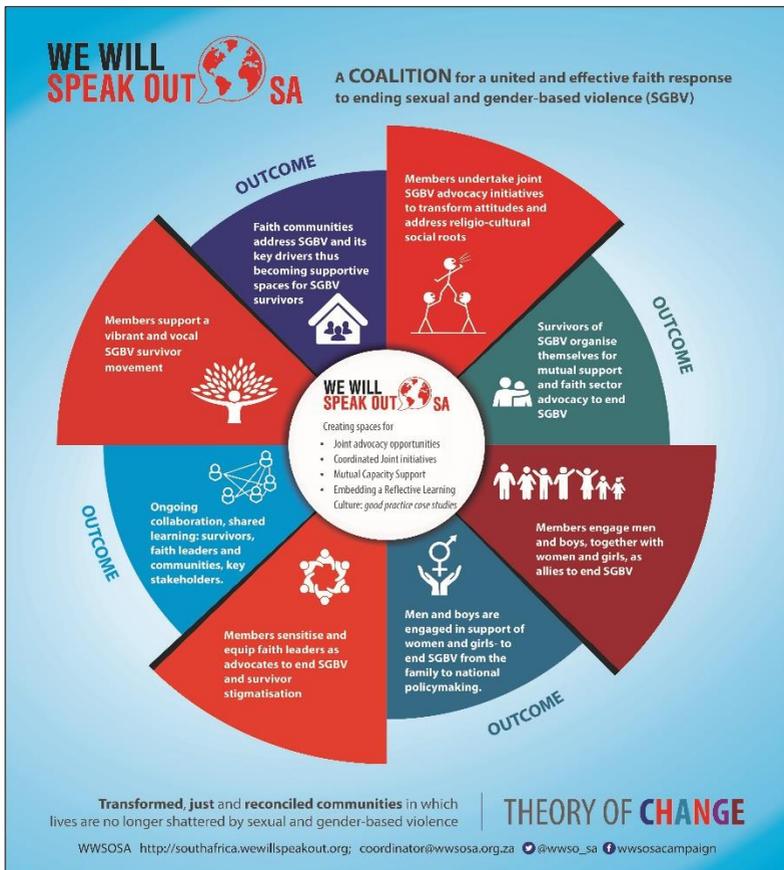


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Chairperson's Introduction: Where have we come from?

Reverend Desmond Lesejane

It gives me great satisfaction to introduce this 1st Annual report of WWSOSA.

WWSOSA is the South African Chapter of the International WWSO Coalition, which works towards transformed, just and reconciled communities where the lives of women, boys and girls are no longer shattered by gender based violence.

It has been a long journey from 2013 when the coalition was launched. There were moments of lapse and at times meetings that seemed repetitive because some people got tired, new ones got on board and needed some onboarding. As the strategy became clearer some founding partners fell off.

The MANCOM elected at the 2016 AGM prioritized processes of formalizing the structure. This would open doors for fundraising and more formal engagements. Achievements in this regard are outlined by the coordinator below.

I must state upfront that the success and movements reported here happened because we could engage the services of Ms. Daniela Gennrich as Coordinator of WWSOSA. She worked beyond the agreed hours in her contract. Zoe-Life provided office space and invaluable administrative support, and some partner organizations who provided additional programme support to WWSOSA in the areas of their expertise and operations, particular CABS who provided Communications technical support.

The coalition can only grow from here.

The scourge of sexual and gender based violence continues to plague our nation. We know that the norms driving this scourge are often attributed to faith practices and religious teachings. Therefore, maximizing faith responses in a coalition such as this one remains critical.

This is the time to consolidate and grow the work of WWSOSA together.

victims are four times more likely to reach out to a faith-based group before they reach out anywhere else, but less than one percent end up finding help there."

Tracey Forrest
TRACEY FORREST



TRACEY FORREST

Interim Coordinator's Report

Ms Daniela Gennrich

Last year's very first AGM was an important milestone. It was at this meeting that the first Management Committee (and the Interim Coordinator) of the newly-formed formal coalition received its mandate from its members to undertake all the groundwork needed to become a fully constituted and functional organisation.

This report offers a brief report back to WWSOSA members about what has been achieved, what obstacles have been faced and what we have learnt, and it makes proposals as we look towards an uncertain future.

Year 1: What have we achieved?

The main task this year has been to build on the good work done over the previous two and a half years, and root WWSOSA into a well-defined structure, and develop a strategy that can really add value to the work of coalition members.

A united and effective faith response to ending sexual and gender based violence in South Africa.

Unless WWSOSA's members and partners gain some value from their association with WWSOSA, there is no point to its existence.

This past year the focus has of necessity been rather inward looking, but in the last quarter we have been able to upscale networking, as well as opening space for members to participate in wider networking activities, as discussed below. A limitation in the process of growing the coalition has been a lack of funding and limited staffing.

The **priorities** for this year have been the following, with some tasks taking priority as they are foundational for others:

1. **Putting the Foundations in place:** Becoming a formally constituted, fully registered and tax registered entity, guided by a foundational set of policies and structures to enable WWSOSA to achieve its objectives
2. **Building a membership base**
3. **Developing a Core Coalition Strategy**
4. **Creating a viable financial foundation:**
 - Putting place financial policies and capacity
 - Mobilising necessary resources
5. **Becoming a Community of Practice:**
 - Building WWSOSA's communication and advocacy capacities
 - Networking and building partnership
 - Undertaking joint initiatives

This report reflects back on the achievements, challenges and lessons learnt as the work has proceeded since the last AGM.

Laying the Foundations: Becoming a formally constituted, fully registered and tax registered entity with a solid policy framework



WWSOSA was registered in February as an NPO with the NPO Directorate:

It took an unprecedented 6 days for the approval to come through! But then another 3 months for the certificate to finally arrive. Once that was in hand, we opened the bank account in June and the SARS registration came through in August, as did our registration under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act. Most of the necessary policies are in place, although some will have to be modified once WWSOSA has office staff in place and as our footprint grows. These can be viewed on request.

Building a solid membership base

Most important to finalise was the Membership policy and strategy, and a summary of this is attached to the Membership Form, publicly available on WWSOSA's web site and face book link.

Due to the passing on of the previous project officer, it has been challenging to reconcile previous membership lists. Thus, it was agreed to start afresh at the 1st AGM, and that list formed the basis of the first updated membership list.

From this core of 46 members, WWSOSA's database has now grown to 239 (165 women; 74 men). This includes 144 individuals of whom 30 are ordained religious leaders (8 women, 22 men), and 66 organisations, 10 of whom are churches, and the balance are civil society organisations. While over 20 survivor groups exist, not all of these have applied for group



Representatives from diverse faiths share tools from their sacred texts for women's empowerment, hosted by Religions and Peace

membership, although their members may have applied for individual membership. Some (but not all) other networks tend not to be members, but seem to prefer to work in partnership.

We continue to grapple with some questions regarding the membership base of WWSOSA. For instance, some founding members have become less active and some have not renewed their membership. The coordinator has had conversations with some of these, and it is important to take these conversations further to rebuild bridges. Second, although we are a South

African coalition, we have had requests from 5 organisations from other SADC countries. The membership category 'Allied Members' is designed to open the space for such

supportive relationships, and it is envisaged that WWSOSA might support such members from SADC countries as they set about creating their own country coalitions, who might in turn wish to collaborate in partnership with WWSOSA in broader forums.

What we are learning is that this conversation about membership, partnership and allied members is by no means cast in stone, and conversations around this need to shape perhaps a more deliberate membership strategy in 2018.

In order to be more responsive to members' needs, we have begun to adopt a new 'intelligent' client management software programme. It means obtaining more detailed information from members, and using this to work with members according to their needs and interests, and connect them to similar members. This might lead to mutual learning, technical support sharing or joint activities. This kind of service that can add value to the good work already being done by our members.

Building a Community of Practice:

Networking and wider collaborations

Since establishing itself formally, the Coordination has been able to focus more on building WWSOSA's profile and networking.

We are naturally part of the global WWSO Coalition and have been in touch, but not been an active member. It is expected that this may change in the new year.



Survivor representatives and faith leaders discuss issues at a workshop led by Sonke Gender Justice

We have begun to connect with a number of global and local coalitions and networks, including GIN, Side by Side, He for She, and the UN Platform: Gender Equality and Religion for the Gendered Responsive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the Shukumisa Network. WWSOSA is an active member of the Thursdays in Black Campaign, which operates at global, regional and national levels. Due to staff shortages, we have not, however, been able to engage very actively with these broader forums.



The Interim Coordinator addresses a Men of Honour meeting at Oasis Church, uMlazi

WWSOSA was invited to collaborate with a key partner, Sonke Gender Justice, in co-hosting a high level conference entitled *5 Days of Violence Prevention*. The Coordinator was represented

on a panel addressing the mobilization of the faith sector, and men and boys. Intense discussions ended with a request to the conference organisers to create a conference space for faith sector actors and GBV activists to engage in an effort to develop appropriate theological responses to the GBV crisis in this country.

Wherever possible, WWSOSA encourages its members to network locally, and this is one of the strategies of the GBV survivor support groups. Where members have offered capacity building training in areas like engaging men and boys, mobilising faith leaders or advocacy and campaigning, WWSOSA has encouraged them to include diverse stakeholders from local communities and to create opportunities for local multi-stakeholder planning between survivor group representatives, local church leaders, community based organisations, and health, police and justice providers.



Oasis Church march against abuse, uMlazi

Communications and Advocacy

Although we have not developed a full-blown communications and advocacy strategy, a number of important steps have been taken.

- WWSOSA has until now not had an independent website, but has had a presence on the global WWSO website. A new independent (though linked) website is currently being built, which is more flexible and more user-friendly.
- The WWSOSA Facebook page is growing in popularity, with a 10-fold increase in usage. It is frequently updated with reports of partner and WWSOSA activities and links to informative news and academic articles.
- In May, WWSOSA released a press statement challenging the faith sector to examine the role of religion in condoning or even sometimes promoting abuse, entitled: *“Bible-Based Abuse?”*. It was shared with multiple media and was featured on 5FM’s facebook page, as well as WWSOSA’s facebook page, from where it was shared multiple times to reach over 2000 people.

Further steps planned (staff resources permitting) include:

- developing an overarching advocacy strategy and its related communications tools, to enable WWSOSA to be more responsive to current issues, but also to consistently influence public opinion and the faith sector in particular;
- creating a small advisory group of high-level and academically sound individuals that can be called upon at short notice to assist with timeous release of media statements as WWSOSA becomes more engaged in public advocacy;
- developing a core set of position papers related to the key position statements in WWSOSA’s membership policy.

Creating a viable financial foundation:

Putting in place financial policies and capacity

WWSOSA's financial policy is complete and is available to members on request. Although WWSOSA is still a small organisation, it is necessary to have clear financial policies and procedures to guide it as it increases in financial resources.

These past two years, WWSOSA has had the privilege of using bookkeeping support from Zoe-Life's financial department, which has been a great help as it is getting on its feet.

Mobilising necessary resources

WWSOSA has developed a Resource Mobilisation Strategy, which is essential in this era when the NGO sector in general is under threat due to shifts in the aid sector. It includes traditional fund raising but also explores alternative sources of income such as offering consulting services to paying clients to subsidise its work with members and partners. WWSOSA is not at this stage planning to become a grantmaking organisation but this is may become viable once we have grown. We have also joined a social media based fundraising site, ***Loving Thy Neighbour***.

Updates on WWSOSA events can be found and donations made effortlessly, through the following link: <https://www.lovingthyneighbour.org/receivers?id=DC6981B3-BD87-11E7-A5B0-0CC47A7CD01A>

Strategic Thinking: Where do we want to go to, and why?

In April, the Management Committee held a 3-day strategic planning process, to draw together the outcomes of various member planning meetings held in the past two years. This resulted in the current Strategic Framework, which is summed up in Attachment1 below, and was translated into WWSOSA's first Core Strategic Framework which has been used as the basis for all the funding proposals or expressions of interests sent to multiple donors since June. The essence of WWSOSA's Theory of Change is summed up in the *infographic* on the back cover of this report

What is most relevant to members is the nature of the services that WWSOSA plans to offer in order to add value to its Members' work (listed in Attachment 1). Members were invited to respond to a brief online survey to assist the coordination in planning specific activities, but this yielded a very low return. But further opportunities will be given for members to respond and indicate priority activities for 2018, which will be included in further funding proposals for 2018ff.

Financial Report: Moving from a 'Project' to an Organisation

WWSOSA owes its existence as a formal entity to a multi-party project initiated by Tear Fund UK and funded by Amplify Change/Mannion Daniels, held in South Africa by Zoë-Life. Indeed, it is one of the outcomes of this project. While this has given it the leg-up WWSOSA has needed since its original inception in November 2013, it has also come with challenges. As a project outcome, WWSOSA was not a sub-recipient of the overall grant (since its bank account was only created once it was formally registered), and it thus has no independent financial history.

This has had two serious consequences. First, it has been very challenging for Zoe-Life, the South African project holder, to produce a financial report for WWSOSA members, which meant that there was no financial report presented at WWSOSA's first AGM. Second, without a financial report, it has been virtually impossible to receive substantial grant funding in time for WWSOSA to begin 2018 on a firm financial footing. We are very grateful to Zoe-Life for having offered WWSOSA a lifeline, as we have since October been able to present an auditor's review of WWSOSA's financials in all new funding proposals.

This means that we have two auditor's reports for this financial year (See Attachment 4).

WWSOSA donations are now also tax deductible (Section 18 A).

Finally, a huge contribution has been made by the Act Alliance Southern Africa, to enable the 16 Days event. It has enabled WWSOSA to establish some key new partnerships in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, who together are hosting the meeting, and have committed to working together to address the crisis of sexual and gender based violence in this province. An output of this process is to be a short video to stimulate discussion on the value of collaboration in tackling SGBV and recognizing the centrality of survivors in guiding successful initiatives. This will also function as a resource mobilization tool.

Year 2: Facing realities and pushing onwards together

At its final 2017 meeting, the Management Committee discussed the future of WWSOSA in the light of minimal funding prospects in the immediate future.

It has agreed to present the following proposals for discussion at this AGM:

- We recognize as Plan A the above strategic framework and continue to raise funds for this to become a reality, at which point members will be invited to submit suggestions for specific joint actions and/or requests for support.
- As a Plan B, we propose the following priorities:
 - Continued communications with members through monthly newsletters, frequent facebook postings and engagement on twitter;
 - A funding application for the following communication activities has reached the final round(DGMT), and thus development work may continue as follows:

- Continued uploading of items of interest and member activity reports as well as adding to the Resources page of the newly built WWSOSA website;
- Continued work to build the new 'intelligent' member database, to improve WWSOSA's capacity to connect members with others based on common interest and matching capacity needs with potential support;
- Development of the Advocacy strategy and ongoing public advocacy actions.
- Continued activity on the social media profiling and fundraising site Loving Thy Neighbour;
- Continued fund raising and exploration with the Management Committee of other possible means of resource mobilization;
- Building on the new collaborative relationships with new partnerships and continuing to offer presentations and engage in collaborative actions with current and newly-formed strategic partners;

This and other work will be made possible by:

- The current Interim Coordinator continuing to offer 3-4 days a month to take the above work further, in particular if the abovementioned funding for the communications and advocacy work comes through;
- Management Committee continuing to meet quarterly online, and continuing to offer support to the interim coordinator and to offer the required leadership and formal governance oversight;
- Some larger member organisations offering the possibility of including WWSOSA activities in support of their programme priorities into some funding proposals, as and when appropriate.

Members are requested to offer time and expertise if they feel called to do so. This Coalition was established not in response to funding, but in response to a shared need for mutual support and to strengthen our united voice and action. Thus, it belongs to all of us.

Attachments

1. WWSOSA Strategic Framework in Summary

SHARED VISION

WWSOSA is the South African Chapter of the International WWSO Coalition, which works towards transformed, just and reconciled communities where the lives of women, boys and girls are no longer shattered by gender based violence.

GOAL:

A united and effective faith response to ending sexual and gender based violence in South Africa.

IDENTITY AND MISSION:

We are a membership-initiated and -driven group of organisations and individuals that work together from a faith perspective to end sexual and gender based violence and bring healing in SA.

SHARED VALUES:

The WWSOSA Coalition is rooted in the following values, which members who join ascribe to in their lives and work:

1. We believe all people are created in God's image;
2. We respect and uphold the dignity of all people and the wider creation;
3. We are guided by those most directly affected;
4. We believe that God is a God of Justice – and that we are called to work for justice;
5. We are driven by a commitment to gender equality.

OVERALL STRATEGIES AND OUTCOMES

As a membership coalition, WWSOSA is a coordinating and facilitative body that supports and strengthens the work of its partners to enable a more coordinated and unified response to SGBV¹.

Working from a faith perspective, WWSOSA supports the work of its members in both prevention of SGBV and mitigating its effects, as they contribute to the following agreed outcomes:

- i. **Survivors:** Survivors of sexual and gender based violence organise themselves for mutual support, and they are accompanied as they make their voices heard through relevant advocacy initiatives.

Advocacy: Faith leaders are challenged and enabled to speak out against sexual and gender based violence.

- ii. **Faith Communities Engage:** Faith communities become safer spaces for survivors of sexual and gender based violence.
- iii. **Allies:** Men and boys are engaged as allies together with women and girls in the struggle against sexual and gender based violence.

In order to facilitate the work of its members, the WWSOSA coalition:

1. Creates **networking** spaces to facilitate **collaborative working**
2. Provides a platform for **joint advocacy** campaigns
3. Facilitates access to **capacity** development and **technical support** to its members
4. Operates as a hub for **coordination, communications and resource mobilisation**
5. Documents and/or disseminates **evidence-based good practice** that contributes to national and global priorities and helps to unify and quantify the faith sector's response

¹ This is a deliberate strategy, based on years of experience and research, which point to the need for a coordinating structure whose agenda is wholly coordination, unlike models that rely on one of the partners being a lead agency, as this can easily lead to conflicts of interests and destructive competitiveness, which undermine trust and paralyse effectiveness.

Leading to the following outcomes:

- a. Members **collaborate** on key initiatives, which unifies efforts and **deepens the impact** of the work
- b. Members' **voices are amplified** by joint advocacy work.
- c. Members are able to articulate improvements in **knowledge and expertise** as a result of WWSOSA exchanges and resources made available.
- d. Evidence-based **good practice examples** are **distributed** and potentially **influence** responses in the faith sector, (as well as other sectors more broadly).
- e. The collaborative work of member faith communities **contributes directly or indirectly towards South Africa's SDGs** as well as its compliance with **key international protocols** such as the SADC Gender Protocol.

2. Auditors Report:

Summary Report²

We Will Speak Out South Africa (WWSOSA)

SUMMARY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Funds disbursed by Amplify Change, on behalf of Mannion Daniels

	<u>YE 31 Oct 16</u>	<u>YTD 30 Sept 17</u>
MANAGEMENT STAFF COSTS	141 345	74 430
COORDINATOR STAFF COSTS	51 000	228 067
OTHER COSTS	271 476	180 957
ASSETS	-	13 134
TOTAL COSTS WWSOSA MANAGEMENT REPORT	463 821	496 587
PER AUDITOR'S REPORT	463 821	496 587
DIFFERENCE	-	-

² The detailed financial reports are available in a separate document on request.

Management Committee Members 2016

Rev Desmond Lesejane
(Chair),

Ms Marlene Wyngaardt
(Survivor Rep)

Ms Lyn van Rooyen
(Deputy Chair),

Ms Stephanie Thomas,

Mr Bafana Khumalo,

Ms Nareshnie Maharaj
(Treasurer),

Ms Daniela Gennrich
(Interim WWSOSA
Coordinator)

Ms Nompilo Gcwensa
(Survivor Rep);

Donors

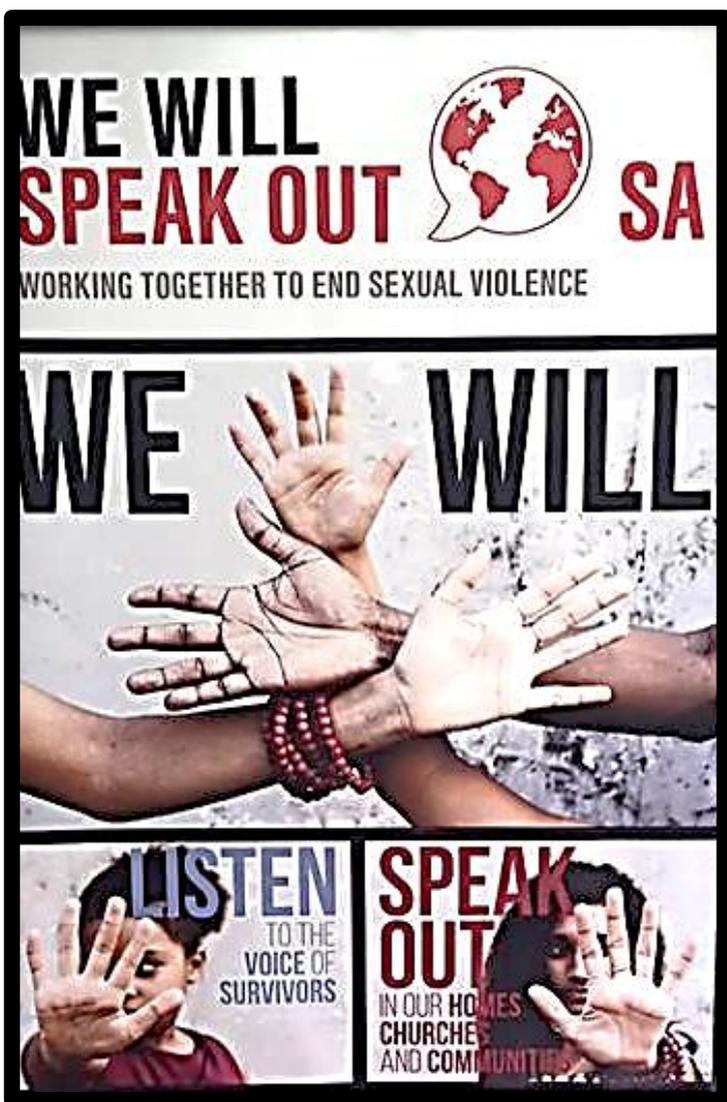
WWSOSA would like to express grateful thanks to the following donors:

Amplify Change / Mannion Daniels

(Through Tear Fund UK and held by Zoe-Life)

The Act Alliance Southern Africa

(Funding only disbursed on 23rd November 2017 for the 16 Days Event, to be reported on in WWSOSA's 2017-18 Financial Report.)



 @wwso_sa

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