

**WE WILL
SPEAK OUT SA**



FAITH COMMUNITIES ENDING SEXUAL AND
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**WWSOSA is coalition of people of faith
- individuals, churches and organisations -
with survivors in the centre
that speak out
stand up
collaborate
share knowledge
challenge paradigms
act and campaign
to end sexual and gender-based violence**

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We Will Speak Out SA (WWSOSA) is part of a global movement to tackle gender-based violence with a focus on building strong faith networks in South Africa. We have maintained our global connection as a context to our national faith sector work while rooting ourselves in our provincial context in KwaZulu Natal.

As a coalition, we strive to connect activists, faith leaders, service providers and community leaders to each other and to broader networks to build a diverse interfaith network that makes a meaningful contribution to addressing GBV and its underlying gendered drivers.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

What a blessing and a privilege it has been to take part more actively in the work of WWSOSA in the past year, not only as a member but as a Chairperson serving with powerful men and women of God who are passionate about seeing the end of sexual and gender-based violence and who give of their (limited) time selflessly. A special thank you to our Coordinator, Daniela Gennrich, who keeps us as the Management Committee on our toes.

The year 2021 was a year where **we can all exclaim EBENEZER (1 Samuel 7:12): the Lord has been with us.** The way in which the coalition has grown in influence and impact can only be because of God considering how the COVID-19 pandemic affected gender-based violence negatively. We remain grateful to God that our work has continued to be survivor-centred in this context where GBV statistics spiked due to the lockdown regulations.

Collaboration and partnerships are the lifeblood of our work. We appreciate the continued collaboration with the Phephisa Survivors Network and the Kwazulu Natal Network on Violence Against Women (KZNVAW) as well as the partners who have contributed powerfully to the emergence of the joint faith Leaders' Gender Transformation Programme (FLGTP). **We are grateful for the recognition of the work both nationally and internationally.** Of special mention is the partnership with Side by Side for their trust in WWSOSA to act as host to the International Secretariat; and the ground-breaking Faith Action to End GBV Collective, which has trusted WWSOSA to act as fiduciary partner in our first joint funded project. We will keep on having faith in God as we build the work together through these and other vital collaborative partnerships.

In terms of funding and resources, this year we have seen a significant increase in funding for different projects, translating into more donors trusting us to do what we had promised to do. We are grateful to the large donors and the individuals who have sacrificed to make our work possible.¹

Allow me to also thank each and every one who is part of the broader family of WWSOSA, whether as an individual, church or organisation. We are because you are! Please continue to keep us accountable. The work is plenty and we need as many labourers as possible

so that one day we can indeed all live in a GBV-free society.



Pontsho Segwai
Chairperson
We Will Speak out
SA

¹ Individual acknowledgements are listed on the last page.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

2020-2021: A Time Like No Other²

For a country with a long history of oppression, violence and out-of-control gender-based violence and femicide, our people experienced unprecedented trauma as a result of COVID-19 in 2020 and the political unrest during 2021. Individuals, families and communities grappled with layer upon layer of loss and trauma, leaving many in a state of anxiety, hopelessness and anger, and the bleeding of jobs led to further chronic trauma, mass insecurity and challenges to mental health.

Faith leaders as well as survivor champions were under tremendous stress in dealing with trauma of their members and communities, taking on the pain and suffering of those they served, while simultaneously haunted by their own loss and trauma.

In this context, the work of WWSOSA was affected and in many instances diverted to disaster relief and response. During this period, WWSOSA was instrumental in the ongoing formation of the Faith Action to End GBV Collective in 2020, which has grown in depth and impact through some exciting joint projects in 2021. WWSOSA was asked to act as project-holder for the first funded project that took our collaborative work to a new level. The three funded projects were the Faith Leaders Gender Transformation

Programme, the GBV Trauma Response and Survivor Accompaniment Programme and a high-impact 120-day Communications Campaign to open widespread conversation about GBV and the faith sector: **#faithingenderjustice**.

² This heading is borrowed from a book by the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, published in August 2021, with the title: A Time Like No Other: COVID-19 in Women's Voices, co-edited by Nontando Hadebe, Daniela Gennrich, Susan Rakoczy and Nobesuthu Tom. This project was supported by UN Women, the Desmond Tutu Centre and Prof Rakoczy's UKZN Research Budget and supported in-kind by WWSOSA. WWSOSA's Coordinator wrote the first chapter: COVID-19, Gender-Based Violence and the Church: A Church Gender Activist's Reflections from pp 15-32. Download PDF at: <https://www.wwsosa.org.za/resource-documents/>

We report on our main achievements in relation to the four pillars of the WWSOSA strategy:



PILLAR 1: SUPPORTING SURVIVOR MOVEMENT GROWTH

Despite the losses during COVID-19 and the political unrest, survivor support group members are higher than before COVID-19 (286 vs 276 in 2020) and other figures are almost back to pre-COVID numbers: 16 Survivor Champions facilitate 19 Survivor Support Groups in 17 local communities in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN).

Having started as a small group of survivors who joined a Tear Fund research study in 2013, Phephisa Survivors Network is now a formally registered organisation that has obtained its first small funding and has drawn on diverse sources of support for its growth, thus becoming independent of WWSOSA, although **Phephisa continues to be a core partner** and continues to influence WWSOSA through its two representatives on the WWSOSA Management Committee.

PILLAR 2: FAITH SECTOR MOBILISATION

This work has grown from strength to strength at every level, despite many challenges.

Provincial: We continued to offer capacity support to local church initiatives, on request.

National: We continue to play a role in the Coordination Team of the FBO Collective, now called Faith Action to End GBV Collective. WWSOSA was asked to hold the funding for the first jointly-funded project, which facilitated the piloting of two **key faith sector capacitation programmes and an advocacy campaign:**

- **GBV Trauma Response and Accompaniment training for faith leaders**, led by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa's Development Service – so far piloted once in KZN and twice online due to COVID-19, reaching over 40 participants so far; and
- **Faith Leader's Gender Transformation Programme (FLGTP)**, conceptualised in 2020, a collaboration between 14 diverse partners – Pilot 1 completed during the reporting period.

In 2022, both these trainings will lead to further piloting, including some materials development and the implementation of Pilot 2 of the FLGTP. An intensive qualitative review aims to capture personal transformation as a result of these programmes as well as signs of emerging institutional changes.

Global: WWSOSA has become the **first Southern host organisation to the International Secretariat of Side by Side**, a global faith movement for gender justice, and has appointed its International Coordinator, Dr Nontando Hadebe, who is a well-respected African feminist theologian and activist for gender justice and ending GBV.

PILLAR 3: JOINT ADVOCACY AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

Provincial: Our joint project with KZN Network on Violence Against Women as field-work partner strengthens multi-stakeholder GBV networks, including faith actors. We have begun to pilot community-led Rapid Response Teams in four key hotspots in Ethekwini under KZNVAW's leadership. These have caught the interest of national and provincial government, and our donor showcased our project amongst their global networks.³

We have introduced a bi-monthly joint newsletter, which combines articles related to both general civil society organisations and the faith sector work on GBV, called Gender Vibes (available at <https://www.wwsosa.org.za/gender-vibes/>)

National: The Faith Action to End GBV Collective continues to meet regularly and partners collaborate on advocacy initiatives in relation to the South African National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF).

³ <https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/news> A good article about our joint project with KZN Network on Violence Against Women, though it contains some factual errors.

We have begun a collaborative **120 Day Communication Campaign** to mobilise the faith sector through amplifying progressive faith voices on GBV: #faithingenderjustice. It runs from International Men's Day (19 November), through the 16 Days, Advent, Christmas and New Year, and goes through until International Women's Day (8 March) in 2022.

Global: We have participated in various interactions through Side by Side and in a Faith2Action series of conversations with Southern African faith leadership around sexual and reproductive health rights.

PILLAR 4: MOBILISE AND EQUIP MEN AND BOYS IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

The struggle to end gender inequality and GBV can only be won together. Hence, Pillar 4 is about ensuring that men and boys are not exempt from this struggle but support women and girls as they advocate for gender justice and an end to GBV.

Most of this work is embedded in our work with faith leaders (since most are men) but we sometimes also host events that specifically target men.

In December, Side by Side and WWSOSA jointly hosted a safe online dialogue space to deal with the difficult issue of toxic masculinities and what it might take for men to take on transformative masculinities in the form of a storytelling dialogue, in which a childhood abuse survivor turned abuser told his story of how and why he turned his life around.

Be a good guy

- Speak up if your friends humiliate or degrade women in any way.
- Take action when you see a woman whose rights are being abused - even if you are the only one.
- Friends don't let friends abuse women.
- Choose your friends wisely - a man who respects a woman will also respect you.

Faith ACTION
to end Gender-Based Violence

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA
FAITH COMMUNITIES ENDING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

UN WOMEN
GENERATION EQUALITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Acknowledgements

By its nature as a coalition, WWSOSA is its members and partners, and we express our gratitude to all. The Management Committee and its sub-committees offer strategic and practical support to the Coordination Hub. The diverse partners in the various joint projects are the hands and feet of this work, and much of the work depends on shared in-kind resources. While the work continues to be largely based on voluntary participation, the funding partners offer the financial resources needed for it to grow in influence and impact.

We are all of us! Together, we form a **diverse and dynamic faith movement** that is increasingly contributing towards creating impact to end GBV and femicide and birthing **a world where all are safe** and able to fulfill their God-given potential.

*The remainder of this annual report narrative covers the **2021 reporting period**, although it refers back at points to catalytic events in 2020. It begins with a **TIMELINE** summarising the main milestones of our work, followed by **KEY PARTNER REPORTS** and then shines a brief **SPOTLIGHT** on some of the highlights of this period, allowing for the voices of some of our core partners and participants to be heard.*



Daniela Gennrich
Coordinator
We Will Speak Out
SA

TIMELINE

THROUGHOUT 2020- 2021

Periodic calls to faith leaders (beginning in February 2020) to unite as active stakeholders for the NSP on GBVF due to be launched in April that year.

Faith leaders' pledge

Sexual and gender-based violence is unacceptable, inexcusable, and intolerable in all its manifestations.

Yet, we confess that we have sometimes chosen not to see, or tolerated sexual and gender-based violence. We have been collaborators and conspirators against the very essence of our creation.

From our platform within local communities, people of faith potentially play a vital role in raising awareness, advocating for survivors' rights and against impunity, holding perpetrators accountable, and challenging harmful gender norms and gender injustices - without fear of favour. Yet, we confess that we have often been complicit by our silence, our inaction, our misuse of sacred texts and our rigid structures that silence or exclude diversity. Thus we have undermined God's image in all people.

Therefore, we commit to standing up, speaking out and taking decisive action, and to being accountable to survivors, to each other and to God.

Continued as an active member and part of the Coordination Team of the **Faith Action to End GBV Collective**, building on groundwork undertaken in 70-Days Faith Sector Mobilisation Campaign in 2020.

Supported diverse churches on request – Anglican Church of Southern Africa; 7th Day Adventist Church KZN Province; Methodist Church of Southern Africa; Oasis Church Umlazi Township.

Multi-stakeholder network-building project, with field work implemented by KZN Network on Violence Against Women.

Connecting people – Some Phephisa leadership were deployed in the KZN Network-building Project and have started taking the approach of building Rapid Response Teams into their work in other communities.

2021

Feb-April:

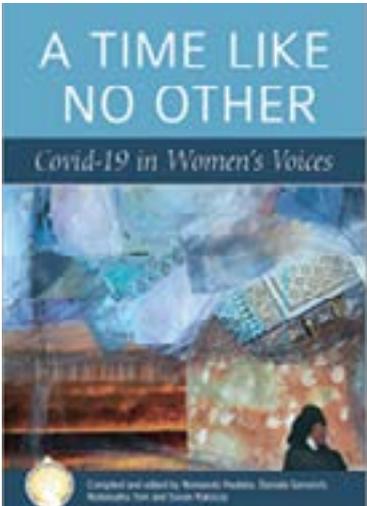
Fundraising and groundwork within the Faith Action Collective to improve core structure and process documents to facilitate the management of a joint funded project for the first time, with WWSOSA as lead fiduciary partner.

June:

Side by Side Global Faith Movement for Gender Justice launched its new Southern-based Global Secretariat to be hosted by WWSOSA 2021-2024.

August:

Launch of the book 'A Time Like No Other: COVID-19 In Women's Voices', published by the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (SA Chapter). (See Footnote 1.)

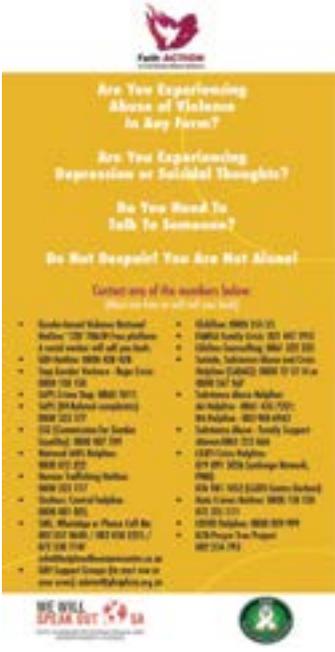


May:

Press release in response to an open letter: 'You are Muted, Unmute Yourself.' An Open Letter to South African Church Leaders on the Plight of the LGBTIQ+ People' which challenged all faith leaders to act against the culture of normalised homophobia.

July-September:

Crisis response to the political unrest and looting in KZN and Gauteng: Almost 20 000 bookmarks with key crisis and GBV contacts were distributed through the KZN COVID-19 Churches Response Network and KZN Network on Violence Against Women. Food and care parcels (including baby nappies and sanitary pads) were distributed including to Phephisa survivors as many were triggered by the unrest.



2021

August:

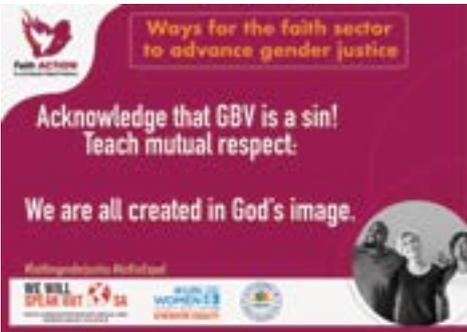
Open statement 'Words Fail Us' as a response to teenage pregnancy rates, rape figures and a brutal butchering of a 17-year-old by her partner - endorsed by more than 50 organisations and individuals. (See extract on page

August:

Solidarity Fund Project foundational work; initial GBV Trauma Response and Accompaniment Programme online pilot (due to COVID-19) and strengthened support for FLGTP.

November:

A high impact 120 Day Communications Campaign under the banner of #faithgenderjustice. With the aim of disrupting patriarchal norms in the faith sector and in South Africa at large, the campaign ran from International Men's Day on 19 November 2021 and into 2022.



November:

Safe space dialogue held on toxic masculinities featuring a well-known author who had grown from abused child to abuser to GBV activist calling on men to change.

Dec 2020 - Sept 2021:

Completion of Pilot 1 of the Faith Leaders Gender Transformation Programme, with 11 graduates. Two internal and two external reviews recommended that this is a crucial innovative programme that must be developed with a view to roll-out.

KEY PARTNER REPORTS

Phephisa Survivors Network



Phephisa
Survivors Network

Having to adjust to many changes in KZN has been one of the hardest lessons we learnt as individuals and as survivors, given that **we carry extra burdens that can make adjusting more difficult.**

After COVID-19 and the strict regulations, our households have not been able to function as normal. It has amplified how economically vulnerable we are, especially as survivors who have mostly been informal traders or take on piece-jobs to make ends meet. We were grateful for the food and care parcels that KZN Network on Violence Against Women and WWSOSA were able to access for our members and some of the worst off in their neighbourhoods. But the insecurity continues.

Another serious challenge we faced was that we supported one of our Survivor Champions who struggled and failed to obtain justice for her granddaughter who was a victim of multiple sexual abuses, but the justice system was not on our side. The one abuser was our member's son-in-law, who was a church pastor, and his congregation isolated our member and her daughter for seeking justice for their little girl. We felt so helpless, though we tried what we could with support from WWSOSA. We continue to have no faith in the justice system – to the point where several of us no longer advise our members to report their cases, but we help them to try and find healing in other ways.

This is an unacceptable situation, and **we are considering what steps we need to take** to rectify these problems in the justice system which has failed too many of us survivors. We even feel we betray our members' trust by advising them to seek justice, because we feel responsible for exposing them to secondary abuse, and still they do not get closure.

But we are pleased that we have managed to access some start-up funding from ACT Ubumbano, which has enabled us to begin to heal ourselves as a network that has lost many Champions and members as people have had to find ways to survive.

Phephisa Survivors Network was able to support survivors set up new groups in Marianhill and Empangeni, and we returned to some communities where the groups had become inactive due to the passing, ill health or simply emotional exhaustion of some of our Champions. We were particularly devastated to lose one of our Champion team members, and it has taken a toll to recover from our loss.

Phephisa's Chairperson and Treasurer were referred by WWSOSA to KZN Network on Violence Against Women, who appointed us to leadership roles in the process of establishing a local **Rapid Response Team** in Umlazi. We have learnt a great deal and we have used this to help other Champions to strengthen their relationships with local stakeholders and find ways to create stronger safety nets for survivors through their journey of healing.

Phephisa is grateful to the different partners who have been supporting our work of journeying with survivors for over almost 10 years now, since we first joined hands with church leaders to launch WWSOSA in November 2013.

Nompilo Gcwensa
Chairperson
Phephisa Survivors
Network



Side by Side



FAITH MOVEMENT FOR GENDER JUSTICE

This report reflects on the first half-year of the Side by Side Secretariat which has been hosted by WWSOSA since June 2021 and led by the International Coordinator in consultation with the Global

**The path is made by walking
- African proverb**

Steering Group, members, partners, chapters and WWSOSA. The transition of the Secretariat from UK to South Africa was marked by a celebration that brought together the Side by Side community comprising of members, partners, chapters and donors.

Side by Side has existed for five years as a **global interfaith movement in pursuit of gender justice**. The vision, goals, rationale, theory of change and activities are reflected in the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. The core focus of this first year of being hosted by the South was a qualitative evaluation using an Outcomes Harvesting methodology as well as online Global Gathering which fed into the formulation of a new 5-year Strategic Plan in consultation with chapters, members and leadership of the global Side by Side community. The Strategic Plan is a living document that will continue to be interrogated and analysed as an essential annual practice so that it evolves to meet emerging contextual changes such as climate change, gender identities, sexual minorities, religious conflicts etc. Plans are underway for an in-person global gathering that will include representatives from all sectors of the Side by Side community.

The International Coordinator has also continued **advocacy for gender justice in collaboration with the Side by Side community** through diverse regional and international as well as some South African events.

The Secretariat also supports events hosted by Side by Side community members through contributions, presentations and participation by the International Coordinator in collaboration with partners, members and chapters. Details are found in regular newsletters sent to the Side by Side community.

As a growing movement operating in a context characterised by shrinking gender funding and where there are other global faith actors engaged in gender, the wisest way forward for Side by Side has to be collaboration. Internally, chapters face challenges of lack of resources to continue their work. The need for resource mobilisation is critical for the survival of chapters and continuity of Side by Side as an interfaith gender justice movement **bridging grassroots realities with global advocacy.**

These challenges present new opportunities for Side by Side to re-envision how it works and to move forward with confidence.

The need for a **global interfaith gender justice movement** continues to be relevant and urgent. Collaboration, global networking rooted in local contexts, and sharing

**It always seems impossible until
it is done
- Nelson Mandela**

**Nontando Hadebe
International Coordinator
Side by Side**



SPOTLIGHTS

Strengthening the CSO sector for continuity of care and holistic prevention towards violence free zones in communities

Many thanks to Gender Links and Canada's Women's Voice and Leadership Program for generous and courageous support that risked allowing us to push boundaries and try out innovative approaches.⁴

We have greatly valued a partnership with KZN Network on Violence Against Women, in an innovative project based on pilot interventions in some KZN districts with a strong focus on four key GBV hotspots in Ethekewini (Greater Durban area): Umlazi, Newlands, Wentworth and Inanda. We believe this model, which builds on a pilot undertaken by The KZN Network with other partners in 2015, will also serve as a good practice model nationally and globally. The project has been recognised by the Office of the KZN Premier and the National Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as a good practice model.

It has involved four complementary strategies:

Building multistakeholder networks including the faith sector which has included district-based networks that focus on skills sharing and capacity building;

Piloting a cloud-based Case Management and Tracking platform to track the nature and prevalence of incidents in specific areas, referrals and service provision to avoid cases 'falling through the cracks';

Establishing pilot Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to build an effective locally-rooted coordinated response between government, service providers and the community to close service delivery gaps and avoid secondary victimisation.

Piloting Prevention in Action (PiA) – Establishing **violence-free zones** in key violence hotspots through community engagement. This is to begin in 2022 and will be included in our next annual report.



⁴ https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/wvl_projects-projets_vlf.aspx?lang=eng

“We tell communities that we will not be here forever. We try to work that continuity into our work and for that reason we are strategic about building linkages and relationships, and strengthening those that already exist.”

- Cookie Edwards, Programme Officer

“The referral pathways have become so much clearer and easier since we as RRTs have been working with the communities and all the relevant stakeholders.”

- Participant

“One of our biggest achievements is the working relationships we have established at community level and seeing how they are all working together to provide better help to survivors. This makes it worth it for someone like me who is also a survivor to see now how the services for survivors have improved.”

- Participant

Growing Gender- and GBV-competent faith communities

This project comprised three key activities that were taken to the next level thanks to the generous funding of the GBV Solidarity Fund and the selfless sharing by partners of their high levels of expertise and experience. Like the innovative paths taken by Side by Side, this work has been a case of “making the road while walking”. The courage and vision of the funders, collaborating partners and participants has enabled us to push new boundaries and learn from them as we have tried out innovative approaches that have bridged the gap between religious norms, sacred texts, faith practice and people’s everyday experiences.

Trauma Response and Accompaniment

How equipped are faith leaders to guide, heal and accompany a GBV ‘victim’ on the journey to becoming a survivor? On their journey to justice? Survivors have time and again told of their experiences of approaching their faith leaders as their only hope, yet sadly finding it was the last place they received the help for which they longed.

At the request of multiple church leaders, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and WWSOSA initiated a training programme to equip members of churches, faith institutions and FBOs as first responders and to offer ongoing counselling and pastoral support to GBV survivors. A survivor-centred approach to counselling was emphasised through the voices and stories of survivors themselves during the sessions, making this a unique programme.

A first workshop was piloted in KwaMashu township in Ethekewini with 22 participants. Included in the Faith Action to End GBV Collective's work under the Solidarity Fund funded project, this is intended as a two-day face-to-face pilot training programme.

However, in 2021 COVID-19 made it impossible to hold these pilot workshops, and so WWSOSA hosted a two-session online workshop series with 56 participants. With the lifting of restrictions, a further face-to-face training has been planned for 2022, and a manual is to be developed to enable the workshop to be held in other settings.



Faith Leaders Gender Transformation Programme

Imagine faith leaders across South Africa transforming their places of worship and institutions to be a driving force in turning the tide against GBVF... Imagine faith leaders equipped with both sound theological foundations and an understanding of how their own gendered history has influenced their gender positionality...

Imagine faith leaders continually challenging and empowering themselves to lead this change in disrupting normalised patriarchal attitudes and behaviours through empowering their congregants, creating safe and inclusive communities and promoting mutual respect, dignity and human rights. All rooted in contextual approaches to sacred texts. Within a strengthened faith community.

What began as a radical idea mooted at WWSOSA's AGM in February 2020 was translated into the launch of Pilot 1 of the Faith Leaders Gender Transformation Programme (FLGTP) in 2020 and 2021. The programme was conceptualised as a collaborative project between WWSOSA coalition members and later other partners joined as the project was opened up to the Faith Action to End GBV Collective.

For many participants, it was the first time they were challenged to revisit normalised gender inequalities and forms of gender-based violence bolstered by narrow or incorrect biblical interpretation. They reflected on what this meant for them as a person, a family member, a faith leader and a role model in the faith sector. Re-looking at Scripture through an intersectional gendered

Re-looking at Scripture through an intersectional gendered lens using Contextual Bible Study approaches led to participants being able to identify and begin to change their underlying assumptions and to address harmful church practices. Some faced pushback from their leaders and so even the smallest steps forward were celebrated.

While the six-month pilot faced many challenges, 11 participants completed successfully and reported some significant changes in their own lives and in their institutions, and powerful learnings were gained for a second pilot in 2022.

The first pilot was experimental, with participants as co-creators of the programme. This laid the foundation for a unique holistic programme to transform faith leaders at the personal, cognitive and theological level while also accompanying them to take the first few steps to begin to transform their churches as congregations and institutions. Some used the opportunity to explore gender identity while others used it to drive policy change. This innovative programme is a significant shift in its transformational perspective and focus on shifting underlying theological assumptions and church practices and is set to grow exponentially over the coming years.

I was especially excited about liberation and feminist theologies. It made me happy to realise that so many women played such huge roles in the Bible and this made me feel good about myself. I even got an African Women Devotional Bible!" - Tumisang Spannberg



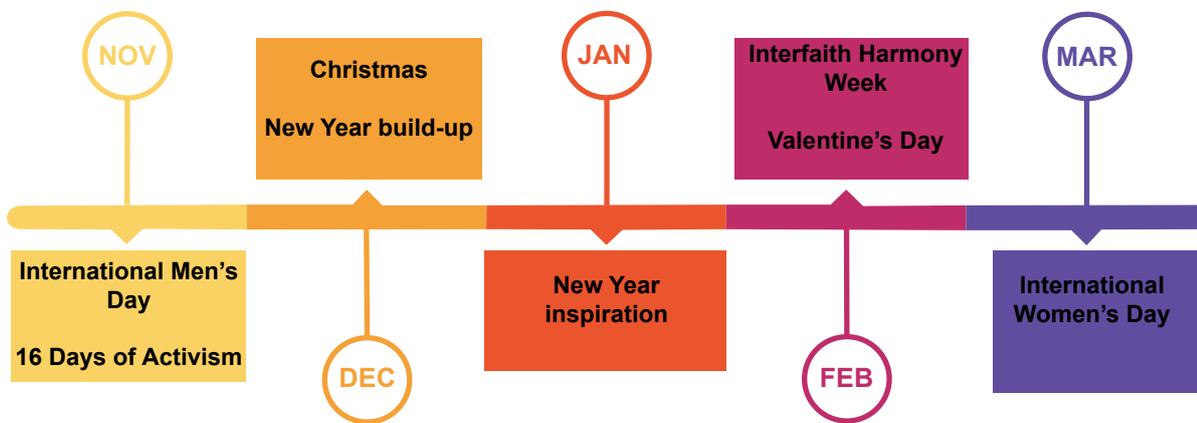
"I created a safe space to engage with a group of LGBTQIA+ community to understand their frustrations, humiliation and stigmatisation. As an executive member of the Roman Catholic Church, this was an important step for me in changing my perception, and in listening, not judging and understanding their realities. How difficult it is for them to come out to their families and the community and especially how to practise their faith." - Tshepo Ratsomo



Communications

120 Day Campaign - #faithingenderjustice (19 Nov 2021-8 March 2022)

The communications strategy was designed to disrupt normalised patriarchal discourses, particularly those rooted in faith assumptions, which are key drivers of GBV. Instead, the idea was to promote gender equality, mutuality and a call to end GBV. The aim was to contribute to the mission of the Faith Action to End GBV Collective to conscientise and equip the faith sector to engage with integrity and impact to end GBV. Under the theme #faithingenderjustice, mini campaigns were run over 120 days from International Men’s Day and on to International Women’s Day in 2022. The campaign made use of mainstream and online media, social media, online safe space dialogues and online shows.



Website

A key highlight of the project was the launch of the website for the Faith Action to End GBV Collective. We conceptualised it to be vibrant, positive and action-orientated, sharing both the work of the Collective and partners, and at the same time, inviting the visitor to sign-up or get involved.

<https://www.wwsosa.org.za/>



Message to myself

The campaign has adopted and adapted the UN Women's initiative, Open Letter to Self. People were invited to craft a Message to Myself where they explored their role in gender justice based on or because of their faith.

DEAR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF

"The world is not safe for women - it favours men. Never ever tell yourself that you understand what women are going through."

Farhea Masego, Archdeacon and Pastor, Hlithin Anglican Church

Faith ACTION
to end Gender-Based Violence

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA
2021-2022

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
RESEARCH CENTRE

120 DAY CAMPAIGN
#FaithInGenderJustice

www.faith2endgbv.org.za



16 Days of activism

Media coverage and activities are usually focused on gender activism in the gender sector, so through this project we added a welcome and different approach of the role by the faith sector in ending GBV.

Build up to New Year

New Year is often a time where GBV increases, so the approach taken was to develop disruptive graphics to challenge this kind of behaviour, mainly aimed at men. These graphics had great reach and led to much online engagement.

Leave her alone

- When you see a woman walking by herself, leave her alone.
- When you see a woman who is drunk, leave her alone.
- When you see a woman wearing short skirts, short top, tight dress (anything, really!), leave her alone.
- Leave her alone - it is not an invitation.

#faithingenderjustice #ActForEqual

Faith ACTION
to end Gender-Based Violence

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA
2021-2022

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
RESEARCH CENTRE

Words fail us

An extract of a media statement written in response to several reports of GBV and femicide, including cases perpetrated or condoned by church leaders themselves (August 2021).

Instead of trying to find the 'right' words to speak into this situation, we can only cry out in desperation an adaptation of Jesus' own words:

Forgive us, Lord, for we know not what we do!

Forgive us for what we do as churches and other faith communities that undermine the presence of God in women, making men believe they have a right to control women's lives and bodies, even their families and their future. How have our teachings, theologies, and practices contributed to creating a society in which such crimes can ever be considered a course of action?

Dr Nontando Hadebe, International Coordinator of the Side by Side Network hosted by WWSOSA and a leader in our Faith Action to End GBV Collective, recently referred to the need for a "Reverse Propheticism" in which life 'speaks back' to religion. She warned that the ideals of our religions "mean nothing unless they make a tangible difference to the concrete daily experiences of women's lives."

As long as women are the poorest, most marginalised members of our societies, and their bodies are degraded, beaten, raped, and even cut into pieces, we have failed to respond to God's call to minister peace, love, and justice. We need to continue to beg forgiveness.

**But when we are honest: is it because
"we know not we do"?**

**For the full statement, please visit the website post:
<https://www.wwsosa.org.za/statement-words-fail-us/>**

From Toxic to Transformative Masculinities

While there is much focus on the need to dismantle toxic masculinities in South Africa and develop alternative, positive and transformative masculinities, it is seldom that men talk out from a lived experience. Turning the spotlight on this, WWSOSA hosted an online safe space storytelling dialogue as a joint initiative with Side by Side.

Acclaimed author, journalist and columnist Bhekisisa Mncube told his story from abused to abuser to GBV activist. He shared his experience being brought up in a broken home with an abusive and neglectful father, how he watched helplessly as his mother was abused. Explaining his role as an abuser he spoke of kidnapping his first girlfriend and sexually abusing her. In another incident, Bhekisiswa only stopped beating a woman because he panicked when she started bleeding. He became the man he hated – his father.

His story of change was painful. He dealt with major depression and the pain of participating in gender-based violence – both as a perpetrator and as a victim. He vowed to break the generational curse that pulled his sister into a cycle of abuse, landed him with depression and has left his brother in denial of his mental health disorder. During the dialogue and through media articles he wrote at the same time, Bhekisisa has taken responsibility for his actions:

“My adult view is that women have suffered enough; now the titanic battle to defeat the scourge of violence against women and girls is on every man and boy.

I have committed myself to tell my shameful story to ignite an honest conversation about men’s role – both as survivors and perpetrators – in rebuilding our broken social fabric. It truly is in our hands.”

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA **Faith ACTION** **SIDE BY SIDE** **NOV 30 6PM-8PM**

INVITATION TO AN INTERGENERATIONAL STORY TELLING SESSION
with **Mr Bhekisisa Mncube**
Award winning South African Columnist, Journalist & Author

RESPONDENTS:

- Rev Nokuthula Dhladhla**
Founder Ashes to Purpose, Global Interfaith Network Ambassador and member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
- Rev Sizwe Ngcobo**
Priest and Gender Ministry Team member, Anglican Diocese of Natal, graphic designer and social justice advocate
- Ms Tinodaishe Misihairabwi**
University of Pretoria Law Student; Chair UP Legal Shebeen; Founder, Spicy Christians

MODERATOR:
Dr Nontando Hadebe
International Coordinator, Side by Side Global Faith Movement for Gender Justice, and member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

THEME:
Toxic and Transformative Masculinities:
Towards a Gender-Just and Violence-Free Society

This is a safe space for engagement around the theme through the medium of Bhekisisa's powerful story. Participants will have a space to reflect on their own journeys as part of our collective journey as Africans seeking a new gender-just and violence-free society. It is a space for truth-telling, hearing one another and imagining masculinities (ways of being a man) that are life-giving, liberating and transformative.

He believes his purpose in life is “now to use writing as a form of healing as a volunteer in the fight to end violence against women and girls.”

While Bhekisisa is a GBV activist now through his work, the safe space dialogue format provided the opportunity for him to reach people on a deep and personal level. There were some tensions at points when some of the women felt triggered by his sharing, but it was good that participants were able to share how his story – the story of millions of survivors and perpetrators in our country – and how this affected them and influenced their own journey.

Collaborating to open safe space for women faith leaders to address the pain: A joint online healing space

Women church leaders often carry more burdens, in that they need to carry multiple layers of burdens simultaneously and often bury their own pain just to cope. They carry the pain of those they have counselled in their ministries during COVID-19 and the political unrest, the challenges to their own ministry as women whose ministries are still not easily accepted, and the legacies of their own personal histories. In August 2021, WWSOSA was invited to co-host with the Anglican Diocese of Natal Gender Ministry and the UJAMAA Centre, in which about 25 women shared something of their challenges over the previous two years, and a counsellor was on hand to share some coping strategies to assist.

MADE WHOLE IN CHRIST

A SAFE SPACE TOWARDS HEALING FOR WOMEN LEADERS IN THE CHURCH

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER 28 August 2021 @ 10h00 on Zoom
<https://bit.ly/RegisterMadeWholeInChrist>

STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA

DIOCESE OF NATAL GENDER MINISTRY

UJAMAA CENTRE

Growing interfaith partnerships

Over the years, WWSOSA has been involved with various ecumenical and interfaith organisations and movements, in particular through its Muslim interfaith ManCom member, Saydoon Nisa Sayed and other networks. During THE TOTAL SHUTDOWN, WWSOSA led a march under an interfaith banner with Religions for Peace and members of the KZN Interreligious Council. The WWSOSA Coordinator was invited to speak on the Al Ansaar Muslim Radio to discuss the emerging evidence of increased GBV incidence during COVID-19 and she participated in a number of interfaith meetings hosted by Religions for Peace where women shared tools in their sacred texts to support their struggles for GBV to be taken more seriously in their faith community.

The 2021 AGM elected 2 members from faiths other than Christianity, but this is a crucial strategic part of our work and will be planned more intentionally in 2022.



TREASURER'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present another WWSOSA Annual Financial Report. WWSOSA has survived the torrid times of COVID-19 and other disasters and is moving forward stronger than before.

It is wonderful to see how **WWSOSA has grown and has established itself as a voice locally while also gaining recognition globally for its work in the GBV sector.** From handling a couple of hundred thousand rand in donor funds back in 2018 to almost R2 million last year.

This, of course, has put much strain on our internal accounting functions as funders require increasingly more detailed and comprehensive financial reporting and accountability from us. I am glad to say that we have risen to the challenge and have satisfied their requirements. To this end, I must give a huge thank you to Melissa Josiah, our competent part-time bookkeeper, and coordinator, Daniela Gennrich, who have together handled funder demands and requirements.

Thanks also to our funders, with special mention to three in particular. The Canadian Government's Women's Voice and Leadership Project (administered locally by GenderLinks) is the first multi-year funding we have had as a fairly new NPO, and it has made all the difference to being able to plan forward. The DG Murray Trust has supported us for two projects from small beginnings to much larger funding support this past year for the Faith Leaders Gender Transformation Programme (FLGTP). This project has also received support from The GBV Solidarity Fund, our third major donor in 2021 – which boosted the work of the FLGTP as well as offering the first-ever funding for the Faith Action to End Collective, for whom we have held this project. These are all three innovative pilot projects, so it is significant that donors have seen fit to put their money into our collective efforts. Their vision and courage are highly appreciated.

One of the continual challenges for an NGO is to source funds to cover the core expenses of the organisation. Funders are happy to spend on projects, yet support towards core salaries and basic administration costs, water and electricity, etc., tends to be extremely limited. We remain understaffed and overworked, Fortunately, our role as host of the International Secretariat of the global interfaith movement has injected an extra contribution to core funding.

These larger and more consistent funding contributions show that there is increased recognition of WWSOSA as a significant and innovative contributor to the broader movement to bring an end to GBV and Femicide.

As a coalition, we owe huge appreciation to all our members and partners – it doesn't happen without your efforts at ground level and the trust we have developed to collaborate effectively over time.

This is my last report as I've served my two 3-year terms in office as Treasurer and need to step down. I hand over a competent accounting structure to my successor and have made myself available to be on the new Board's Finance sub-committee to assist with continuity of the accounting function.

**Simon John Read
Treasurer
WWOSA**



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We Will Speak Out South Africa

(Registration number 184-700 NPO)

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note(s)	2021 R	2020 R
Revenue			
Project Income - M Sport		100 000	-
Project Expense - M Sport		-	-
Project Income - Operation Jumpstart		-	-
Project Expenses- Operation Jumpstart		(6 800)	-
Project Income - Side by Side		971 078	-
Project Expense - Side by Side		(381 856)	-
Project Income - DGMT		113 400	186 600
Project Expense - DGMT		(332 563)	(61 326)
Project Income - Thursdays in Black		33 512	6 534
Project Expense - Thursdays in Black		(35 344)	-
Project Income - ACT Ubumbano (F2A)		20 000	-
Project Expense - ACT Ubumbano (F2A)		(20 000)	-
Consultancy Income - SaveAct Gender		8 563	60 000
Consultancy Expense- SaveAct Gender		(40 394)	(51 420)
		429 596	140 388
Revenue - continued			
Project Income - Gender Links (Canadian Government - WVL)		1 073 030	500 729
Project Expense - Gender Links (Canadian Government WVL)	7	(602 135)	(389 494)
Donations received		938	10 300
Donations granted		-	(10 000)
Project Income - Solidarity fund		999 170	-
Project Expenses - Solidarity fund		(333 944)	-
Project Income - Crisis DGMT		10 000	-
Project Expenses - Crisis DGMT		(7 098)	-
Project Income - Act Ubumbano		10 000	-
Project Expenses - Act Ubumbano		(8 885)	-
Interest received		39 921	4 971
		1 180 997	116 506
Operating expenses			
Auditors remuneration		-	(6 000)
Bank charges		-	(379)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments		-	(1 419)
		-	(7 798)
Surplus for the year		1 610 593	249 096
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive (deficit) income for the year		1 610 593	249 096

We Will Speak Out South Africa

(Registration number 184-700 NPO)

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Accumulated surplus R	Total equity R
Balance at 01 January 2020	134 729	134 729
Surplus for the year	249 096	249 096
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	249 096	249 096
Balance at 01 January 2021	383 825	383 825
Surplus for the year	1 610 593	1 610 593
Transfer to reserves	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	1 610 593	1 610 593
Balance at 31 December 2021	1 994 418	1 994 418

Note(s)

cc steyn
ACCOUNTING & AUDITING

✉ chris@ccsteynaccounting.co.za ☎ 083 312 7914

☎ 011 702 9039

☎ 011 765 8797

Physical Address
Ground Floor (Block B) Torino Court,
4 Crooked Lane, Hillcrest, 3610

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following partners have played integral roles in the success of the work this year:

Faith Leaders Gender Transformation Programme

Pilot 1 Curriculum Development, Facilitation and Mentoring Teams:

Nontando Hadebe, Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians; Merrishia Singh-Naicker Heartlines and Indi-Afrique; Xana McCauley, Rhema Church Hands of Compassion, Karabo Mamabolo, SACC Women and Youth Programme; Siyabulela Tonono, Methodist Church of Southern Africa Connexional, Rethie van Niekerk, Dutch Reformed Church (minister)

Endorsements:

The programme is endorsed by the following partners:

UN Women South Africa, ACT Ubumbano, ELCSA-DS, Liberating Lutheran Church of Southern Africa, Denis Hurley Centre, Tutela Project Dutch Reformed Church, Union of South African Catholic Women's Organisations, Anglican Diocese of Natal

GBV Trauma Response Training

Ashmeer Joseph, ELCSA-DS – lead partner; Rev Lilana Kasper, SAPS Chaplain, Workshop Design and facilitation

Bongi Zengele, UKZN, Workshop Design and Facilitation

120 Day Communication Campaign #faithingenderjustice

Gil Harper (Comms Coordination); Mxolisi Xaba, UN Women; Lucas Morena, Liberating Evangelical Lutheran Church; Seth Naicker, Heartlines and Indi-Afrique; Illa Thompson, Publicity Works; Bhekisisa Mncube, Journalist and writer, Lauren Jacob - and all the many individuals who sent in their individual thoughts and images for the campaign

Other Activities

Zama Dlamini, UJAMAA; Seipati Ngcobo, Anglican Diocese of Natal Gender Ministry; Cookie Edwards, KZN Network on Violence Against Women (KZNVAV); Sarah Montgomery, KZNCC; Safer Cities, Ethekewini Municipality, Office on the Status of Women, KZN Premier's Office

Learning and Documentation

FLGTP: Alice Kanengoni, Evaluator; Prof Charlene vd Walt, Theological and Curriculum Review

Gil Harper, Monitoring and Evaluation

Funding partners 2021

ACT Ubumbano; DG Murray Trust; Global Affairs Canada WVL Project (GenderLinks)

GBV Solidarity Fund; M-Sports; For Side by Side: Christian Aid; Danish Church Aid

WWSOSA Management Committee 2021

To September 2021: Phumzile Mabizela Zondi (Chair; MHSRIP); Bafana Khumalo (Ag. Chair); Simon Read (Treasurer); Survivor Reps: Nompilo Gcwensa, Esperance Maramuke, Saydoon Nisa Sayed, Ntwenhle Majozi, Pat Sibanyoni, Lyn van Rooyen, Xana McCauley

From September 2021: Pontsho Segwai (Chair), Bafana Khumalo (Dep Chair), Simon Read (Treasurer), Vedhan Singh, Desmond Lesejane, Esperande Bigirimana, Lihle Cwinya Ai, Pat Sibanyoni, Ntwenhle Majozi, Fatima Noordien.

Subcommittee members: Seipati Ngcobo, Storia Seitisho, Lucas Morena, Sixolile Ngcobo

And all the incredible people who work in the Faith Action to End GBV working Committees – too numerous to mention by name ‘who are all critical’ overall faith community to end GBV and Femicide.

Design and layout: Megan Wakefield, Pressure Point

