



UYINENE
MRWETYANA
FOUNDATION

'24
ANNUAL
Report



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MRWETYANA
FOUNDATION

We Reflect on: 2024

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Message

FROM THE

MANAGING DIRECTOR

As we approach the end of another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey together and the immense strides we have made in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) within our communities.

This year has been marked by both challenges and significant achievements. Together, we have raised awareness, provided critical support to survivors, and advocated for policies aimed at preventing GBV. Our collective efforts have not only transformed lives, but they have also strengthened our resolve to create a safer, more equitable society for women, children and all groups.

As we look to the New Year, it is essential that we continue to harness our passion, skills and dedication.

The fight against GBV is far from over and our work remains crucial. Let us commit ourselves anew to this vital cause, ensuring that every voice is heard, every survivor is supported, and every individual feels safe in their community. I am deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment and hard work. Your compassion and determination are what makes the UMF truly impactful.

Together, let's strive to build an environment where gender-based violence is not tolerated, and where all individuals can thrive.

Thank you for your incredible efforts this year. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

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Thobeka Msengana

Managing Director UMF



2.

INTRODUCTION



The 2024 theme, “Eliminate the Fear: Prioritizing Safety and Security”

As we reflect on the past year, the Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation (UMF) remains deeply committed to its vision of creating a society free of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). The 2024 theme, “Eliminate the Fear: Prioritizing Safety and Security,” underscores our core purpose of combating GBVF and cultivating spaces where women, children and vulnerable groups can live without fear.

2024 marked a pivotal moment for the Foundation, as we continued to honour Uyinene's legacy by amplifying our efforts to advocate for a just society.

Our work has been driven by the urgent need to address the pervasive fear that affects the daily lives of so many in our communities. From grassroots advocacy to collaborative partnerships with local and national organisations, we have worked tirelessly to realise our strategic goals of preventing GBVF, supporting survivors and holistically developing the youth through our school and soccer programmes.

This report highlights our strides in creating safer environments and engaging society in critical conversations about the practical changes required to eliminate violence and fear.

Our initiatives, campaigns and educational programmes; GBV & Consent Talks, Youth Imbizo, GBV awareness walks, reached a milestone centred on ensuring that safety is not a privilege but a right.

While the challenges remain significant, the successes of 2024 are a testament to the resilience of this Foundation and the power of collaborative action. These are the outlined highlights of 2024.

3.

UYINENE MRWETYANA ANNUAL LECTURE

The 20th of April remains a significant day for the Foundation as it is a constant reminder of the birthday of Uyinene. The Foundation remains committed to holding the Annual Uyinene Mrwetyana Lecture. The aim of this commemorative lecture is for us to pause and remember Uyinene whilst amplifying her legacy of standing against all social ills and injustices including GBVF.

The theme for the year 2024 was “Eliminate the fear: Prioritising Safety and Security in the Prevention of GBVF”. This was a call to ensure the safety of all.

For the 4th Annual Uyinene Mrwetyana Lecture, we went back to Uyinene's alma mater, Kingswood College, where she spent her high school years until matriculation. Guest speaker Advocate.

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Kholeka Gcaleka gave a moving speech and did not mince her words in calling for action to create safe and secure societal spaces. Present were UMF Board and Advisory Board members; Youth Activists from our partner school Nathaniel Pamla High School based in Peddie as well as civic organisations like Masimanyane International.

Mrs Mrwetyana shared heart-warming words of gratitude on behalf of the family and thanked everyone for their continued support in keeping Uyinene's legacy and for Kingswood College for keeping up to their promise of honouring their alumnus.



Advocate Gcaleka delivering the keynote address at the Lecture

4.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (YDP)

The Youth Development Programme (YDP) aims to develop youth holistically by focusing on psycho-social skills like leadership, financial literacy, mental health, career development and arts & culture.

The programme further aims to equip youth to become agents of change in their communities. Below are some of the 2024 YDP programmes that sought to develop youth to ensure a society that is safe and free of GBVF.



4.1 GBV Awareness & Consent Dialogue

The Foundation in collaboration with the University of Fort Hare held GBV & consent dialogues with grade 8 learners at two of our partner schools namely Nathaniel Pamla High School in Peddie and Sakhikamva High School at Nompumelelo Township, East London. The purpose of the dialogues was to create a safe, respectful environment in relationships, the school and communities.

In promoting hygiene, health and a supportive environment, the Foundation also handed over Dignity Packs to the respective schools. The packs included sanitary pads, soap, toothpaste, body lotion and other personal care items. This was aimed at not only providing practical support to the learners but aimed to capacitate learners in actively participating in their education without being held back by socio-economic difficulties.





4.2 The Youth Development Imbizo

On the 08th of July 2024, The Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation hosted its 2nd Annual UMF Youth Imbizo. The Annual Youth Imbizo typically focuses on issues that affect the youth of today. Topics like GBV & Sexual Health, Consent, Healthy Relationships & Substance Abuse were covered this year. Youth from our four partner schools engaged robustly with the topics.

The imbizo equipped the youth activists with the knowledge and tools to challenge GBV in their communities. It assisted them to be active agents of change in their communities. One of our partner schools suggested that this event be extended to a two-day Youth Camp to have more time to unpack all the topics and for the Youth activists from the different schools to get more time to interact with each other.





4.3. First Annual Uyinene Mrwetyana Soccer Tournament

In the spirit of continuing with the Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation's Commitment to developing the 'boy' child to be responsible a man. UMF hosted its 1st Annual Uyinene Mrwetyana Soccer Tournament in the Qina Location, Centane. Seven local teams took part in this exciting tournament held over the Youth Day long weekend. In-line with the 2024 theme of ensuring safety and security in communities, the South African Police Services from Centane Police Station addressed the players on safety and the dangers of being involved in GBV and traditional fights that usually take place during initiation ceremonies.

The tournament was a success, it was well-attended by community members. The awards for the winning teams included a soccer kit, a floating trophy and soccer equipment. For the under 13 group first place went to Qina FC Fighters whilst the runner-up was the Uyinene Mrwetyana FC. Uyinene Mrwetyana Foot Ball Club won the under 17 competition and Thala Football Club was the runner-up.

Congratulations to all the participants and winners of our inaugural tournament. The dedication and sportsmanship displayed truly honoured Uyinene's legacy.



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5.

PREVENTION & AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Prevention and awareness campaigns that seek to prevent and raise awareness about GBV are central to the Foundation's intervention strategy. Early intervention through awareness and education can prevent GBV before it occurs.

The campaigns were used as a platform to equip individuals with knowledge and skills to identify abusive behaviour and intervene before it takes place.

The overall aim was to capacitate participants on building safer and more equitable societies.

In 2024, the two main awareness campaigns were held in Cape Town and East London.



5.1 Cape Town AntiGBVF Awareness Walk

The call to end Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) echoed loudly through the streets of Cape Town as the Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation (UMF) marked its fifth anniversary with an anti-GBVF Walk, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT), Langa For Men, and the Makazole Mapimpi Foundation. Despite the rainy weather, participants from across the Cape Town community, including UCT students, civil society organisations, and the general public, marched from District Six to Parliament under the theme "Eliminate the Fear: Prioritising Safety and Security."

Thobeka Msengana, UMF Managing Director, underscored the importance of collaboration in the fight against GBVF. "We cannot work in silos. The scourge of GBV in South Africa is among the highest in the world, a terrifying reality for women in our country. One in five women experience violence every day. This cannot be ignored, and therefore, we demand that the government prioritise safety and security and ensure psychological safety for all women," she stated. Msengana also highlighted the troubling presence of GBVF perpetrators within law enforcement, questioning, "Where do women go to report when the police are also the perpetrators? What is the government doing about those officers? This is a concern for us."

Landa Mabenge, a UCT PhD candidate and advocate for rehabilitative approaches for youth and young men, delivered a powerful address, urging society to dismantle harmful patriarchal norms. "We must transform and transmute the narratives and experiences that shaped us to locate ourselves safely in society. It is time for men to challenge patriarchal and misogynistic tendencies and live a life of transformative

masculinity," Mabenge declared. He emphasised the importance of addressing emotional expression in young men, urging communities to allow boys to be vulnerable and emotional, thus challenging destructive stereotypes.

UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation, Student Affairs, and Social Responsiveness, Professor Elelwani Ramugondo, praised the resilience of those who participated in the Walk despite the challenging weather. "Defying the fear of cold wetness symbolises our commitment to eliminating the fear that GBVF instils in our society. We must refuse to normalise GBVF and instead champion safety and security for all, particularly for women, children, disabled individuals, the LGBTQ+ community, and the elderly. UCT's vision of unleashing human potential for a fair and just society cannot be realised when women, girls and children are not safe in our societies," she remarked.

Sibabalwe Sesmani, Vice President of the Makazole Mapimpi Foundation, expressed the organisation's dedication to the fight against GBVF. "We want to live in a country where women don't have to fear for their lives, regardless of where they are or what they are wearing. Safety is a right, not a privilege," she said. Luyolo Lengisi of Langa For Men echoed this sentiment, stressing that everyone must take responsibility for uprooting GBVF within their communities.

Former Western Cape Provincial Health Minister and current Member of Parliament, Professor Nomafrench Mbombo, strongly criticised the government and Parliament for their absence at the event, emphasising their crucial role in addressing GBVF.

"The government devised a national strategic plan to combat GBVF after the public demanded action, yet five years later, no non-governmental organisation has received the promised funding. Where are the billions allocated to fight GBVF?" she questioned, calling out the government for outsourcing the responsibility to civil society organisations.

The Walk also highlighted the personal stories of resilience and solidarity. Zusiphe Bandezi, a 22-year-old UCT student, shared how she overcame the temptation to stay home due to the weather, driven by her commitment to stand up for the many women and girls she knows who have survived GBV.

Advocate Terisai Mchuchu-Macmillan, Executive Director of Advocate Terisai Mchuchu-Macmillan, Executive Director of Mosaic Training Service and Healing Centre, called for continuous and sustained action against GBVF.

"We must honour Uyinene's legacy by ensuring that our fight against GBVF is not reactive but proactive. There are many more 'Uyinene's' in our country, known and unknown. We must, therefore, continue to speak out against GBVF, not just publicly but in our private spaces as well," she concluded.

The first Uyinene Mrwetyana Scholarship recipient and UCT Social Science student majoring in political studies, legal theory, and sociology, Luhlanganiso Majebe, attended the Walk and expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the scholarship. She is currently in her last year of studies. The scholarship is an initiative of UCT's Faculty of Humanities and was set up in partnership with UCT's Development and Alumni Department. It provides wrap-around funding – covering tuition, textbooks, accommodation, and health and wellness – for the duration of the recipient's undergraduate degree programme.

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5.2 East London Anti-GBVF Walk

On 31st of August 2024, the Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation in collaboration with MultiChoice and the Makazole Mapimpi Foundation hosted the 3rd Annual Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation Anti-GBV&F walk at Merrifield Preparatory School & College in East London. The purpose of the walk was to raise awareness about GBVF and how it can be prevented.

Over five hundred people including Civic Organizations, local University Students, High School learners, Political Parties and members of the public took part in the 5km walk. Dr. Eillean Carter, Provincial Head Eastern Cape: South African Human Rights Commission spoke about the role communities can play in combating GBVF. She emphasised the notion of GBV as a human rights violation.

Mrs Gwayi from the Amathole District Rapid Response Team against GBVF addressed the

crowd on Civil Society's role and the resources available for GBVF survivors in the Amatole District.

Hon. Mlibo Qoboshiyane, Chairperson Standing Committee on Petitions, Public Participation and Education. EC Provincial Legislature gave an insightful speech on the role older men can play in the socialisation of young boys and what the Eastern Cape Government is doing to curb GBVF in the province. Eastern Cape Liquor Board representative spoke to all the young people about the dangers of alcohol abuse.

We were then honoured to have a performance by the Sonwa Sakuba Institute of Performing Arts. The day ended with an exciting soccer match between the Uyinene Mrwetyana Football Club and the Sakhikamva High School U17 team. Sakhikamva won the nail-biting match with a final score of 2–1.





6.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In order to amplify the prevention of GBV, the foundation is committed to working closely with communities through its Community Development Programme. The Community Development Programme is targeted for all community members, families, churches, schools, local authorities and all vulnerable members of society. This will assist the active participation of communities in coming up with community-based strategies to curb GBVF.

The Foundation had an opportunity to participate in the 2024 Youth Convention of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Kumkani Hintsa District. The Foundation was requested to address the youth on Gender Based Violence and what role the church can play in curbing this scourge.

In her speech, Mrs. Mrwetyana challenged the church to commit to its moral obligation of ensuring that the church is a safe place for all. She indicated that this will entail developing GBV policies and clear reporting and support structures for GBV survivors. Men were also encouraged to take a leading role in this fight and not be bystanders. They should call out each other and not allow their peers to take advantage of the vulnerable young girls who are there to seek spiritual growth.



The evening ended off with an emotional Candlelight Activity in honour of Uyineni and all victims of GBVF. Survivors of GBVF came to the fore seeking support and prayers for healing. It is recommended that at events of this nature, Mental Healthcare professional be available to provide the mental health support needed.

7

CONCLUSION

The 2024 Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundations' Annual Report highlights the organization's commitment to ending Gender-Based Violence & Femicide (GBVF) and fostering a safer, more inclusive society. Through educational outreach, awareness campaigns, and community events, the organization has made significant progress. The success of the 1st Annual Uyinene Mrwetyana Soccer Tournament, Youth Imbizo and Awareness Walks showcased the power of unity, youth empowerment, and community engagement in creating meaningful change.

While much has been achieved, we acknowledge that the work is far from over, and the persistent challenges posed by GBVF require ongoing commitment, innovation, and collaboration.

The organization is grateful to all individuals, organizations, and supporters who have joined us on this journey, as you are not only keeping Uyinene's memory alive but together we are also building a future where safety, dignity, and justice prevail for all.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach, strengthening relationships and ensuring the voices of survivors are heard and they receive all the support.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support as we strive towards a society free of GBVF.

Uyinene lives on, Together Against GBVF!

8.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Foundation wishes to express its gratitude to all our partners for their support in 2024.

A special thank you to:

J.J. Njeza High School

Nathaniel Pamla High School

Gobe Commercial School

Sakhikamva High School

MultiChoice

The Foschini Group

Spar South Africa

University of Fort Hare

University of Cape Town

Langa for Men

Makazole Mapimpi Foundation

Merrifield Preparatory School and College



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Prioritizing Safety and Security”



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