

# FIGHTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

NLC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND



## Count-To-Ten and fight abuse of women

### Men and boys play integral part in Famsa's GBV campaigns

**B**loemfontein-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), Families South Africa (Famsa), has found a creative way of fighting the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) through its Count-To-Ten campaigns.

Count-To-Ten campaigns focus on prevention of specific forms of violence in relationships. These include family violence, intimate partner violence, violence between parents and children, dating violence and bullying or peer violence.

The organisation's campaigns focus on the involvement of men and boys in the fight against GBV. Count-To-Ten Pink Campaign focuses on the empowerment of women and girls for the purpose of alleviating gender-based violence in communities.

Count-To-Ten Green Campaign focuses on children's rights and responsibilities, preventing child abuse, dating or peer violence and bullying.

Count-To-Ten Red Campaign focuses on family preservation, parenting and co-parenting skills, non-violent family relations and marriages.

Ingrid Bell, director at Famsa, says the partnership with National Lotteries Commission (NLC) enabled the organisation to roll out the Count-To-Ten programme, focussing on the prevention of specific forms of violence in relation-



Famsa's programmes focuses on the prevention of specific forms of violence in relationships.

ships such as family violence, intimate partner violence, violent parenting practices, dating violence and bullying or peer violence.

"The NLC has made it possible for us to reach the communities in Bloemfontein and the surrounding areas and gave us the resources to deliver our Count-To-Ten programme and empower our communi-



The NGO has held 35 events which reached 1939 people.

are extremely grateful to the NLC," says Bell.

Through the support of the NLC, Famsa Bloemfontein has provided preventative and comprehensive services to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Twelve perpetrators of GBV and 28 victims attended the perpetrator/victim empower programme hosted by the organisation. It comprised 14 sessions over a five-week period.

The organisation also held 35 interactive awareness campaigns and events reaching 1 939 people.

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The NLC made it possible for us to reach the communities in Bloemfontein

ty to 'Think Before You Act. Violence Is A Choice'.

"We are a small NGO with a big dream, and the NLC made

it possible for a team of six social workers, a few volunteers and a director/project manager to drive this initiative. We



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## BOMME KE NAKO ORGANISATION (NC)



The Bomme ke Nako organisation is tackling the surge in gender-based violence cases in the Northern Cape.

# Helping to turn the tide in the battle against GBV

## National lockdown has turned scourge into a pandemic

**T**he Bomme ke Nako organisation, based in Vergenoeg village outside Kuruman in the Northern Cape, noticed that gender-based violence (GBV) has been exacerbated during the lockdown period and has also turned into a pandemic.

It has also observed that many GBV incidents in their area are caused by the abuse of alcohol and other substances.

“GBV cases are alarming and at a high rate because victims are not empowered. Some have no choice but to go back to the abuser since they rely on them for financial assistance and shelter. Our district doesn’t have enough shelters, Thuthuzela Care Centres close at four o’clock in the afternoon due to limited staff, there are shortages of po-

lice vehicles and some communities live very far from the police station. Rape is still treated as a family matter and all these factors are contributing to the alarming statistics,” said Kseledile Lekgetho, the organisation’s project manager.

Through National Lotteries Commission (NLC) funding, Bomme ke Nako has managed to host community dialogues to tackle GBV in the area.

Bomme ke Nako was established in 2005 by a group of 19 women who were concerned about challenges in their com-

munity such as poverty, a high rate of HIV infections, TB and other socio-economic problems like unemployment.

It also runs an after-school care programme that addresses teenage pregnancy prevention and has managed to decrease the rate of unwanted teenage pregnancies in the area and to teach young girls about their sexual reproductive health rights, how to make informed decisions and to report GBV.

“Our beneficiaries are members of the Vergenoeg community and neighboring areas such as Tshukudung, Gasehubane, Batlharos and Maruping. My message to the lottery is that you are continuously changing lives and we appreciate your efforts, reaching out through the training we receive from you. Continue to reach out and support our communities. May God bless you. NLC has helped us to grow this organisation,” said Lekgetho.

Some [victims] have no choice but to go back to the abuser

## MELODING VICTIM EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FS)

## Fighting abuse ... SA-specific pandemic

**T**he rate of gender-based violence-related offences is unprecedented.

According to the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, one in four South African women will experience violence by men, and are five times more likely to be killed. A woman is murdered every three hours in the country.

The Meloding Victim Empowerment Centre (MVEC) in Meloding township in Virginia, Free State was established in

2006 and formally registered as a non-profit organisation in 2012.

The organisation’s main objective is to offer counselling to abused children and adults; strengthen community-based responses to mobilise communities against domestic violence; and provide victims of domestic violence and sexual offenses with support and information.

Like many other organisations which fight the scourge of abuse, Meloding has been a beneficiary of generous fund-

ing from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC). MVEC’s Josephine Chibi says the outbreak of COVID-19 has led to more women seeking help from abusive relationships.

“Funding from the NLC has brought much-needed relief to battered women in our area. We don’t know where to begin to thank the NLC for funding our organisation. As we say here in the Free State: *Ske la kgathala nele thuse babang* [continue helping others as well].”

## GOLDFIELDS (FS)

## NLC funding helps Goldfields stay in the game

**V**iolence against women can have fatal outcomes. Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by a male intimate partner, according to the World Health Organisation.

The Free State-based Goldfields Family Advice Organisation offers various services on gender-based violence (GBV), sexual offence, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning and human trafficking.

The organisation, which receives funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) to continue offering its services and hire workers, also has a shelter for the victims of GBV.

Sarah Lekale, the organisation’s managing director, says funding from the NLC has rescued the organisation from collapse after it faced financial challenges.

“The NLC came on board and rescued the organisation that was falling apart because of lack of funding, explains Lekale.

She notes that the outbreak of COVID-19 has resulted in a sharp rise in GBV cases, adding that the national lockdown regulations have posed a problem for



Sarah Lekale says some abuse victims had to be turned away to adhere to lockdown rules.

the shelter to accept the victims.

She explains: “The house [shelter] has three bedrooms that can accommodate up to 20 victims a night, but because of the need to adhere to social-distancing requirements, now we can only accommodate ten [victims] a night.

“This is heartbreaking because we have to turn [away] women who need shelter from abusive relationships.”

The organisation plans to approach the NLC for more funding to buy a second shelter to respond to a high demand from the victims of abuse. Crime statistics show that the lockdown appears to have worsened the cases of GBV, with more reports of women being attacked and killed in recent weeks.

## MOTHUTLUNG NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE (NW)

## Spreading hope where women and children live in state of fear

**T**he National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has over the years kept its promise to contribute to good causes within communities.

It is through the NLC that Lebohang Bogopane from Mothutlung, North West has managed to keep and offer professional services to victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence through her non-profit organisation (NPO) – Mothutlung Network Against Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.

The organisation, which was founded in 2005, has to date assisted more than 21 000 victims of domestic and GBV with programmes such as trauma and basic counselling, accommodation, court support and to advocate for the provision of ARV’s in situations of rape.

Being a survivor of rape and domestic violence, Bogopane used her painful experience and founded the NPO with a sole purpose of contributing positively in the fight against domestic violence and GBV in her community.

Part of the NLC funding in the 2018/2019 financial year was used to build a crisis centre and sustain the bakery,



The North-West-based NPO is striving for a society free from abuse of children.

which was built in 2015 with a purpose of creating employment for the women and to assist with therapy to the victims of abuse.

However, Bogopane says the COVID-19 lockdown has affected them because money stopped coming in, forcing the organisation to lay off staff and cut stipends of those workers who survived the axe.

“The lockdown has affected us badly. During this time, the perpetrators found it easy to abuse children because they were not going to school and their parents were not home.

Bogopane says the NPO’s goal is to strive for a society free from abuse and intimidation.



ST MARY'S HOME OF HOPE (WC)

# Hope springs eternal for those feeling helpless

## Empowering abused women is Basson's passion

The St Mary's Home of Hope's only wish is that the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) continue supporting them so that they keep tackling gender-based violence in the Western Cape, as the country celebrates women this month.

The non-profit organisation's managing director, Maria Basson says without the NLC money, they're unable to help the helpless.

"As a non-funded organisation, the NLC money helped me to assist more women and children that came into my space for help. We bought school clothes, shoes, among other things and I'm forever grateful for their assistance. I could send my abused women to different training that changed their lives," said Basson.

The training helped them to become empowered, liberated women.

Most of the women that come to St Mary's Home of Hope are referred by the police, churches, community groups or the Social Development Department.

Basson is passionate about breaking the cycle of abuse by empowering and providing women with counselling, life and coaching skills.

"We have two houses that are accommodating not only our survivors but orphans as well. Our second house will soon be



Without funding from the NLC, the St Mary's Home of Hope would not be able to feed needy children.

opened in Paarl, where it will become an orphanage, as we have lots of orphan children."



Most women at the shelter are referred by police.

The organisation also provides services to the perpetrator and facilitates the process of family mediation, reunification or assists the survivor with the legal procedures for separation. Once the survivor and perpetrator have been reunited, Basson reveals that they then provide aftercare family support groups once a month.

"My passion to empower abused women comes from a heart full of love and compassion for humanity. To help the woman get her self-esteem back and also face and stand up against the insecurity of her partner who could be a broken person. Witnessing an abused woman regain her strength is enough reward for me, that is why I'm doing this," concluded Basson.

“

I could send my abused women to different training that changed their lives

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL (NC)

# Eradicating the stigma of domestic abuse

While gender-based violence (GBV) exists among the broader Kimberley community in the Northern Cape, many people still opt not to talk about it.

This is the analysis of Lilly Fritz, CEO of a non-profit organisation dubbed Women Empowerment Movement International.

Fritz believes that there is still a lot that needs done in communities to make the victims of GBV feel free and safe to disclose their painful experiences.

"I would encourage more

women to speak up and not feel embarrassed, so that they can get all the help that they need," says Fritz.

"I know it's not easy, but it's the best solution, so that they can get out of the horrible situation they are in. The situation that they are in is not the end and doesn't define who they are.

She continues: "Speaking up will be the beginning or first step to regain your strength and be a survivor, not a domestic violence victim. Unfortunately, to many it isn't easy at all."

The non-profit organisa-

tion was established in 2007 to empower women.

"To me it was a vision from God. I saw the need to assist other women who might be struggling and experiencing many challenges that they're unable to tackle. I am for women because I am a woman.

"I love women and seeing them prosper and embracing lives. We offer support in different ways, at times we provide food parcels, clothing and also help the community that doesn't have the money to bury their loved ones," explains Fritz.

MAKURUNG MUTI-PURPOSE CENTER (LP)



Workers at Makurung make sure that the rights of disabled people are respected.

## Mentally, physically challenged get a deserved sense of belonging

Workers at Makurung multi-purpose centre, a home for mental and physical disabled people, can't wait for the lockdown to end so that they can continue to help vulnerable members of their community.

Based in Limpopo's Makurung village in Mphahlele area, the centre is home to 23 elderly and 20 disabled people. Makurung also operates a creche that caters for 36 children.

The centre's administrator, Wendy Maribe, says it is through the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) that they have not closed doors, noting that the centre was founded with an aim to break the stigma around mental and physical disabled people.

"Disabled people are hidden behind doors at their homes, their constitutional rights are taken away from them, so we are saying to the communi-

ty those disabled people are also human beings and they deserve to be treated with love and respect," says Maribe.

Though the centre had to close when the lockdown was announced late in March, the NLC kept its promise and approved funding for the multi-purpose centre's operational costs.

Funding was received in April and was used, among others, to cover bookkeeping fees, accounting, audit fees, laundry and cleaning, purchase of sewing machines, as well as erecting a fence around the property.

On top of this generous funding, the NLC offered an additional grant towards the erection of the creche's borehole and its operational costs.

Maribe adds that staff at the centre will always be grateful to NLC for the ray of hope that the lotteries commission has shone.

THE CONSORTIUM FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES (KZN)

## Easing of lockdown was not celebrated by everyone

The Consortium for Women Empowerment Programmes in KwaZulu-Natal has seen many women trickling in and out of its shelter since the lockdown restrictions were eased.

Manager Sindisiwe Nene says since the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic started, gender-based violence numbers were stable because of the alcohol ban.

With the recent spike in numbers, Nene is very grateful for the support of the National Lotteries Commission.

"Through their funding we have been able to assist more than 5 000 people in our community in past years... We are now able to assist and reach the whole district. Through the Lottery funding we are also able to assist many vulnerable children and child-headed families," Nene explains.

The car the NLC sponsored is used to transport victims and survivors of GBV.

She believes people need to fight for justice and the country's justice system needs to change as most victims no



The Consortium has helped more than 5 000 people.

longer trusts it. A further challenge is that people in rural areas treat abuse like normal behaviour, she says.

"We would like to see the law taking its course and protecting the victims and survivors and it will be done if the South African Police Service forms or builds a genuine relationship with the community," Nene says.

The organisation was started in 2000, when a shelter was opened for abused women and children because of the high rate of domestic violence in the area.

"We hold all perpetrators of domestic violence accountable and we aim to continue empowering all victims."



## WOMEN IN ACTION (NC)

# Feeding the hungry only part of the action plan

## Soup kitchen takes on key role during lockdown struggles

**W**omen In Action is a community-based organisation that was established in 2006 and registered in 2007.

The Northern Cape-based organisation addresses food insecurity by running a soup kitchen.

The soup kitchen provides nutritional meals that are prepared every day and served to the organisation's more than 300 beneficiaries who include young children, bed-ridden people, the elderly and the sick.

The organisation also works with Thuthuzela Care Centres, providing meals to victims of gender-based violence.

Thuthuzela Care Centres are one-stop facilities that have been introduced as a critical part of South Africa's anti-rape strategy, aiming to reduce secondary victimisation and to build a case ready for successful prosecution.

The need for food has become particularly important since the outbreak of COVID-19 in South Africa – an event which saw many people in the country fall into poverty.

Gladys Makhaza, project manager at Women In Action, said funding from the NLC has allowed the organisation to reach more people than would have been possible.

"Thanks to the National Lot-



School children pose with school shoes donated to them by Women In Action.



An elderly community member is left beaming after receiving a blanket.

teries Commission our organisation has grown from strength to strength. With the funding

donated by the NLC in the past and currently, Women In Action has created jobs for 24 volunteers," she said.

"The organisation has a fully furnished office with computers and printers, the rent for which is paid for by the NLC.

"Our staff members have gone to FET [further education and training] colleges and received training with accredited certificates, we were able to give our elderly in the community blankets, we donated school shoes to four different schools in our community, and we even serve our beneficiaries two meals a day.

"All of the above was made possible with the help and support of the National Lotteries Commission," Makhaza added.

## STANDERTON VICTIM EMPOWERMENT (MP)

## Victims of abuse now feel much safer

**T**he National Lotteries Commission (NLC), through its funding programme, was able to bring a sense of security to 24-hour emergency service Standerton Victim Empowerment, that helps rape survivors and victims of domestic violence to make a new start in their lives.

The organisation, which was founded by Seshika Joyce Chuene 18 years ago and operates from Standerton in Mpumalanga, was able to build a razor wire fence, erect a gate, buy a car to help with visits to beneficiaries and to set up a top-of-the-range office equipped with computers, a printer and a filing cabinet through NLC funding.

The organisation provides temporary accommodation to victims of gender-based violence and elderly people, and assists them with the necessary legal and psychological support.



NLC's intervention has ensured sufficient accommodation and meals for the victims.

However, Chuene said budgetary problems meant that they had to prioritise cases. She said the organisation was also facing a problem of security as the husbands and perpetrators of the abuse on women and children had easy access to their house as there was no fence to keep them out of the shelter.

However, she said everything changed for the better when the

NLC came to their rescue and answered all their prayers by providing the much-needed funding.

Chuene said through NLC funding, her organisation, which helps at least 17 people a month, was now able to accommodate and feed eleven people a day. She said it also enabled them to pay their eight volunteers a stipend for a few months, allowing them to support their families.

"I'm still happy with the support NLC has given us. Without their help, we would not have been able to assist our community. Their funding also helped us to donate food parcels to the community, especially the disadvantaged families. We are very grateful to NLC for their funding, and we wish they can also assist other organisations like ours because there's many of them who need their support to help victims of gender-based violence and homeless people."

## THOHOYANDOU VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

## Pulling all the stops to protect Vhembe women

**T**he average of 45 rape cases and 100 domestic violence cases that the Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme has to deal with monthly is an indication that the fight against the scourge of gender-based violence is far from over.

Situated in the Vhembe district in Limpopo, the non-profit organisation (NPO) and benefactor of the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) was founded in 2003 with a focus on issues relating to domestic violence, empowerment and support services, HIV/Aids, child abuse, sexual assault, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex community.

In 2018, the NPO was one of the organisation that received funding from the NLC to buy a vehicle. Its financial manager, Paida Matongoti, says the bakkie is used to transport the victims to the police station, run errands for the organisation and to travel to far-flung areas.

Matongoti explains that the bakkie came in handy after a spike in the cases of domestic violence during the lockdown.



The organisation gives thanks to the NLC for funding the purchase of a bakkie.

The bakkie was used to pick up the victims from their homes because of restrictions placed on people's movement.

Matongoti explains that the number of victims they assisted during the lockdown period have doubled, adding this is a call for concern.

Matongoti blames the system of patriarchy, citing that in her community men still believe they have control over the lives of women.

However, she says it is work in progress and they will continue to educate women and men about domestic and gender-based violence, adding that abusing women is not an answer to men's problems.

Matongoti says the organisation's vision is to set an example of how communities can be empowered to eradicate the stigma of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse through education.

## RIA WINA ASSOCIATION (GP)

## Lotteries commission grant makes Ria Wina's heavy load more lighter

**N**ot one to miss out on supporting sound and relevant programmes, the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) had also pumped in much-needed financial resources to support the 16 Days of Activism event organised by a Pretoria-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) called Ria Wina Association.

Founded by Lucas Mpilo in 2006, the organisation had planned a walking march from Church Square in Pretoria to the Union Buildings in March to raise awareness about gender-based violence.

However, like many other organisations, Ria Wina Association had struggled to raise enough funds to successfully implement the event.

As luck would have it, Mpilo says they miraculously received the good news from the NLC informing them that their request for funding has been approved.

"It was as if they knew what we were going through, because we were about to call off the event because of lack of finances. We had raised money through our car-wash initiatives but it was not enough," he explains.

"The NLC came to our rescue at the right time and we were able to revive the event and were able to cover our expenses and extended the scope of the event."



The NGO has embarked on door-to-door campaigns to raise awareness about abuse.

The organisation says the march attracted about 6 000 people. Those who attended were served with food and drinks. Their volunteers who worked during the march were also paid stipends from the NLC financial grant.

Mpilo says the funding also made it possible for them to print T-shirts and flyers that were handed out to people during their campaigns to raise awareness about gender-based violence and other forms of domestic abuse. The door-to-door campaigns took place in Pretoria, Mamelodi, Soshanguve and Atteridgeville.

"We are grateful to NLC because their funding gave us an opportunity to establish ourselves as an NGO," explains Mpilo.



WOMEN INTEGRAL IMPACT NETWORK (KZN)

# Using technology to fight the scourge of GBV in SA

## App meant to assist women with first line prevention

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has recognised the need and importance of technology in fighting the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) in the country.

With all the GBV stats increasing daily, the NLC couldn't find a better partner to support financially than Women Integral Impact Network (WIIN), an organisation that represents the interests of all victims of GBV.

Founded in 2017 to empower vulnerable women with financial knowledge, personal wellness and financial independence to prevent femicide and overcome the effects of domestic violence within households and workplaces, WIIN was one of the lucky organisations whose application for funding was approved by the NLC to help them realise their vision of creating an application to help women report abuse and other practices in order to get the necessary assistance on time.

Titled the WIIN Safety App, Franchesca Fondse, WIIN founder, says it was meant to assist women with first line prevention and assistance during a crisis.

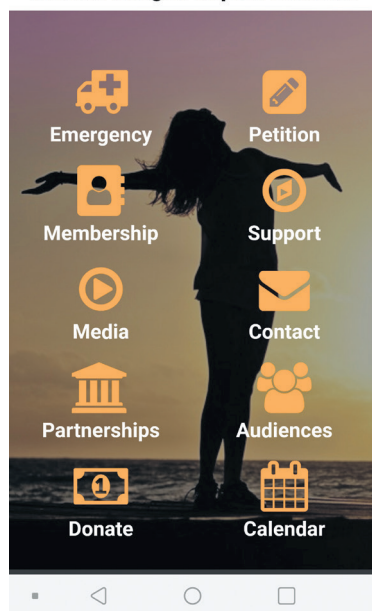
But Fondse was quick to acknowledge the role played by the NLC, pointing out that the completion of the app would not have been possible without NLC's funding.

"A woman's location can be pinned and communicated to the operator, who can dispatch the appropriate help. All that happens within a matter of seconds. It further connects WIIN



WIIN's GBV outreach programme has reached more than 91 000 people, the organisation has revealed.

### Women Integral Impact Network



napping, hijacking and prevent possible trafficking of women.

Fondse says that the GBV outreach programme has reached more than 91 000 people, but she said it would not have been a success without the financial support they received from the NLC.

"We are really grateful for their support, and we wish that they can continue with their generosity and support other organisations fighting the same battle until women and children are free and safe from abuse," she says.

WIIN received an endorsement and an open invitation from Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini to participate in the monarch's annual reed dance ceremony.

Fondse says they educated those in attendance at the 2017 ceremony on how to end gender-based violence.

She says they also provided more than 40 000 young women and girls who had attended the 2018 ceremony to acquire life skills and gender intelligence to prevent domestic violence and femicide.

members to the law-enforcement agencies, emergency clinics and the WIIN ambassadors," said Fondse explaining how the Safety App operates.

The app, she says, can be downloaded from google stores and the organisation's website: [www.wiinwomen.com](http://www.wiinwomen.com).

She says it can also be used to report break-ins, possible kid-

WOMEN TO WOMEN ORGANISATION (NC)

## Lifeline for Kimberley's Imbokodo



Priscilla Smith says despite the lockdown, there has been attempts to help the victims.

The Northern Cape is known for the high rate of alcohol abuse which contributes to gender-based violence (GBV).

This is according to Priscilla Smith, the general manager of the Women to Women Organisation in Kimberley. Smith says the province is under-developed which, as a result, leaves many women unable to access GBV support services.

Smith reveals that they have had an increase of intake with regards to GBV cases at their shelter.

She explains: "Nationally there has been an increase in cases as the lockdown exacerbated the problems faced by women in abusive relationships. Getting help for gender-based violence and reaching out to victims has been more difficult during the

lockdown because many women are on lockdown with their abusers.

"Many women have also lost their jobs because of businesses closing and therefore don't have enough money to reach the resources they need. There has been attempts to do more to curb gender-based violence but it has been more difficult."

Through the National Lotteries Commission's contribution, the organisation purchased a building, where they can accommodate abused women and children. The shelter offers counselling, court support, support groups and awareness programmes.

"In a province like the Northern Cape, where many of our towns are still underdeveloped and under-resourced, we would like to see more services where victims and survivors of GBV can have access to resources.

"We would like to see government services and facilities up to standard, to encourage the reporting of GBV in an environment that feels safe and encourages healing."

In a province like ours, we would like to see more services

THUSANANG SEWING AND BRICK (MP)

## Project builds on very strong foundations with funding sewn up

Another organisation that benefitted from National Lotteries Commission funding in Mpumalanga was another led by women, called Thusanang Sewing and Brick Making Project, based in the Boikhutsong area of Bushbuckridge.

The organisation, which was founded by eight women in 1994, had been struggling with sewing equipment and machinery to help produce more bricks, which they sell to their community.

Founder and chairwoman Duduza Matlou says they were ululating and dancing when they received a call from the NLC offices in Mpumalanga informing them their application for funding was approved, because it meant an end to their struggles.

Matlou says they were able to buy sewing machines, sand, cement, spades and brick-making machinery, which helped them to meet brick orders and other clothing needs.

With the funding, Matlou says they managed to set up another wing to their project,

where they farm spinach and sweet potatoes and were able to introduce an upholstery service to help the community with covering and fixing their couches.

She says they are grateful for the NLC's support because it enabled them to create employment opportunities for five more women and four young people in their community who are now able to feed their families.

Through the NLC funding, Matlou said Thusanang was able to produce and sell 800 bricks to the local community and they produced several clothing items in bulk, which are currently being sold in Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

She says the sewing machines have also come in handy as they landed a contract to produce uniforms from the South African Social Security Agency.

"NLC is a faithful and loyal partner and they have the communities' interest at heart. They always help people and we know they will do the same for us again."

GREYTOWN AND DISTRICT CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE (KZN)

## Keeping the heart of community beating

Greytown and District Child & Family Welfare has its roots deeply rooted in the society.

The non-profit organisation based in the predominantly rural and impoverished district of uMzinyathi considers itself the heartbeat of the community offering comprehensive protection for children and other vulnerable groups.

According to the operations director, Rajaendraparsad Maharaj, their already scarce resources took a severe knock amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

"There were many incidents of gender-based violence that we had to attend to during this period. But because of our limited financial capabilities we cannot

assist everyone," explains Maharaj.

He says the generous funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has bridged the gap.

"I must tell you that the need for our services is huge, so the funding is most welcomed although it can never be sufficient to cover all our work," he says.

They are geared towards offering programmes on social, economic and health issues that impact on children and their rights.

The uMzinyathi district is also ravaged by high levels of poverty leading to spiralling incidents of domestic violence.

Ntokozo Ngcobo, one of the volunteers, says the NLC has ensured that the organisation

is able to survive.

"Without the assistance from Lotto and other generous donors our organisation would have long closed its doors.

"In a day we respond to about 20 cases of domestic and gender-based violence and this had increased during COVID-19 as families struggle to cope," says Ngcobo.

She appealed for local business people to also come forward and assist in the cause.

"Supporting programmes that protect the vulnerable shows that business organisations care for the society that financially supports their products," she says. "Well-functioning families and a society free of violence is a responsibility of everyone."



## GREATER RAPE INTERVENTION PROJECT (MP)

# New safe house haven for the abused

## New skills give survivors hope on leaving shelter

**W**omen-led organisations, especially those helping fight against gender-based violence, have always had a special place in the National Lotteries Commission (NLC's) heart, and it was no surprise when more than two-hundred non-governmental organisations across the country with the sole purpose of helping abused women, children and elderly people receiving funding from the NLC to help them to bolster their programmes.

Among these organisations was the Greater Rape Intervention Project (Grip), a centre for abused women and children founded by Barbara Kenyon and based in the Kwa-Magugu area of Mpumalanga.

Kenyon says her organisation was one of the lucky entities funded by the NLC to help them buy and renovate a property that they now use as a safe house to accommodate abused women, children and the elderly.

As an organisation that focuses mostly on the empowerment of women and children through skills transfer, NLC funding helped them have a better workshop that they use to teach rape survivors and victims of domestic violence new skills, such as computer literacy, sewing and to do nails. The hope is that they will have a better chance of survival once they are ready to leave the shelter. They are also assisted to obtain their driver's licences.

Kenyon says the workshops are therapeutic and help the victims to take their minds off the gruesome abuses they had experienced. She says the NLC has



The improved workshop allows Grip to teach rape survivors and victims of domestic violence new skills such as computer literacy, sewing and to do nails.



Some of the masks that members of the centre have created and sold during the lockdown.

been incredibly kind to them and because of their funding they were able to accommodate and feed eight people at their centre, something that was just a dream before, when they could take in less than six people.

"They have been the most faithful partners to us and we are grateful for their support."

Through their funding we were able to make a real home for people who want to make a new start in their lives," says Kenyon.

She says they now have a nail station, which they use to teach women how to do nails. Women and kids are also taught to sew as part of their recovery plan, and since the start of the lockdown they have managed to make masks that they sold to the community.

Apart from just accommodating and teaching women skills,

“

They have been the most faithful partners to us and we are grateful for their support.



Activities at the shelter help keep survivors' minds off their past traumas.

the centre also helps children pay for their school fees and helps rape survivors with emotional support during their court proceedings.

She says they had a 14-year-old girl at the centre who was raped by her father after her mother had died. The man, she said, was also selling off his daughter to men in the community and had even used her to settle a debt with a sangoma.

"We have taken her out of the abuse situation and we have given her a home with proper food, shelter and love. We are giving her back her childhood."

Kenyon says the NLC has also enabled them to provide every child who comes to their centre with a teddy bear, toiletries and new clothes. "We are immensely, immensely grateful to the Lotto for their funding. They just don't give the money, they walk the journey with you and are always there to listen to you whenever you have a problem."

## SAATJIE BAARTMAN CENTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN (WC)

## Centre wants cops trained to handle survivors of GBV

**T**he Saatjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in the Western Cape would like to see more police officers informed and trained on rendering services to survivors of gender-based violence.

The centre, situated in Manenberg on the Cape Flats, has delivered services for more than twenty-one years to 230 000 women and children. It currently provides shelter for more than hundred women and children and renders services to

the vulnerable who do not seek shelter, but are dealing with traumatising issues.

According to the centre's director, Advocate Bernadine Bachar, they are based in an area with extremely high rates of crime, gangsterism, child abuse, unemployment, substance abuse and domestic violence.

"Initially, immediately after lockdown there was a deafening silence around applications for assistance. We could say there was a decrease, however, it could have



Bernadine Bachar



The Saatjie Baartman Centre was established to create a safe and secure society where women and children are empowered.

been due to the fact that, sadly, the women and children were then locked into their homes with the perpetrators, with no income, no mobile phones or no funding for air-time. It was a worrying situation.

"However, related to this is the fact that alcohol and possibly substances were not so readily available and this was a reprieve for a while. These substances are definitely a contributing factor

in many cases," explains Bachar.

She says that from June they noticed a surge in the number of women needing assistance and then started recording an increase of ten cases a week.

The centre was opened in 1999 in response to the high rates of violence against women and children on the Cape Flats in Cape Town.

It was established to create a safe and secure society where

women and children are empowered and live free of violence.

"We have established a one-stop centre for women and children who are survivors of gender-based violence. We currently have a board consisting of nine members and 30 permanent staff members."

"We thank the Lottery for becoming a partner with us in the fight against GBV. The struggle against GBV is a societal struggle and it is only when we all stand together and muster all our resources that we will begin to eradicate it."

"The contribution of funding towards the purchase of a kombi will ensure we will be resourced to render services timeously. The centre protects our clients during the time of COVID-19 as we are no longer dependent on public transport," concludes Bachar.



KZN NETWORK ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

# Lockdown adds to trauma of abuse victims

## Network feels that more can be done

“As a civil society organisation, we rely on funding. The contribution from the National Lotteries Commission has really assisted us in the past, in being able to reach out to more survivors in our communities. Our assistance is in the form of information sessions on gender-based violence, rights, relevant legislation, support to courts, police stations, medical treatment or providing shelters.”

These are the sentiments of Cookie Edwards, the director of the KZN Network on Violence against Women. The Ethekwini municipality-based organisation has a long history of raising awareness on GBV and HIV

and in the past dealt with about 180 GBV cases in their area.

“We take this opportunity to thank National Lotteries Commission for their contribution to the KZN Network in the time they funded us. It did assist us in our work with survivors of gender-based violence but we need more funding please, especially now during the lockdown,” says Edwards.

The KZN Network on Violence against Women was established in 1996 to promote effective protection, intervention, support and justice for survivors of violence. Some of the issues that the organisation has faced under the lockdown restrictions are women living with their abuser being unable to leave their homes safely and seek help, travel restrictions



The KZN Network on Violence against Women team were among the civil organisations that cosigned the declaration on GBV and femicide with the president. Pictured are Audrey Anderson, Lizzy Mkhize, Cookie Edwards, Michelle Michaels, Nomfundo Naomi, Nadia Vernon, Wendy Augustine, Tamsyn Allison and Philile Blose.

making it difficult for survivors to access help, and job losses and financial constraints that led to many women being unable to be independent.

“We know that South Africa has a high prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence and femicide. This has been worse under COVID-19 lockdown regulations, where many survivors of abuse and violence are trapped and vulnerable to perpetrators. Survivors of GBV have continued to face the secondary trauma which prevents them from fully accessing the necessary support and justice, and that’s an additional violation to their human dignity,” Edwards explains.

The 61-year-old who has been with the organisation for 25 years says they started working with the Lotteries Commission in 2012. She emphasizes the need and importance of more funding that will assist to expand their reach to women and young girls in communities.

“Civil society organisations are doing the work at grassroots level with little or no funding but



Nadia Vernon, Cookie Edwards and Aleweha Jacobs from the Network on Violence against Women at the total shutdown march that was held in Durban.

are committed and dedicated in wanting to make a difference. We are so committed in assisting survivors, we even use our own personal funds. So, I would like to see our organisations being recognised for the work we do in our communities because we’re making a huge difference in assisting survivors.”

SESHEGO VICTIM SUPPORT (LP)

## Abused glad to have home away from home

South Africa holds the shameful distinction of being one of the most unsafe places in the world for a woman to live.

However, victims of domestic violence in Seshego, Limpopo, have a shelter to run to for help.

The Seshego Victim Support Centre, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) and a beneficiary of the National Lotteries Commission (NLC), was officially launched in 2005 with the aim to empower and assist the victims of domestic violence, help survivors of abuse with healing and restoration, and to enable them to use their painful experiences to regain control of their lives.

Project manager at the shelter Docus Pitjeng says their goal is to provide opportunities to all victims to share their wisdom, experiences and challenges with a view to enrich one

“People coming to the centre for help are mostly referred by police

another. Pitjeng explains: “The NGO also acts as a channel that comforts, enlightens, motivates, inspires, empowers and educates on social issues.”

To ensure the smooth operation of the shelter, the NLC approved their funding in November last year to cover operational costs and programmes offered.

Pitjeng says the money helped a lot, especially during the national lockdown because they were able to continue to assist abuse victims and bought food parcels for ten families.

Pitjeng explains: “We also used some of the money for outreach programmes, door-to-door campaigns, school visits, to pay workers and to buy equipment and food.”

The shelter helps between two hundred 200 and 300 people quarterly, who are victims of physical, emotional and economical abuse.

“People coming to the centre for help are mostly referred by the police for further support and care after the victims opened criminal cases.”

Once they have helped the victim, they hold joint interviews with social workers and perpetrators to resolve the problem and conduct home visits to monitor a victim’s recovery.



KZN Network on Violence against Women community engagers from the Prevention in Action programme on GBV.

AGISANANG DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION AND TRAINING (GP)

## Funds helped body to adapt to lockdown limitations

Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (Adapt) says it is grateful for the funding it received from the National Lotteries Commission as it helped it to navigate uncharted waters during the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

The non-profit organisation that is based in Alexandra, Johannesburg, says the money helped to sustain the organisation during difficult times caused by the lockdown as they managed to secure staff salaries and to pay for operational costs like rent and telephony.

The NPO’s chief executive, Irene Khumalo, says the hard lockdown had a negative impact on the organisation because social workers had to offer psycho-social and other support services to clients telephonically. Khumalo says shelters catering for victims of domestic violence were overstretched.



Adapt staff were able to provide uninterrupted counselling services to abuse victims, even during level five of the national lockdown.

“Operating remotely was a challenge as some staff members did not have necessary resources to work from home. It should, however, be noted that the said challenges were resolved as generous individ-

uals came on board to assist,” she says.

“Most of the planned community outreach project activities, for example GBV [gender-based violence] workshops and dialogues, could not be facilitated

as movement in the community was limited.

“School interventions planned by Adapt could not be implemented as schools were initially closed and when reopened, focus was on catching up on the curriculum.

It should, however, be noted that counselling services were offered throughout by Adapt social workers. During level 5, counselling services were rendered telephonically. All Adapt counselling service centers, namely Alexandra Health Clinic, Alexandra and Sandringham police stations and Alexandra Medico Legal Centre were reopened during level 4 to date,” she adds.

Khumalo says after many people lost their jobs during the lockdown Adapt managed to get some of the businesses around Alex and Sandton to donate food parcels to needy families.



LIFELINE DURBAN (KZN)

# Ensuring that HIV does not become the forgotten pandemic in Mzansi

## Project extends lifeline to KZN's most neglected

**W**ith the high rate of HIV infection in the country and some parts of KwaZulu-Natal being the most hard hit by the pandemic, the National Lotteries Commission has put its resources into supporting one of the local non-governmental organisations, Lifeline Durban.

The organisation, which is based in the heart of Durban, runs programmes aimed at helping victims of rape and domestic violence with 24-hour counselling services and offers training on HIV/Aids.

Gender-based violence and HIV/Aids programmes are not its only focus, with Lifeline Durban also offering youth development programmes and courses to impart knowledge to members of the community.

The organisation offers programmes in TB and CD4 count testing, and support groups are available to victims of sexual assault.

But the NGO's director, Pravisha Dhanapalan, said they would not have achieved any of their set objectives or goals if it was not for the support and funding they received from the National Lotteries Commission.

This, she said, was because the NLC has not only made available funds to sponsor their programmes, which needed resources to be implemented, but they were there every step of the way to ensure their needs were



Lifeline helps victims of rape and domestic violence with 24-hour counselling services and training on HIV/Aids.



The organisation is rooted in the heart of the community.



met, and that the community – especially those abused by their partners, victims of GBV – benefited from their services.

Dhanapalan says the entity used NLC funds to run numerous campaigns on GBV and HIV/Aids in areas such as eThekweni, Ilembe and some parts of Ugu. She said the organisation managed to conduct

2 037 Aids tests and distributed 79 100 male and female condoms in the Ukuba area.

During the period when it received funding, the organisation, which also offers training courses on HIV/Aids counselling, said it was able to enrol 22 trainees and 73 students in one year.

Dhanapalan says none of the programmes would have been

successful if it was not for NLC support as it enables them to focus on the main issues affecting the communities without worrying about any financial challenges that normally affect implementation of programmes.

"They supported us through rough terrain and for that we are grateful and we look forward to an ongoing partnership," says Dhanapalan.

SISTER TO SISTER CENTRE FOR THE ABUSED WOMEN

## Organisation offers proof that sisters are doing it for themselves

**T**he National Lotteries Commission (NLC) funding was also disbursed to other women-led organisations in Gauteng to bolster their programmes aimed at empowerment and creating awareness about gender-based violence.

One such organisation that benefitted from the NLC funding was Sister to Sister Centre For The Abused Women, which currently operates in Heidelberg and covers parts of Johannesburg and Roodepoort.



Sister To Sister Centre has renewed purpose thanks to the Lotteries Commission.

The organisation, founded by Jay Sithole and led by Bokamoso Mohlari, was established in 2017 to fight for the rights of victims of domestic violence by offering them basic emotional support.

The organisation also helps abused women with legal advice and educates the public on matters relating to women abuse.

However, Mohlari says the journey has not been a rosy one as they experienced budgetary challenges until the NLC recognised their noble work and offered funding to execute their programmes.

Through NLC funding, which they received last year, Mohlari says "we were able to launch and run a feeding scheme and a soup kitchen in Ruimsig, Roodepoort", where they feed job seekers who stand at intersections looking for part-time work.

With NLC funding, Mohlari says the organisation was also able to run social events highlighting gender-based violence.

**“**We were able to launch and run a feeding scheme and a soup kitchen

PINETOWN HIGHWAY CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY (KZN)

## Funding saves child welfare society from closing down

**T**he 86-year-old Pinetown Highway Child Welfare Society would have long closed if they had not received financial relief from the National Lotteries Commission.

This is according to Sibongile Manyathi at the Pinetown-based non-profit entity.

"The limited resources at our disposal makes it very difficult to provide much-needed services at the shelter. So we rely on the National Lotteries Commission to keep us going," says Manyathi.

She says the organisation runs a shelter housing abandoned and destitute children and last year was the most difficult year in the organisation since its inception.

"We had decided to close, but then we thought of the kids, as

to where will they go to. Fortunately we applied for Lotto funding and the response was positive," she adds.

Manyathi says the organisation is supported mainly by volunteers and they had used some of the funds to pay stipends to boost their morale.

"Some of the volunteers stay far so we have to give them financial allowances. We have also created a post for an in-house assistant," Manyathi explains.

The welfare society services the Impola, St Wendolins, Mariannridge, Wyebank, Mariannhill, Molweni, Embo, KwaNqetho, KwaNyuswa, KwaNgcolosi, Shallcross, Tshelimnyama, Burlington, Luganda, Savannah Park, Dasenhoeck and Demat communities.



Acting director Sibongile Manyathi, Nalini Munian and Prof Sipiwe Nzimande.

"Most of these areas are rural, informal settlements and semi-rural.

"The terrain is challenging as it is either self-made rural gravel roads or not regularly serviced roads. We cater for children from 0 to

11 years. Once they are 12, Social Development takes over," says Nzimande.

Acting director Sibongile Manyathi says the society's work includes protecting and caring for the children within and outside families.