

SOUTH AFRICA



Thoko Mpumlwana - Board member



Ntombi Mbadlanyana - Country manager



Judith Maneli - Programme Officer

Country	South Africa
Board Member	Thoko Mpumlwana
Staff Member	Ntombi Mbadlanyana - Gender Justice & Local Government Country Manager Judith Maneli - Programme Officer
Alliance Focal Network	South African women in Dialogue (SAWID)
Government COEs	17
Media COEs	15
Key partners	South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

Protocol@Work Summit facts

- Under the banner “50/50 by 2015: Demanding a strong Post 2015 agenda” the summit brought together over 100 persons including local government, municipalities, universities and a wide range of NGOs.
- 105 participants - 14 men and 91 women.
- A total of 76 entries were received from 11 men and 67 women in ten categories.
- Two male and 11 female winners.
- 14 female runner-ups.
- Seven councils represented - one non-COE and six COEs. No media COEs entered.
- Five government entities were

In 2014, GL cascaded the COE model through the UNWOMEN's Gender Equality Fund to three provinces of South Africa (Gauteng, Limpopo and the Western Cape), the COE processes was extended to five more councils in each of the three provinces where GL conducted Gender Based Violence Indicators Research. South Africa also received funding in 2013-2014 from the Norwegian Council for Africa (NCAID Council) to embark on a sustained year-long entrepreneurship training programme linked to local economic development with women survivors of GBV. This was the first time that there were two dedicated donors funding the work in South Africa. South Africa hosted its first National Summit in May 2014.

Key achievements

- GL South Africa sustained a funding grant for the COE process through the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality.
- In conjunction with SALGA, GL facilitated a Women in Politics training in all nine provinces aimed at empowering female politicians.
- Hosted its first National Gender Summit in May 2014. As a precursor to the Summit, GL hosted pre-summit mobilisation workshops in the three provinces - Limpopo, Gauteng and the Western Cape, in order to canvass for entries. The winners went on to participate in the Regional Summit, with Mosselbay Municipality winning the best urban COE award.
- Hosted the Training of Trainers workshop which was aimed at capacitating gender focal persons from the councils to assist with cascading the COE process.
- Successful facilitation and roll-out of the phase one and phase two of the entrepreneurship training programme for women survivors of GBV (South Africa was the pilot site in 2013).

Key challenges

- The COE process in South Africa did not gain equal momentum in all provinces, and so GL needed to engage more strategically with SALGA to ensure the partnership was strengthened.
- The vast political and terrain, makes work quite difficult, and at times, an uncoordinated approach to working

with various stakeholders negatively influenced the COE process.

- Bureaucracy within councils also delayed the political buy-in and support of the COE process.

Lessons learned

- Awareness of the diverse political environments and being sensitive to the context of the councils is important to ensure the correct level of political support for the COE process.
- Ensure that the momentum is maintained by providing further support, especially councils that are struggling to implement their plans.
- Sensitise councils about the importance of entrepreneurship training and economic empowerment. Encourage councils to keep a database for GBV survivors and entrepreneurs so they can easily find help and/or economic opportunities.

Key priorities for 2015

- Create a sustainability model once the grant from UN Women is finished, and use this model for peer learning.
- Continue with the buy-in and roll out of the COE process to the new councils within the provinces of South Africa.

- Strengthen the relationship between GL and SALGA particularly for the Women in Politics training, especially with the Local Government Elections taking place in 2016.
- Engage media and media training institutions to embark on the COE programme.
- Host the 2015 National Summit.



Training of Trainers Workshop, GL Cottages, South Africa.

Photo: Ntombi Mbadlanyana



Criminal justice system fails women

By Thoko Mpumwana, Board Member, GL South Africa

The killing of a woman by her partner or intimate femicide is the most extreme form of domestic violence. Monitoring of such cases in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act points to gaps in the application of the law which regularly disadvantages victims of domestic violence. This begs the question, not only of whether justice serves the victims and survivors, but whether or not the law serves the victims' family members.

In the recent case of State vs. Peter Baloyi case number 379/04/2014, the accused - a 34 year old male taxi driver was charged with murder after killing his girlfriend. Following a heated argument, the accused used a sharp object to decapitate his girlfriend and then dumped her body on the side of a road. After 11 months of investigation, DNA results from her eight-year-old son came back positive, proving the blood in the car was hers. The accused finally pled guilty and claimed to be remorseful. The defence team used this to their advantage, also using the fact that he was a first time offender and a father of two to lessen his sentence. It seemed as though the court was more sympathetic to the accused rather than the deceased and deceased's family. The accused was sentenced to a mere ten years in prison, despite provisions for minimum sentences in terms of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Very few people heard about that story because the victim was not celebrity. The case is one of many, where justice

is not served. On the other hand, because of both the accused and deceased's celebrity status, the Pistorius vs. Steenkamp case received international coverage, both the prosecution and the defence using the best legal teams in the country.

Judge Thokozile Masipa handed down South Africa's long awaited judgement and Oscar Pistorius was cleared of murder but rather found guilty of culpable homicide. He was then sentenced to only five years in jail for shooting dead his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day in 2013. Masipa ruled that prosecutors, had failed to prove that he intended to kill Steenkamp. The defence said Pistorius shot Steenkamp as a result of a tragic accident after mistaking her for an intruder hiding behind a locked toilet door.

These women's lives were brutally taken, yet those responsible get minimum sentences and even able to apply for parole. Is a women's life only worth five to ten years? Why does the justice system show more sympathy to the men in the dock instead of the women in their graves? Why is impunity, especially with domestic violence and femicide cases prevailing in this country?

These questions lead me to conclude that patriarchy is a monster that pervades all corners of society. We must review the Criminal Law Amendment Act in terms of sentencing. The struggle for gender justice is far from over.