

A glimpse of 2017



SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE COALITION



www.facebook.com/srjcza



[@_SRJC](https://twitter.com/_SRJC)

The SRJC is a mere two years old and has been storming, norming and forming to find its way in a complex space.

We are grateful for the incredible energies of our coalition members in amplifying the work of resisting and persisting and growing an organic reproductive justice movement in South Africa.

There is much work to be done and we are wanting to move from words and policies to action and implementation to enable restorative reproductive justice for those most marginalised women in South Africa.

We will not be free until we are all free

Thanks for sharing our journey

Marion Stevens and Tlaleng Mofokeng

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson



Steering committee members:

Marion Stevens, Nomtika Mjwana, Dudu Dlamini, Catriona McCleod, Malvern Chiweshe, Mandy Govender, Tlaleng Mofokeng and Vikar Singh

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Institutional growth

The first half of 2017 has been a busy and growthful time for the SRJC. We have been storming, norming and forming a working team that works together, learning through working to each other's strengths and filling in gaps where needed. We have also had to respond to the demand for our presence in the sexual and reproductive justice arena in South Africa. To this end we have been working towards strengthening institutional policies and organizational processes including the development of a strategic plan

The SRJC steering committee met at the end of April and went through a process of strategic planning. Adopting the SRJC theory of change, we consulted members for examples of strategic planning processes. We also did a mapping of strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats and assets (SWOTA). Given a gap in finance and governance skills we put a call out to our membership for members to apply to be part of the steering committee to fill this gap. Mandy Govender from Health Enabled was accepted onto the Steering committee and has assisted in this regard.

The membership of the SRJC continues to grow with over 160 members now and continues to be a space of relationship building and networking.

We have identified that we should be working to recruit a Finance and Development Manager to assist with the next growth period of the SRJC.

Staff

In January 2017 Nomtika Mjwana our communications and advocacy officer started to work towards a full week. Thami Dolopi started working part time as our finance and office manager. Tlaleng Mofokeng has been growing into a one day a week position of advocacy director. Marion Stevens continues to work full time yet her salary is not fully covered. Leigh David's continues to work as our cross-movement organizer, while she has been ill her presence and engagement on social media threading the linkages on the ground between abortion, queer health and sex work decriminalization has been an enormous contribution in distilling a grounded intersectional basis to our team.

Four SRJC members were accepted to be Tekano Fellows in their management and leadership programme¹. This includes Nomtika Mjwana (Communications and Advocacy), Thami Dolopi (Finance and Admin, Dudu Dlamini (Steering committee representing SWEAT, Mothers for the Future and Sisonke) and Lance Louskieter (Youth wing of SRJC and UCT Tutor in Public Health and Gender Studies). The team held their first orientation in September and their second block in November. This is a programme that is aimed at middle management funded by Atlantic Philanthropies.

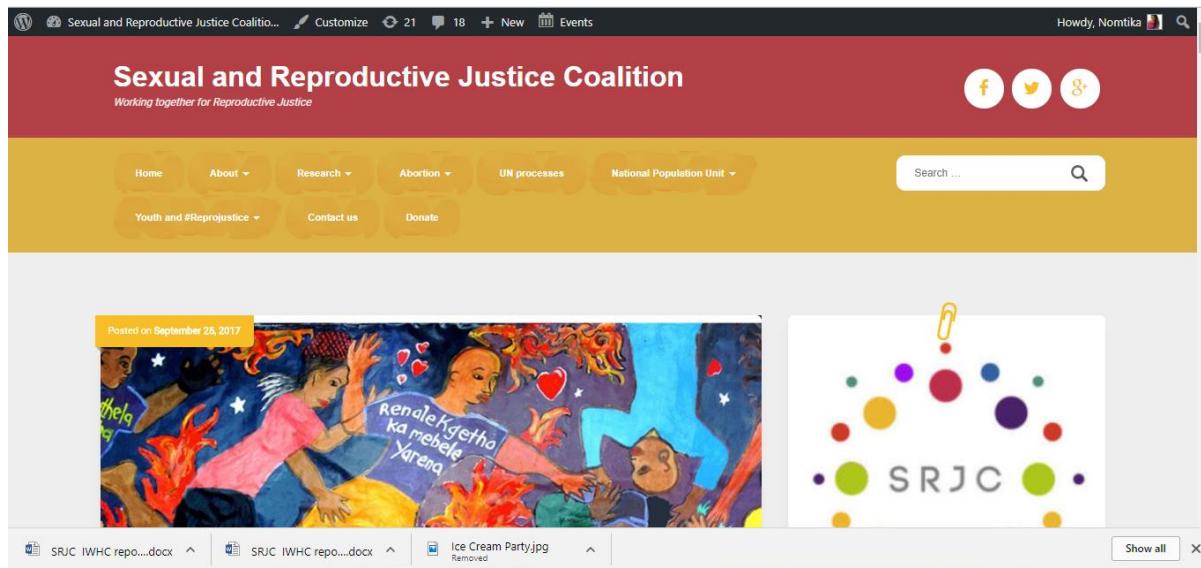
In terms of capacity building, 3 staff members attended a 2-day WordPress Training course with FLOSSNET (an IT training and development company). This is to broaden the capacity within the team and to have more than one person designated to post and maintain the website.

Media and our website

It is a real achievement to have a South African website that hosts information on abortion. www.srjc.org.za. This has not been without challenges and within our first month we were hacked and had to move to a securer site. We have been working with members curating South African relevant information and have a range of about 14 content areas concerning abortion from lists of designated facilities to clinical guidelines and abortion research. All the information is currently uploaded and live on the website. It has been helpful to be able to refer people to a website that does

contain South African information, and to be able to link our different social media platforms with twitter and facebook. It is also gratifying now having others refer and reference our website.

The SRJC website is now with a secure and more credible host: Hetzner.com, and has been upgraded to a new and functional theme. This allows for a direct connection of the website to the SRJC social media networks, flexibility in layout and colour coordination, as well as the arrangement of menus. The website is maintained and articles are posted at a reasonable frequency. The SRJC has also created a PayPal account, which is now embedded on the website under a newly created “donate” page.



SRJC in the media

We have been interviewed often regarding the implications of the Trump Presidency. This article

A screenshot of a news article from Daily Maverick. The article is titled "Gagged and bound: Abortion, the Mexico City policy and the cost of silence". It features a photograph of Donald Trump clapping. To the right of the article is a sidebar for "Ladies Trainers" shoes, showing three pairs of shoes and a price of R279.99 each. The sidebar includes a "SHOP NOW" button.

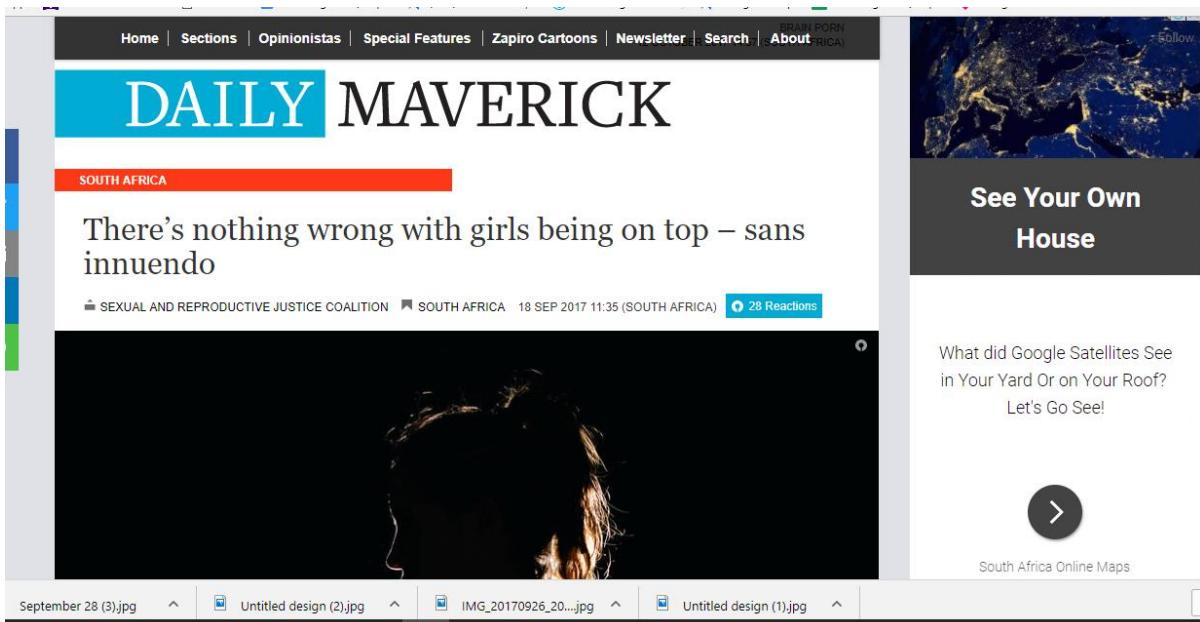
outlines some of the complexity and history of US public and private funding in relation to SRHR in South Africa. Both Marion Stevens and Tlaleng Mofokeng were interviewed.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-03-08-gagged-and-bound-abortion-the-mexico-city-policy-and-the-cost-of-silence/>

In September, we responded to a National Campaign headed by the National Department of Health (NDoH) She Conquers campaign.

“The National Department of Health’s billboard campaign for #SheConquers is directed at adolescent girls and young women. It is encouraging resilience as the mechanism to be healthy, successful, and a way to get ahead, be educated and free from violence. It is the kind of lean-in feminism that argues, “just fall into line and behave”.

The SRJC Media Working Group drafted a letter in response to the billboard and some social media comments. The letter was published on the [Daily Maverick](#).



More media interviews:

- <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2017-08-27-allow-women-to-vote-with-their-conscience/#.Wd9yzVuCzIU>
- <http://allafrica.com/stories/201709280584.html>
- <https://www.enca.com/media/video/how-trump%E2%80%99s-decision-on-abortion-affects-sa?playlist=107>
- <https://www.enca.com/south-africa/department-of-health-come-out-against-proposed-pregnancy-termination-bill>
- <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-04-05-letter-to-the-editor-the-right-to-reproductive-health-government-and-journalists-need-to-do-better/>

Advocacy, networking and campaigns

Government technical support

We continue to have strong linkages with the Departments of Social Development, Health, Basic Education and International Relations and Cooperation.

Close relationships were built and meetings attended in preparation for the UN Conference on Population and Development with the National Population Unit (NPU) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. We also attended the Human Rights Council sessions in March and September addressing the UPR reporting process.

We continue to be part of the inter-ministerial Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Task Team contributing to the process and programs. The NPU has developed a briefing paper on SRHR and Marion Stevens has been asked to be the expert review of this government paper. In May this year the Minister of Social Development gave her budget speech in preparation the SRJC was asked to coordinate civil society consultations on SOGI issues which was to be a theme of her budget speech.

The process was complex and follow up meetings are still in process. Marion Stevens facilitated the drafting of the LGBTI public service draft pledgeⁱⁱ

We work closely with Dr Faith Khumalo the Chief Director of Equity in the National Department of Basic Education. We have been able to share being on a radio programme with her on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and support the new Integrated School Health Policy.

We have been working on our relationship with The Department of Health. We have attended the SRHR technical task team meetings and were able to advise on contraception and abortion in particular. Given our informal referral network in putting women in touch with designated public abortion facilities we regularly inform Dr. Pillay and Makua about these gaps and ask for reliable referrals and responses. Marion Stevens and Tlaleng Mofokeng have been part of the drafting team development the new national abortion guidelines and updating the Contraception and Fertility planning policy. Marion is has been coordinating the input for the National Abortion Guidelines.

Parliament

Given the recent publication of the African Christian Democratic parties' challenge to the CTOP https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1015464660236820&id=379138726829, we briefed



Figure 1(Pic. Thami Dolopi, Floyd Shivambu, Marion Stevens and Dudu Dlamini - June 2017)

and we met with their parliamentary researchers and Deputy President Floyd Shivambu.

The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) applied for a Private Member's Bill to amend the



the Department of Health as they had not been informed of this process. We also responded to a call by the Economic Freedom Front for suggestions of parliamentary questions. We briefed them on questions to ask regarding abortion and they have asked them of the Department of Health as a measure to address accountability and transparency.

They followed up with a request for a meeting

Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (CTOPA). The ACDP Bill aims to compel all women to have an ultrasound and counselling on alternatives before being allowed an abortion. Previous legal attempts to find constitutional fault with the CTOPA have not succeeded. The SRJC developed an [online petition with Amandla.mobi](#) encouraging civil society and community members to sign on and resist this amendment. The petition is

currently sitting at 1, 605 signatures. The SRJC with the SRJC legal working group, developed model submissions for members to submit. About 200 members and allies submitted these. The SRJC made submissions to the speaker of National Parliament, Baleka Mbete, arguing against the amendment. The submissions were delivered to parliament in July 2017.

Local Advocacy and campaigns

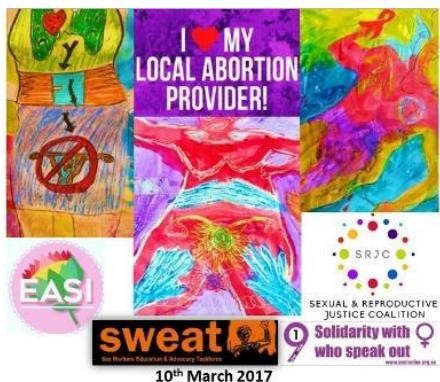


In March we conducted a ten day training on Sexual and Reproductive health for Ikamva Labantu carers who expressed the need for assistance as they were not equipped to deal with the teens in their care. This was a useful engagement in sharing our training skills and enabling the SRJC team to learn from each other in content and process areas in relation to sexual and reproductive justice.

Around 28 May International Women's Health Day we participated in an international Reproductive Health Politics conference at UCT forging links with SAMA in India as members of panels addressing sexual and

reproductive justice.

In July, Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng attended the South African AIDS conference in Durban. She was chairing the track on Social, Political, Economic and Health Systems, and worked collaboratively with Sisonke, a sex worker movement, in organising a silent protest during the Deputy President's address. The silent protest was in response to the exclusion of sex workers in the South African National AIDS Council's Strategic plan on HIV/TB and STIs.



In February the SRJC in collaboration with SWEAT and One In Nine held artivism workshops to contextualise and understand abortion struggles in South Africa. This was followed up by another workshop in Johannesburg in May, funded by Oxfam South Africa. The SRJC provided the linkages in terms of content and to our members who are part of SWEAT – Mothers for the Future programme. We developed media that was used on 10 March Abortion Provider Appreciation Day where we visited a number of abortion providers and provided them with cards, flowers and chocolates around

In September, the SRJC worked with Global Health Strategies on the September 28 campaign. The campaign joined international partners the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) and International Safe Abortion Campaign who were also engaging on a range of activities to mark the day. The SRJC organised panel discussions in Cape Town, Grahamstown, Johannesburg and worked with the Sexual Rights Initiative in Geneva.



In October our SRJC legal working group met again in partnership with Global Health Strategies hosting a Strategic Litigation meeting on abortion. We welcomed partners from Global Doctors for Choice SA too. The group has set itself tasks to develop concept notes on clear legal gaps noting the particular areas of designation and reproductive health

commodities. Issues of referral for emergency access were also discussed.

On 21 November we co-hosted a panel and lunch for Transgender Day of Remembrance with SWEAT, Sistazhood and Gender Dynamix. Speakers highlighted the extremely precarious positions trans women sex workers live in and their daily difficulties.



Regional and Global Advocacy and Campaigns

In January 2017 Marion Stevens attended the African leaders Summit on Abortion in Addis Abba. See article published on the [Daily Maverick](#). In April, The Communications officer and Deputy Chairperson were invited by the IWHC to attend the Commission for Population Development (CPD) in New York, and to attend the Advocacy in Training workshop prior to that. During CPD, the Advocacy/Comms manager joined the language group, and worked collaboratively in creating the Sexual Rights fact sheet among other things (contributing in mark ups and working within the ISSRC advocacy group). Tlaleng (SRJC Vice -Chair) was also a participant at the AiP workshop and did social media based plenary monitoring, also working collaboratively within the advocacy group. As a summary of the conference, she compiled Social Media engagement into a storify articleⁱⁱⁱ In June Vikar Singh a SRJC steering committee attended the Inroads Abortion Conference in Lusaka and in July he will be attending 2nd Southern Africa Regional Students and Youth Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SARSYC). He has been selected as a board member for youth advisory body of the African Union to advice on SRHR.

In August, five SRJC members were invited to an international convention on conscientious objection. The meeting was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, and was attended by policymakers, academics, health professionals, legal experts, and feminist activists who collectively established that objecting to the provision of voluntary abortion services on religious or moral grounds, is a chief barrier to safe abortion and endangers the lives of women. Find the summary of the report [here](#).

In the third week of September the third South African Universal Periodic Review (UPR) took place. The review process took place in May, and Carrie Shelver, SRJC member from the Coalition of African



LIVE NOW | MEETINGS & EVENTS | MEDIA | NEWS & FEATURES | TOPICS & ISSUES

CHAPTERS RELATED VIDEOS

16. China, Ms Qu Jiehao	00:38:04
17. Côte D'Ivoire, Mr Francois Kouame	00:29:12
18. Cuba, Mr. Pablo Bertí Oliva	00:40:31
19. International Bar Association, Ms. Jurate Guzveciute	00:42:16
20. International Lesbian and Gay Association, Ms. Diane Carolina Prado Moragues	00:44:12
21. Association for the Prevention of Torture, Mr. Ben Buckland	00:49:17
22. Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Ms. Nomtika Mjwana	00:47:19

Available languages: English

Lesbians took part in the advocacy work of the review. Ms. Nomtika Mjwana attended Council in September and delivered a statement under the RFSU slot, in response to the [South African UPR Outcome](#).

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DAILY MAVERICK

SOUTH AFRICA

Op-Ed: Why Zane Dangor should be the next executive director of the UN Population Fund

TLALENG MOFOKENG | SOUTH AFRICA | 15 SEP 2017 12:36 (SOUTH AFRICA) | 7 Reactions

The SRJC Deputy Chairperson, Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, nominated former DSD Director in General, Zane Dangor, for the role as the new Executive Director of UNFPA. The letter was also published on the [Daily Maverick](#).

[Extract from the letter]

"If a woman candidate from the south articulates these issues coherently then we are sure that Zane Dangor will be as happy as we are to support that candidate. Like us, he is of the view Dr. Babatunde Ositieme would have wanted a woman servant leader from the south to complete the work he started under very difficult circumstances."

The Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition congratulates Dr. Natalia Kanem on her appointment as the new UNFPA Executive Director.

In September, The SRJC Vice Chairperson, Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, delivered the first UN joint statement on abortion at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Following this, Tlaleng spoke at a high-level panel on Using Human Rights Law and Standards to Advance Access to Safe Abortion.



Available languages: English

Item:8 General Debate - 29th Meeting, 36th Regular Session Human Rights Council



Using human rights law & standards to advance the right to access safe & legal abortion

26 September 2017 16:30-18:00, Palais des Nations Room XXVII

Moderator

Lucinda O'Hanlon, Adviser on Women's Rights, Women's Rights and Gender Section, OHCHR

Speakers

H.E. Martha Maurás Perez, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN
Ronald Johnson, Scientist, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO
Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, Vice Chairperson, Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition, South Africa
Julânia Armando Langa, Legal Advisor, Cabinet of the Minister of Health, Mozambique

*Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish and Portuguese



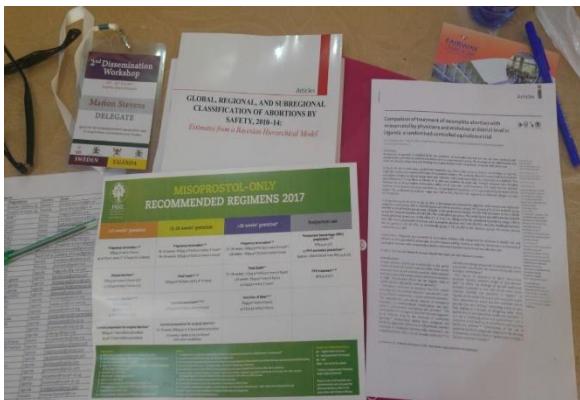
In addition, The Coalition of African Lesbians invited the SRJC to a webinar on safe abortion access on 28 September. Steering committee and youth member, Vikar Singh, represented at the panel discussion.

An Autonomy & Abortion Webinar

Demanding full control over our bodies and our lives

28 September 2017
10:00 to 12:00 GMT


the autonomy project



In October two members of the SRJC attended a meeting hosted by FIGO and RSFU in Kampala regarding the implementation of abortion services exploring different guidelines and clinical experiences in low resource settings. An area of discussion included using the harm reduction model

In November a few SRJC members including Tlaleng Mofokeng attending a joint convening in Dehli hosted by Global Health Strategies to address access to comprehensive SRHR services including Abortion services in India and South Africa. This meeting was attended by high level government officials from both India and South Africa.

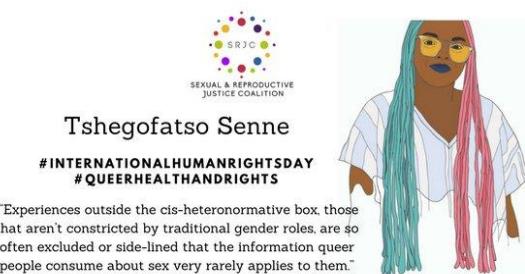


On World AIDS Day the Mail and Guardian hosted a panel discussion with key researchers and senior government officials. Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng was on the panel and brought a reproductive justice perspective to the dialogue on HIV and AIDS extending the discussion and focusing the debate on those most marginalised.

In December we closed our offices with a tea before the traditional summer holiday break in South Africa. After really busy and productive year. It was good to have an informal debriefing session and a light meal together bringing together a number of Cape Town based SRJC members.

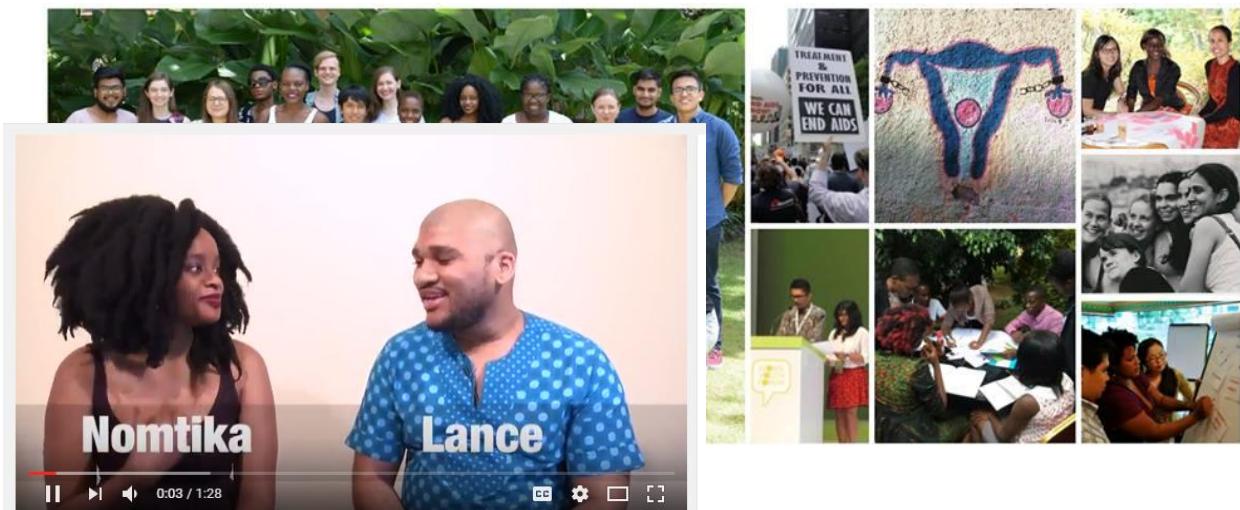


For International Human Rights Day we developed media took kits which focused on different content areas from our theory of change and we disseminated these widely on social media. Here are three as an example of some of the areas we covered.



Youth wing

In August, SRJC youth member and communications manager, Nomtika Mjwana, attended her first Annual General Meeting as a newly accepted member of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR). The meeting took place in Thailand and had all YCSRR members attending and planning for the 2017/2018 year. Nomtika has been appointed as the co-chair of the Human Rights Council Task Force, and is a member of the Abortion Working Group and the CSE and Youth Friendly services working group.



Donor acknowledgement

WISH Associates has been the fiscal sponsor for the SRJC and has a memorandum of understanding to support the SRJC. The SRJC will be registering an a voluntary association and appointing a board in early 2018

We are grateful for the support from the following groups and donors:

IWHC
RSFU
African Gender Institute
HIVOS
Global Health Strategies
RAITH Foundation
WISH Associates

ⁱ <http://tekano.org.za/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-05-30-draft-sa-government-public-service-pledge-declaration-for-lgbtqi-persons/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://storify.com/drtlaleng/civic-participation-and-role-at-the-un-50th-commis>
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2017-07-25-will-an-ultrasound-change-a-womans-mind-about-abortion/>

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2017-08-27-allow-women-to-vote-with-their-conscience/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCJBjHOhljE>

<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/stop-the-african-christian-democratic-party-acdp-amending-the-termination-of-pregnancy-ac>

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/2017/08/09/public-outcry-over-a-bill-that-would-change-the-way-women-access_a_23071836/

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-08-13-health-e-health-workers-are-undermining-womens-right-to-abortion/>

<https://soundcloud.com/kayafm959/cherylllyn-dudleyacdp-dr-tlaleng-marion-stevens-talking-abortion-100817?in=kayafm959/sets/uncaptured-with-kgomotso-and>