

## QUARTERLY PULSE!

This quarter, SRJC has continued to move with power, purpose, and deep feminist grounding. We've stood shoulder-to-shoulder with sex workers across the country as the push for decriminalisation gains urgent momentum. From the unapologetic voices of Power Bold youth, to community-led marches, legal strategy sessions, and Pride celebrations rooted in Disability Justice we've been visible, vocal, and unwavering.

At the heart of it all is our commitment to collective liberation: fighting stigma, amplifying lived experience, and building a future where all bodies, all choices, and all work are treated with dignity and respect.

## POWER IN PRACTICE: PRIDE, PROTEST, AND THE FIGHT FOR DECRIMINALISATION

*In the picture: Pam Ntshekula - Sex Workers Education & Advocacy Taskforce*



*Nosiphiwo Sambane - SRJC*

*In the pictures: SWEAT, Sonke Gender Justice and Sisonke members in support of the Decrim*

On 2 June 2025, SRJC joined national actions led by the Asijiki Coalition, including SWEAT, Sisonke, and Sonke Gender Justice, to demand the decriminalisation of sex work in South Africa.

The date marked both International Sex Workers' Day and two years since the Department of Justice withdrew the Decriminalisation Bill, a bill that could have secured basic rights and safety for sex workers.

Despite promises to resume the process after the 2024 elections, there's been no progress. This campaign called on the DOJ to account: Where is the bill? What are the timelines? When will change come?

SRJC stood in solidarity with partners across the country to say: sex workers cannot wait any longer. Decrim now!

## DECRIM IS JUSTICE

Also this quarter...

SRJC's communications support person joined SWEAT for a powerful two-day Media Training Workshop connected to the ongoing strategic litigation against the Department of Justice. The case, brought by Sexual Reproductive Health and supported by SWEAT, is pushing for the full decriminalisation of sex work in South Africa. With the amicus hearing set for September 2025, momentum is building and so is a media strategy rooted in sex workers' voices, lived experiences, and collective power. If you'd like to support this work or connect with us, feel free to reach out or visit the SRJC team, we're always open to collaboration and solidarity.



# LATEST NEWS

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



*Sihle Motsa - Outgoing Programmes Officer SRJC*

## FAREWELLS AND FRESH STARTS!

This quarter, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Sihle Motsa, our incredible Programmes Officer, as she embarks on exciting new paths and focuses on completing her Master's thesis. Sihle, your fierce leadership, unwavering commitment to reproductive justice, and deep care have left a powerful mark on SRJC you will be deeply missed.

As we say goodbye, we also look ahead. Our work doesn't pause the movement continues. Watch this space as we prepare to welcome a new Programmes Officer. Rest assured, the energy remains high, the momentum is strong, and our commitment to pushing back, advocating, and building remains as fierce as ever.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

### Young, Brilliant & Justice-Fuelled

We're thrilled to welcome Tshegofatso Malatse to the SRJC team! Currently studying toward a Bachelor of Political Science in International Relations at the University of Pretoria, Tshegofatso brings a sharp political mind and a deep commitment to intersectional feminism, reproductive justice, and socio-economic rights. She's actively involved in the Young Feminist Collective and has taken part in various initiatives with the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender, including the Just Leaders programme.

Tshegofatso is driven by a belief that change starts with individuals who are willing to show up.

*"I believe, very often, my generation takes for granted the rights we have and, as a result, do not learn how to protect and honour them," she shares. "In light of this, I want to do my part to safeguard and advance sexual and reproductive rights, and help build communities that respect agency and autonomy."*

We're so lucky to have her energy, insight, and brilliance in the mix.

Keep an eye out, you'll be seeing more of her in our work and on our platforms!



*Tshegofatso Malatse - Volunteering with SRJC*

# YOUTH, POWER AND SRHR

## Raising Voices, Building Futures



*Sexual & Reproductive Justice Coalition,  
Working together for reproductive justice*

June is a powerful reminder of the role young people play in shaping justice movements and at SRJC, we remain committed to ensuring that youth voices are not just heard, but amplified. As we honoured Youth Month and reflected on the legacy of June 16, we deepened our dedication to creating space for meaningful, transformative conversations with young people not just about them.

### Youth Dialogue – KwaZulu-Natal

On June 17, SRJC hosted a vibrant Youth Day dialogue with a focus on KwaZulu-Natal featuring two powerful SRHR champions:

Dr Siyabonga Nzimande and Dr Thobile Masilela

This engaging session tackled urgent issues facing all young people including teenage pregnancy, sexual coercion, limited access to comprehensive sexuality education, and the ongoing lack of youth-friendly healthcare services. These are not abstract challenges; they are daily realities for many young people across the country, especially in under-resourced communities.

Through honest and empowering dialogue, our speakers reminded us that young people are not just the future they are the now. Their lived experiences, insights, and leadership are central to building effective, rights-based responses to the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) challenges we face.



## YOUTH MONTH SPOTLIGHT

### Leadership, Legacy & The Power of Voice

This past Youth Month, SRJC proudly celebrated Yvonne Khumalo, in the Northern Cape Province. A fierce advocate and Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) Convener from the SANAC Civil Society Forum Youth Sector. Yvonne's passionate leadership continues to inspire new waves of feminist organising across the country reminding us what's possible when young people are given the space to lead, speak, and shape the futures they deserve.

### Why Youth Voices Matter?

Young people in South Africa are navigating the sharp edges of multiple crises from gender-based violence, high rates of HIV infection, and lack of access to quality SRHR services, to youth unemployment and exclusion from critical policy spaces. These are not distant issues; they are lived realities, especially for adolescent girls, LGBTQIA+ youth, and those in rural and under-resourced communities.



Yet even in the face of these challenges, youth continue to organise, resist, and lead. At SRJC, we believe it's not enough to speak for young people – we must speak with them. Our commitment is to build and protect spaces that are driven by youth, grounded in their realities, and alive with their visions for justice and change.

### A Call to Youth Networks

As we officially embark on launching our Youth Cluster, we're extending an open invitation to youth-led and youth-serving organisations and individuals who share our values. If your work centres on justice, sexual and reproductive rights, and feminist organising, this is your space. Let's co-create. Let's collaborate. Let's build a future rooted in reproductive justice, dignity, and youth power.

If you are Interested in joining or learning more?

Contact: [sihle@srjc.org.za](mailto:sihle@srjc.org.za)

# Learning and Advocacy

## Amplifying SRHR and SMA Awareness

MAMA Network Member Learning Session:

On 25 July, SRJC comms support attended a MAMA Network learning session focused on advancing strategies for community-based awareness in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), with a particular focus on Self-Managed Abortion (SMA). The session was a rich and interactive space for member exchange, where organisations across Africa shared insights and lived experiences around engaging communities, especially adolescents and youth, on SMA.




Key discussion points included: Effective strategies for message development and dissemination in SRHR; Community-led approaches to awareness and mobilisation the role of community relays in delivering accurate information to youth.

The session also highlighted the value of knowledge-sharing across MAMA members, helping to strengthen collective capacity in designing impactful advocacy and awareness campaigns.

## SRJC Joins ASAP Webinar on Feminist Solidarity

Our Programmes Officer, Sihle Motsa, recently spoke at a powerful webinar hosted by the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) in honour of the International Day of Action for Women's Health. The session formed part of a two-part series aimed at deepening cross-border feminist solidarity and continuing the conversations from the earlier ASAP Convening.

Sihle joined fellow advocates from across the Global South to reflect on the ongoing struggle for abortion rights and reproductive justice in the face of rising conservatism, shrinking civic space, and structural oppression. The discussion explored how international SRHR spaces are often dominated by narratives from the Global North, and the importance of building South-to-South resistance rooted in lived realities. The webinar was a powerful reminder that the fight for reproductive justice is ongoing, and that feminist solidarity remains essential in a rapidly shifting world.



**SPEAKERS:**

- Nilupuli Nayanathara**  
SRHR Advocate,  
Sri Lanka
- Mark Okundi**  
Comms & Advocacy  
Manager, Kenya
- Mitra Kadarsih**  
Midwife practitioner  
& trainer, Indonesia
- Sihle Motsa**  
Programme Officer  
SRJC

**CONVENING  
COLLABORATING  
CREATING:**  
Feminist Solidarity in a shifting world

28 MAY 2025 5pm IST [REGISTER NOW](#)



# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: EMBRACE

## Celebrating Motherhood, Building Power



*Sexual & Reproductive Justice Coalition,  
Working together for reproductive justice*

From leadership development to community mobilisation, Embrace is transforming how South Africa supports and celebrates mothers.

This quarter, Embrace, a national movement championing the social, economic, and political contributions of mothers in South Africa – shared a powerful reflection from their Movement Leader, Julie Mentor.

Embrace marked a major milestone with the graduation of their fifth cohort of Mamandla Fellows. The weekend-long event, held at Mont Fleur in Stellenbosch, closed a year of deep learning, leadership development, and connection. Graduates entered the Mamandla Alumni Network equipped to amplify their advocacy and transform their communities.



*Mamandla Fellows during their graduation weekend at Mont Fleur*



*Mamandla Fellows during their graduation weekend at Mont Fleur*

In addition to the graduation, Embrace launched new Embrace Network nodes in Gqeberha, Umtata, East London, and Knysna, bringing together 118 individuals and grassroots organisations working toward maternal justice and social equity.

As the team prepares for continued expansion in KwaZulu-Natal, we celebrate Embrace's unwavering commitment to centering care, dignity, and justice in all that they do. See alongside the photo highlights from the Mamandla Fellows Graduation.

Interested in joining the Embrace Network?  
Contact Mphakiseng Molefe-Daniels at



[Mphakiseng@embrace.org.za](mailto:Mphakiseng@embrace.org.za)

# INSIDE SRJC: THEN & NEXT

*A peek behind the scenes Where Feminist Magic Happens  
and a look at what's coming up*

*Sexual & Reproductive Justice Coalition,  
Working together for reproductive justice*

At SRJC, it's not every day that our staff and board members share the same office space, so when it does, we make sure to capture the moment!

This quarter, our Communications Support Nosiphiwo Sambane and Coordinator Beau-Lee Petersen enjoyed some rare in-person time with Jess Rucell, SRJC board member and secretary.

The result? All smiles, plenty of laughter, and just the right dose of that unmistakable feminist magic that fuels everything we do. Because honestly, if your board secretary doesn't look at you like this, are you even running a feminist organisation?

These moments remind us that behind every campaign, meeting, and movement, there's a team connected by passion, laughter, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Stay tuned for more glimpses into the incredible people and energy driving SRJC forward!



*Jess Rucell -Left, Beau-Lee Petersen - Right*



*From Left to Right - Jess Rucell, Nosiphiwo Sambane , Beau-Lee Petersen*

## WHAT'S COMING UP? - VOICES FOR CHOICE

### A PODCAST ON ABORTION PROVIDERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

In a country where abortion is legal yet still shrouded in stigma, misinformation, and systemic barriers, Voices for Choice brings these urgent conversations into the open. Through powerful interviews with healthcare providers, activists, and individuals with lived experience, the series centers the real stories behind reproductive health and rights.

Listeners can expect honest and deeply human accounts from the front lines of abortion care, alongside critical conversations about the structural challenges faced by youth, sex workers, LGBTQI+ people, and people with disabilities. The podcast also explores how inclusion, community leadership, and solidarity can reshape access and support for abortion services.

More than just informative, this series is about changing narratives, challenging myths, and advancing a more just and compassionate approach to reproductive autonomy in South Africa.





# Women's Month Collaboration:

## ART, POWER, AND THE POLITICS OF THE BODY

This August, SRJC joins forces with *The Commons*, a cultural hub, restaurant and activist space in Muizenberg, for an urgent and timely Women's Month conversation:

"Bodily Autonomy and SRHR in the Face of Anti-Rights Backlash."

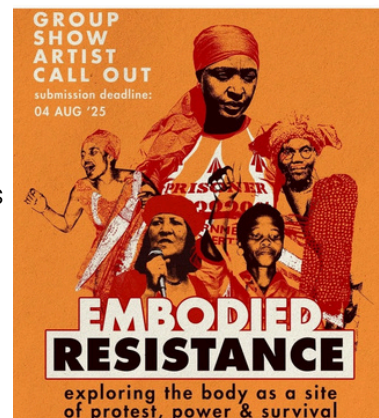
The event forms part of The Commons' larger exhibition titled Embodied Resistance, which explores **the body as a site of protest, power, and survival**. Through art and conversation, the exhibition honours the ongoing histories of women, trans and non-binary people who have used their bodies and voices to resist injustice.

Though South Africa's laws are progressive, real access to SRHR remains unequal and deeply shaped by race, class, and stigma.

Too often, the voices of young, poor, queer, and gender-diverse people are left out.

Let's come together to reflect, resist, and reimagine justice at The Commons, Muizenberg — Tuesday, 12 August at 7PM.

For more info: [thecommons.muizenberg@gmail.com](mailto:thecommons.muizenberg@gmail.com) / [intern@srjc.org.za](mailto:intern@srjc.org.za)



# Disability Pride Month - A FIRST OF ITS KIND!

## DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH MARKED PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME



The SRJC stands in solidarity with the Disability Sector in highlighting the intersectional impact of HIV, STIs, TB, and gender. As July marked Disability Pride Month, we took time to reflect on the various forms of discrimination that continue to increase health risks for persons with disabilities and to affirm the ongoing call for dignity, inclusion, and justice in all health spaces. This year marks a powerful shift, as Disability Pride Month was visibly acknowledged in South Africa for the first time, a historic moment in the fight for disability justice.

Stay tuned as SRJC looks forward to supporting the Disability sector's upcoming Disability Pride and National Disability Army (NDA) Launch – a bold step toward visibility, movement-building, and accountability.



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