



What is Violence Against Women?



Violence against women is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. Family Law states that "South Africa has one of the highest incidences of domestic violence in the world". Women abuse knows no social, economic or national boundaries.

WHAT IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

Violence against women can take many forms. According to Family Law, violence against women is a pattern of abusive behavior which is used to obtain power and control and can be active in any type of relationship. Violence against women can be anything from physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking and even economic abuse (limiting the victim's ability to support herself).

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Victims of violence can suffer sexual and health consequences, including: forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, permanent damage to sexual organs, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, psychological consequences and even death.

Don't take the blame, break the cycle and seek help. Every incident of abuse suffered by a child or woman reflects failure to respond to the cries of the most vulnerable in our midst. It is in everyone's power and within everyone's means to contribute to the fight against the abuse of women and children.

For a confidential talk or Psychosocial assistance, kindly call Careways on 0800 004770 or SMS your name to number 31581, they will call you back.



"It is in everyone's power and within everyone's means to contribute to the fight against the abuse of women and children."



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StopTheSpot Youth Organisation educates female students during Women's Day Webinar



L-R: 2020 Women's Month painting by South African Government and StopTheSpot logo

On Sunday, 09 August 2020, StopTheSpot Youth Organisation held a Women's Day Webinar to address issues faced by women. The issues covered include the struggle for women's rights in the economic, social, political and cultural domain. Female students were addressed by different speakers who taught them how to be the best versions of themselves and achieve whatever they would like to achieve in life through sharing experiences of life challenges.

This Webinar was organized under the theme: 'Celebrating Women's Day in style with pioneer women in Africa', and took place live on StopTheSpot Facebook page.

"Female students were addressed by different speakers who taught them how to be the best versions of themselves and achieve whatever they would like to achieve in life through sharing experiences of life challenges."



Founder of StopTheSpot Youth Organisation who is also a Gender Based Violence (GBV) Activist, GBV survivor and also a professional Educator who is currently the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Education honours student, Ms Mercy Raphalalani said GBV has been classified as a second pandemic after COVID-19. She said none of UNIVEN students had reported any GBV case to StopTheSpot organization. As such, StopTheSpot applauded UNIVEN for a good job. Despite that, StopTheSpot saw a need to take advantage of Women's Day by hosting Women's Webinar where female students enjoyed and learned a lot from various African women. She encouraged UNIVEN students to use campus psychological services whenever they need help.

Other women who addressed students during StopTheSpot Webinar include Ms Mabore Machete who is a UNIVEN Student Activist doing Honours of Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resources Management; Ms Bababusola Oluwaseyi from Nigeria (Poet); Ms Princess Murulane (LGBTIQ+ Advocate) and Ms Matshidiso Molepo (Gender Based Violence Survivor). The host for this Webinar was Mr Vision Ndou, a third level Bachelor of Commerce in Economics student at UNIVEN.

UNIVEN Management and SRC wish all students best of luck in their upcoming examinations

On Thursday, 20 August 2020, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held an examinations prayer day event to pray for students and encourage them to thoroughly prepare for the upcoming first semester examinations. This prerecorded University Examinations Prayer service took place on UNIVEN FM between 11:00am and 12:30 pm, due to COVID-19 Lockdown Regulations that events are still not permitted.

"As you prepare for examinations, make sure that you do not forget safety measures when going to public spaces. Always wear your masks, keep safe distance of at least one and half meter apart from each other to reduce the chances of contacting the virus. Wash your hands regularly. Sanitize your hands regularly with sanitizers that are placed around campus."



When delivering the message during the University Examinations Prayer service, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni thanked SRC members for working with the University management from time to time to ensure that UNIVEN students conduct themselves in an orderly manner and that all safety measures are followed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Dr Nthambeleni further thanked the SRC leadership for engaging the management in a good manner to ensure that all students are able to learn online without others being left behind. He thanked all staff members for ensuring that during the period of lockdown, the business of the University continues irrespective of the Covid-19 Lockdown.

Dr Nthambeleni wished students well in their upcoming examinations. "As you prepare for examinations, make sure that you do not forget safety measures when going to public spaces. Always wear your masks, keep safe distance of at least one and half meter apart from each other to reduce the chances of contacting the virus. Wash your hands regularly. Sanitize your hands regularly with sanitizers that are placed around campus." He concluded by saying that the University management is committed to ensure that students will finish this academic year without any student being left behind. He wished students best of luck in their upcoming examination scheduled to commence on Monday, 24 August 2020.



Pastor Pfarelo Mamphaga from Muledane Church of Christ, delivered a sermon themed 'the power of believing in yourself'. Mr Mamphaga encouraged students to believe in themselves. He gave them ten principles that a person can use if they want to achieve anything in life. "Believing in yourself is important because it gives you the power and energy to strive to achieve any goal that you want to achieve in life." Pastor Mamphaga highlighted that we are living in an era where our lives are at stake and many people think that this is the end of the world. "But I can assure you that, there is still life after this pandemic." He concluded his sermon by advising students to thoroughly prepare for these upcoming examinations and wished them well.

"Believing in yourself is important because it gives you the power and energy to strive to achieve any goal that you want to achieve in life."



Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo, Director Student Affairs when rendering the Purpose of the Day item expressed that COVID-19 has brought us the use of virtual platforms to conduct our business of the day, deviating from our traditional ways of conducting our normal business which is teaching, learning, research and community engagement. He told students to always remember that they were born to achieve great things in life.

"He told students to always remember that they were born to achieve great things in life."



Representing the SRC President, the Secretary General Mr Yanda Mxaku said students need to adapt to the new ways of doing things. He further advised them to always adhere to COVID-19 Lockdown Regulations. "We understand that we are going into this examination having COVID-19 challenges. Please always see opportunities in every challenge that you come across." He told them to study hard, remain focused and determined if they want to pass the upcoming exams.



When rendering a Vote of Thanks item, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford wished students well in the upcoming examinations.

Prof Netshandama talks collaborative science related projects



As a guest on SABC Phalaphala FM programme hosted and produced by Mr Wonder Juniper, the Director Community Engagement, Prof Vhonani Olive Netshandama talked about the significance and implications of collaboration in science related projects.

The programme was aired on Phalaphala FM on Thursday, 20 August 2020 from 14:30 to 15:00. This was a Department of Science and Innovation initiated programme.

Upon her introduction into the talk show, Prof Netshandama responded to the question on the nature and importance of collaboration by mentioning that, it is indeed very important to research and address societal challenges. Prof Netshandama said that, looking at the world that we live in, there is a deliberate drive to encourage collaborative research and science projects that involve community partners.

“Collaboration starts by knowing what you want. One must also be willing to go the extra mile in order to understand their different fields, identify the problems and work towards solving the problems as a collective and be open to ideas and suggestions as several minds are likely to succeed as compared to one.”

She highlighted that, scientists should be able to acknowledge the limitations of their own area of expertise and to appreciate the expertise that other scientists use to strengthen their research goals. It could be a collaboration to strengthen one focus area or several focus areas that are connected in one way or another. Ndi ndila ya kushumele ya ndilo muthathe. Experts from economics, sociology, psychology and from other fields may work together, share data, compare notes, share recourses, compare the results, discuss implications.

When talking on how to start these type of projects, she advised researchers to read a lot including articles from different fields. Prof Netshandama further advised researchers to be able to put something on the table to earn the respect of collaborators.

“Before a researcher can think about collaborating, they should have something to give in and they should also expect to learn from others. Always be on your toes. You should offer something. Negotiate the boundaries and the benefit of sharing like a professional. Think about the bigger picture because most collaborations have a potential to evolve into something bigger than you initially imagined”.

She was asked to share some of the examples of collaborative work based on her experience of almost two decades. Prof Netshandama indicated that the University has collaborated with local researchers nationally, in SADC region and with researchers from African countries and even with global researchers. An example of beneficial International collaboration was with the University of Virginia, USA. To date, within the collaboration, there has been tangible results ranging from students graduating their PhDs and becoming world class professors. “Such collaborations succeed because of the efforts local scientists put in a collaborative pot and in doing their part. It is important for one to be an active participant in a collaboration and for each collaborator to be clear about what s/he wants out of the collaboration. Collaboration should be reciprocal, and collaborators’ contribution should be equitable and equally acknowledged.

In response to the question on African focused collaboration in grassroot innovation and IKS beneficiation, Prof Netshandama said that there is still a lot to be done in terms of changing the dominance of colonial knowledge forms in collaborations. She further highlighted that, it is required of a university researcher to respect and acknowledge communities’ contribution in a science collaboration. She appreciated the work done by the Department of Science and Innovation in supporting educative programmes in this regard. She further made a call for more support and infrastructure development, particularly at historically disadvantaged universities such as UNIVEN as they are still lacking in terms of resources and spaces for innovation development and learning.

She conceded that there are many innovators in villages that do not necessarily have degrees, that should be assisted to develop their innovative ideas, but urged children to go to school because most innovators were encouraged during their school-varsity years.

She concluded her talk by urging the listeners to continue to follow all the COVID-19 precautionary measures in order to stay safe from contracting COVID-19. “Always wear the Mask, wash your hands regularly and keep social distance.

Take care!!!”

“Collaboration starts by knowing what you want. One must also be willing to go the extra mile in order to understand their different fields, identify the problems and work towards solving the problems as a collective and be open to ideas and suggestions as several minds are likely to succeed as compared to one.”

Aphrodite Global collaborates with Enactus UNIVEN on Mandela Day



In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, Aphrodite Global and Enactus UNIVEN saw it fit to remember the principles of Ubuntu and live up to those dreams. Recently, teams from both Enactus UNIVEN and Aphrodite Global assisted with some of the work at the farms behind the University campus (P-West). This is one of the Enactus UNIVEN led community project and it is being administered by community members. Throughout the day the teams learnt about different crops, agriculture and farming. These teams purchased and harvested fresh vegetables to donate to the Litshani Vhana vha-de Foundation (LVVF) in Muledane Block J. The idea behind going to the farms was stemmed on the basis that due to national lockdown, many people had planted their own vegetables as an extra mural activity and the regulations did not allow farmers to go out and sell their products. Farmers were struggling to sell their products. Buying the vegetables meant that the farmers would be able to make ends meet.

Litshani vhana vha-de Foundation (LVVF) is a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) that renders welfare services to orphans, vulnerable children and youth in Thulamela Municipality. It aims to give all children a better life by supplying them with necessities, developing their skills and talent in a safe and healthy environment. The teams were warmly welcomed to the home by child caregivers and the Board of Directors of the foundation. Prior to Nelson Mandela Day, the teams opened donations from students who had clothes and blankets to offer and made the donation to the foundation on Mandela day. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation has not been receiving as much donations and help from the community. It was heart-warming to see a group of young people who still cared about the communities around them.

Aphrodite Global is a NPO that exists to close the gender gap in communities.

"We are touched to see young people from the University coming together to help needy children. We hope that your programmes also speak to the boy child because it is very important to teach them whilst young for them to have respect for women and people in general", said Joe LVVF BOD member.

The farmers were happy to have the teams on the day and for donations that were well received by LVVF. The teams look forward to working together with the farmers and the foundation more closely going forward. For more information on the organisations visit: www.aphroditeglobal.co.za/

Facebook @Aphrodite_Global Enactus Facebook page @enactus_univen

Struu Artzz Facebook @struu_artzz_entertainm

"We are touched to see young people from the University coming together to help needy children. We hope that your programmes also speak to the boy child because it is very important to teach them whilst young for them to have respect for women and people in general"

Below are pictures that were taken on the day.





UNIVEN Organisation Society adopts Edison Nesengani Secondary as its focus School for academic year 2020



On Wednesday, 19 August 2020, the University of Venda's Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter together with Black Management Forum Student Chapter, Legal Ambassadors Scheme and Stop the Spot Youth Organisation collaborated through a community outreach programme that took place at Edison Nesengani Secondary.

After realizing the impact and effect of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic on the disruption of the academic activities of both secondary and tertiary institutions, considering the consequences of the COVID-19 national lockdown on the said institution and implementing programmes of action, the organisation society of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) decided to implement a school outreach programme to help matric learners with the common matric motivational talks and assist learners with 2021 tertiary and bursary applications.

In mitigating the risks of being in an unlawful gathering, the team and school used an open space assembly area where learners assembled in observance of the social distancing measures. The motivation was about types of study methods, goal setting other general academic and life aspects.

The second part was the application procedures, where students used their personal computers and data bundles to carry out the application procedures for learners. On average over 70% of learners were assisted successfully with their tertiary applications.

Some of the reasons why 30% of learners was not assisted were that, some institutions allow applications only if learners have paid application fee, which the learners had not done prior to this day; some of the learners did not have supporting documents and poor network coverage.



UNIVEN students who assisted learners with tertiary applications for admissions

UNIVEN students continue to shine at the Intervarsity Competitions



Thumbs up for Ndamulelo Nelwamondo, MSc student in Statistics and Promise Nyalungu who is doing Honours degree in International Relations who recently won the regional Annual National Intervarsity Student Entrepreneurship Competition. These students will be representing the University of Venda (UNIVEN) at the Intervarsity Student Entrepreneurship Competition finals.

The Annual National Intervarsity Student Entrepreneurship Competition is hosted by Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) across all 26 public universities in South Africa. This is an initiative established by the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.

The purpose of this competition is to identify and recognise top student entrepreneurs at these universities and showcase their businesses to potential investors.

Mr Nelwamondo's Belutics (PTY) Ltd is a Data Sciences Consulting Company which started in the field of analytics and very eager to outperform other companies in the market which will be due to fresh minded workers, new technological, statistical, mathematical, and Artificial Intelligence methods. What prompted the establishment of the company is that South Africa is in the 4th Industrial Revolution where data is an essential resource that powers the decision-making industry. Belutics has noted that there is a slow economic growth in South Africa due to companies lacking information from data experts. It has also foreseen that future jobs lie in big data analytics. Belutics urges the public to realise that there is a need for a data science company in rural areas to help the municipalities in solving local problems. Belutics data services include but not limited to questionnaire design, data collection, data capturing, data analysis, data visualizations, data modelling, and data forecasting using a combination of statistical, mathematical and machine learning methods.

Mr Nyalungu's Struu Artzz Entertainment is a youth-owned private arts club and theatre company founded by a trio of students from the University of Venda. The company offers exclusive world class African entertainment services through performance arts productions i.e. poetry, stage drama, music and dance.

The company also expands its audiences through production tours presented at the National Arts Festival in Makhanda, Eastern Cape and venues around Limpopo mostly for the youth in disadvantaged rural communities, institutions of learning and local events.

Struu Artzz Entertainment aims to capitalize on the growing entertainment market across the world through the production and promotion of high quality entertainment by means of all art forms. The company aims to develop audiences for the creative and cultural industries through offering effective, exclusive and affordable services to communities and businesses such as offering a variety of affordable artistic performances suitable for festivals, functions, conferences, and other related events.

After winning the internal rounds, seven studentpreneurs represented the University of Venda at the regional rounds involving their university, University of Limpopo and University of Mpumalanga. The competition took place from 03 to 07 August 2020. Two studentpreneurs won the regional rounds: Mr Ndamulelo Nelwamondo of Belutics (PTY) Ltd and Mr Promise Nyalungu of Struu Artzz Entertainment under Category 2: Existing businesses – Tech and Category 3: Existing businesses – Social Impact respectively.

The winners wish to convey their gratitude for the mentorship and support in the UNIVEN Community Engagement Directorate and other departments that gave the studentpreneurs the necessary support throughout their journey and in preparing for the competition.

The purpose of this competition is to identify and recognise top student entrepreneurs at these universities and showcase their businesses to potential investors.



Mr Promise Nyalungu of Struu Artzz Entertainment



Mr Ndamulelo Nelwamondo of Belutics (PTY) Ltd



Tshifasi dance performance through Struu Artzz Entertainment advocacy

UNIVEN students join forces in distributing seedlings to selected communities under Tshivhase Dynasty



Executive Mayor Cllr Dowelani Nenguda (1st from left) and His Majesty Midiyavhathu Prince Kennedy Tshivhase (3rd from left) pose for a photo with the University of Venda-Community Engagement delegates

In a multi-stakeholder, agricultural approach to fighting the looming food insecurity challenge during COVID-19 national lockdown, several students social entrepreneurs joined forces with the Tshivhase Royal Council led by His Majesty Midiyavhathu Prince Kennedy Tshivhase, Vhembe District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Dowelani Nenguda, and the Green Development Foundation.

This initiative was facilitated by the University of Venda (UNIVEN) alumnus, Talifhani Tshitwamulomoni who is the former President of Universal Green Organisation (UGO). UGO is a student led organization that promotes green economy and other related initiatives. On behalf of the Green Development Foundation (GDF), about 50 000 seedlings of vegetable crops and herbs with health benefits were distributed to the villages of Tshivhase on 24 July 2020 at Mukumbani Tribal Centre. In line with fighting hunger and promoting food security in villages, the Tshivhase Royal Council prioritized families and farmers in need of sustainable solutions particularly during COVID-19 pandemic.

When addressing the participants, the Founding Chairperson of GDF Mr Mulalo Thabela commended everyone involved for affording them the opportunity to help the community with the little that GDF had to offer. "We grew up eating indigenous fruits, unfortunately they are getting endangered if not extinct because people have forgotten the importance of perseverance. GDF exists because people care about preservation and sustainability of plants." He further applauded the villages of Tshivhase for preserving the forests. Mr Thabela said they brought seedlings for different vegetables amongst others such as mustard, beetroot, tomato, garlic and ginger. He concluded by mentioning that GDF has over 50 000 seedlings to be distributed to different villages over time for people to prepare and plant at their homes and self-medicate amid the COVID -19 pandemic to boost their immune systems.



Ms Lindokuhle Zwane (University of Venda-CE delegate) addressing the participants

When representing UNIVEN, Miss Lindokuhle Zwane, an honours student in African Studies, who is also a Social Entrepreneur leading advocacy and empowerment initiatives in Gender Based Violence, extended gratitude for being part of the initiative in encouraging preservation and sustainability. "It is without a doubt that the pandemic has changed our lives hence there is a need to adapt and be as resilient as we possibly can. "We are always open to assist anytime you need our help. This is to create an open and friendly relationship between the University and people to fulfil reciprocity, co-learning and mindfulness." She concluded by mentioning that Community Engagement Directorate, through its various projects and programmes that the University schools and departments participate in, should provide insights into how communities can deal with hunger, and other threats during COVID-19 National Lockdown such as Gender Based Violence.

Vhembe District Executive Mayor, Cllr Dowelani Nenguda when addressing the participants said "We may not have a sea for fishery but we have fertile and vast land for agriculture, therefore we should embrace that by using the land for our own benefit." He thanked UNIVEN for this collaboration and other initiatives that are aimed at uplifting local communities with attempts to eradicate poverty during this difficult times. Cllr Nenguda continued to mention that, UNIVEN students are well trained to be part of solution to problems found in communities where they come from and to plough back to these communities."



Buti Green Mascot helping to sanitize participants

Cllr Nenguda emphasized that UNIVEN should do more in developing Agricultural Sciences and extension programmes as Agriculture is the number one source of Local Economic Development. In his conclusion, Cllr Nenguda expressed his satisfaction because part of the seedlings that were brought are known to be essential to boost the immune system against COVID-19.



UNIVEN students during the session



In his concluding remarks for the event, His Majesty Midiyavhathu Prince Kennedy Tshivhase said that there is a lot that still need to be done and agriculture is the beginning of everything. "People from the Tshivhase villages are never hungry because there is plenty to do and they are encouraged to plant their own food." He urged participants not to have a reduced life span whilst everything that can assist them to live long is around them. "You can't be sitting by the corner gambling contrary to keeping fit and eating healthy food. There are all kinds of fruits and vegetables right here by the mountain

forest, indigenous trees too." He referred the UNIVEN as an important stakeholder that communities can benefit from in many avenues. He also emphasized that UNIVEN should strengthen Agricultural programmes because Vhembe District has rich soil and conducive climate.

The GDF featured a Buti Green Mascot which is children's friend. He teaches them about green sustainability and preservation. Buti Green Mascot an antideforestation activist and he discourages people from cutting down trees.

University of Venda appoints Mr Lonwabo Botwe Kraziya as the New Chief Financial Officer (CFO)



On behalf of Council and the Executive Management Committee of the University of Venda, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Lonwabo Botwe Kraziya as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with effect from 01 September 2020.

Mr Kraziya is a Chartered Accountant and seasoned finance executive with a good track record and strong financial acumen. He previously held senior finance management positions at the following institutions: Concord Cranes Holdings; Imperial Fleet Management, a Division of Imperial Group LTD;

WESBANK a Division of FIRSTRAND BANK LTD (in different divisions); EDCON (PTY) LTD and Financial Services Division.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni is confident that Mr Kraziya will be able to create value and develop strategies to ensure University financial sustainability; Managing risk in relation to setting and achieving the University's financial objectives and Implementing and monitoring effective internal control systems. "I call on all members of the University community to give Mr Kraziya the necessary support during his tenure" said Dr Nthambeleni.

When talking to UNIVEN Nendila newsletter Mr Kraziya said "My experience expands to guaranteeing that budgeting processes are carried out and reviewed, ensuring regulatory requirements of statutory bodies are met, conducting financial analysis and providing guidance on activities that relate to financial plans, targets and business drivers".

He is a passionate leader who believes in empowering his teams and inspires them for superior performance.

"With my in-depth knowledge of markets and the fast-paced business environment as well as my strong financial acumen, I believe I will immensely contribute to the success of the University of Venda", added Kraziya.

We would like to hear from you!

**Nendila is your
communication
channel.**

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***We urge all those who are returning to
campus to adhere to the University of
Venda COVID -19 rules and regulations.***

***If you spot anything out of the ordinary
on campus - contact the University Hotline
by calling toll free number **0800 212 755**
or email: **univenhotline@tip-offs.com*****

**Improper
conduct
includes
the
following...**

- 1. Financial misconduct,**
- 2. Misuse or misappropriation of University assets,**
- 3. Health and safety risks,**
- 4. Plagiarism,**
- 5. Fraud and corruption.**