



Albert Fritz, Minister for Social Development in the Western Cape Province (centre), delivered a message of support for the Family Unit Participative Conference. With him are Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network (left), and Liezl van der Westhuizen, Project Manager for Mhani Gingi on the conference (right).

TOGETHER, LET'S ERADICATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Family Unit Participative Conference hosted in Cape Town from 17 to 19 August 2017 by Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, together with the 1.6 Million Club Sweden and Yennenga Progress, drew together about 30 different entities and organisations to share information, identify the challenges and formulate a solution to feed into existing efforts in the Western Cape directed at preventing the violation of the rights of women and children. Albert Fritz, Minister for Social Development in the Western Cape Province, expressed his support for the conference in a message that was screened at the event via video.

The conference was an initiative to promote the health and safety of women and children, help eradicate gender-based violence and strengthen the family unit. It was attended by existing service providers and organisations working in areas with high contact crime rates; government and political entities; participants from communities; and experts. The project objective was to create safer communities and to form a united voice against the violation of the vulnerable by strengthening current efforts and collaboration.

Holistic, integrated and inclusive

“The problems of violence in our society necessitate the need for a holistic, integrated and inclusive project to highlight the importance of the functional Family Unit,” said Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of the Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network. The initiative will result in the establishment of a formal programme to achieve the objectives of the conference, she added.

“We know that gender-based violence is really escalating out there,” Masebenza told delegates in her welcoming address. The challenge was to come up with a co-created solution that would move the prevailing situation in the country forward. The conference was an attempt at “being disruptive in a responsible and sensitive way” and she hoped it would provide “a positive voice to drown out the negative one”.

FAMILY UNIT PARTICIPATIVE CONFERENCE

A COLLABORATIVE VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE

Continued. The Family Unit Participative Conference will result in a memorandum to be compiled and delivered to Minister Fritz.

Strengthening families and combating violence

In his message, Minister Fritz expressed his support for the family emphasis of the conference and for a holistic approach to the problems being addressed. He acknowledged the need for more to be done to ensure the safety of women and children and to combat violence. "We need to disrupt our own programmes," Minister Fritz said. Things were not working enough to protect women and children. "(The situation) cannot continue the way it is," he added.

There was a need to break down violence in the family, for women to become more independent in their own right, and to rebuild strong families where homes were a secure place, the Minister said.

A story of collaboration

In her address, Masebenza described the story of Mhani Gingi as "a story of collaboration". "Mhani Gingi is about empowering those who are vulnerable," she said. They often lacked a voice at various levels.

Mhani Gingi had been concerned with women, youth, children at Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities, people with disabilities and, to a certain extent, men. The Family Unit Participative Conference had also considered how to provide support for fathers, in the manner that had been achieved in Burkina Faso by Yennenga Progress, partners in the conference, Masebenza said.

Improving human rights and safety of the vulnerable

Mhani Gingi wished to contribute to enhancing the role of duty-bearers, community leaders, other non-governmental organisations also involved in this plight, government departments and service providers, to improve the human rights and safety situation in the Western Cape, Masebenza said before the conference. "The focus will be on uniting women from different backgrounds to ensure a renewed emphasis is placed on women's health, restoring their dignity, empowering them economically and ensuring the safety of the vulnerable within our fragile communities," she said.



FAMILY UNIT
**PARTICIPATIVE
CONFERENCE**

Dates: 17-19 August 2017
Times: 9:00 - 16:00
Venue: Old Mutual Business Park,
Jan Smuts Drive

FAMILY UNIT PARTICIPATIVE CONFERENCE

A COLLABORATIVE VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE

Continued. “This project's focus is a holistic and integrated approach, making the Family Unit, in whichever form, its point of departure. Its strength will be on networking with existing services, organisations, political leaders and other entities already functioning within these areas to come together as one voice against violation of the rights of women, children and the vulnerable,” Masebenza said. Participants in the Family Unit Participative Conference included non-governmental organisations working in the sectors of social justice; prevention and reduction of abuse and domestic violence; sexual and reproductive health programmes; services engaging men and boys; those equipping parents of children living with disabilities and persons who are differently abled; and organisations focussing on the family unit.

Collaborative outcomes

The three-day Family Unit Participative Conference featured discussions around five thematic topic areas:

1. Education/Skills Transfer; 2. Social Justice and Safety; 3. Social Entrepreneurship; 4. Healthy Lifestyle; and 5. Food Security and Nutrition.

DAY 1 — Current realities: On 17 August, speakers from the different thematic sectors highlighted current realities. Discussions focused on current efforts and the way forward to ensure safe communities and protection of the vulnerable.

DAY 2 — Capacity-building: On 18 August, capacity-building sessions were facilitated by selected non-governmental organisations. There were Round Table Collaborative Strategy discussions among stakeholders within the different thematic sectors to come up with a draft action plan for a collaborative effort to address the challenges identified.

DAY 3 — Plan of action: The final day, 19 August, began with an inter-faith prayer circle. Feedback was provided from breakaway groups and the round table discussions.

Co-created solutions

Experts from Sweden were on the programme which was designed to encourage interaction between speakers and audiences with a view to coming up with implementable, co-created solutions and collaborative outcomes.

A conversation with Marlene le Roux, Chief Executive Officer of the Artscape Theatre Centre in Cape Town, and a known champion of the rights of youth and people with disabilities, was also screened at the conference.



Chief Executive Officer of Artscape Theatre Centre, Marlene le Roux (far right), with the Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, Lillian Masebenza (centre), and Project Manager for Mhani Gingi, Liezl van der Westhuizen.

FAMILY UNIT PARTICIPATIVE CONFERENCE

Creating safe communities for women and children

Carin Götblad, Regional Police Commissioner in Police Region Central, Uppsala, Sweden, who pursues a particular mission to combat violence against women and children, was among the speakers at the Family Unit Participative Conference. Götblad began her professional career as a school teacher before pursuing a law degree and joining the Swedish Police Force.



“One of my most important missions is to combat domestic violence, in particular against women and children,” Götblad says. “Earlier I worked for two years as a National Co-ordinator Against Domestic Violence, appointed by the government.

“Before that I was chief commissioner of the Stockholm County Police for nine years. Stockholm is the capital town in Sweden. During my time as chief commissioner in Stockholm I developed new methods to combat organised crime. I have also been very engaged in preventing young people (from adopting) a criminal life style.”

As a high-ranking chief of police, Götblad has also worked a lot for gender equality and encouraged women to advance in the police force. Another expert speaker at the conference was Dr Veronica Svedhem Johansson, Senior Consultant in the Department of Infectious Diseases at Karolinska University Hospital: Stockholm, Sweden.

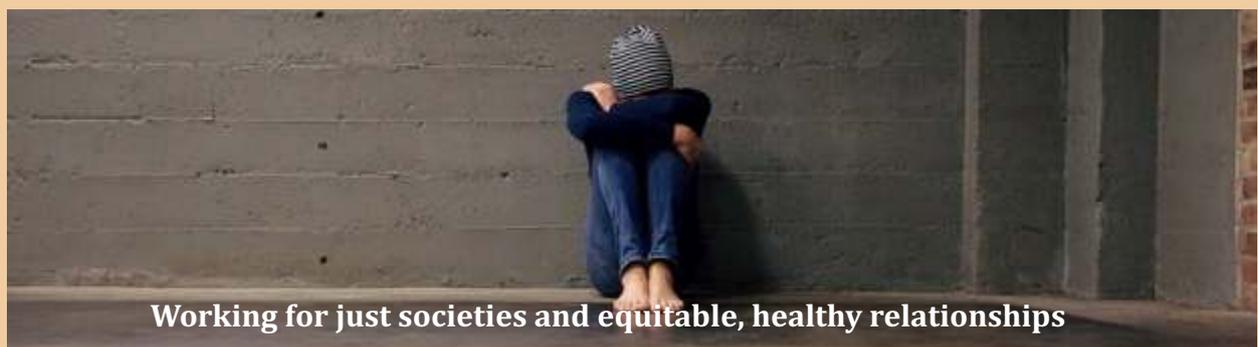
Raising awareness around women's health and lifestyle issues

Alexandra Charles, Founder and President of one of Sweden's largest non-profit women's organisations, the 1.6 & 2.6 Million Club, which raises awareness concerning women's health and lifestyle issues and lobbies for fair, gender-based medical research, was another speaker at the Family Unit Participative Conference.



The 1.6 Million Club Sweden partnered Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network in hosting the conference, funding the initiative together with Yennenga Progress, an organisation serving as an accelerator for development. The 1.6 Million Club advocates and inspires through various platforms. “The organisation also actively works to improve the interaction between generations to create a healthier society,” said Charles.

Charles also founded the 1.6 Million Club's sister organisations in Norway, Finland and Germany, while the joint 1.6 Million Club International Network promotes women's health concerns at a European level. Charles shared knowledge on how she built one of Sweden's largest networks.



Working for just societies and equitable, healthy relationships

FAMILY UNIT PARTICIPATIVE CONFERENCE

Preventing gender-based violence at schools and on university campuses

Researcher for the Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) at the Institute for Safety Governance in the Global South at the University of Cape Town, Giselle Warton, was among speakers at the three-day Family Unit Participative Conference on 17 to 19 August. Warton, who graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Masters degree in Social Justice, worked in the human rights and refugee sector in Lebanon prior to working as a researcher with the SaVI.



At SaVI she has been primarily involved in research on violence against women and children in South Africa, including on a policy brief for the Western Cape Government on “School Safety in the Western Cape: Strengths, Limitations and Recommendations”. Warton has been involved in the Sexual Assault Response Team at UCT, which was established in 2016 and is a network of university and non-university stakeholders working to equip the university to collectively and more effectively respond to and prevent sexual violence on campus.

Networking to prevent abuse of women and children

Claudia Burger, Programme Director at Activists Networking against the Exploitation of Children (Anex), addressed the Family Unit Participative Conference on the influence of the social ill of abuse on the family unit. Aneleh le Roux, Training Manager at Christian AIDS Bureau for Southern Africa (CABSA), introduced the global initiative of Thursdays in Black to combat rape and violence.



Another participant in the conference was poet, playwright and performer, Malika Ndlovu. Currently guest curator and presenter for BadilishaPoetry.com, a unique African poetry pod-casting platform, Ndlovu is a founder member of Cape Town-based women writers' collective, WEAVE, and co-editor of the anthology, *ink @ boiling point*.



Mark Kleinschmidt, former school principal, Anglican Lay Minister, trained drug counsellor and Ward 60 Councillor for the City of Cape Town, led proceedings as master of ceremonies on the Thursday and Saturday.



Working for just societies and equitable, healthy relationships

EXTREME LEVELS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN OUR SOCIETY

Giselle Warton, Researcher for the Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) at the Institute for Safety Governance in the Global South at the University of Cape Town, provided an overview of risk factors for gender-based violence in the country and the prevailing situation in schools when she addressed the Family Unit Participative Conference. Warton is involved in the Sexual Assault Response Team established to equip UCT to respond to and prevent sexual violence on campus, as well as being content manager of SaferSpaces, an online portal for safety and crime prevention practitioners.

Warton told the conference that violence is extremely normalised in South Africa and deeply embedded within the social fabric as an acceptable means to deal with frustration and conflict. Patriarchal gender norms and the acceptance and normalisation of violent expressions of masculinity are widespread and feed into the high prevalence of gender-based violence throughout the society, she said.

Normalised expressions of violence

“Unfortunately, South Africans are exposed to violence, or the fear thereof, on a daily basis,” she noted. This was in part a historical legacy of apartheid, but also, the consequence of socio-economic factors such as poverty, inequality and the high level of unemployment, all of which could increase the risk for violence. An important issue was the prevalence of socio-cultural norms reaching across the spectrum of society which support male dominance and control and notions of male sexual entitlement which support or excuse male use of violence, she said.

There were risk factors such as substance abuse and access to firearms which increased the potential for perpetrating violence. “Males, both adults and children, are far more likely to perpetrate all forms of violence,” Warton continued. For males, experience of or exposure to violence in childhood was one of the biggest risk factors for becoming a perpetrator of violence, while for females it was a significant risk factor for later re-victimisation.

Gender-based violence is not only experienced by women, Warton said, and should be understood as an extreme consequence of normative relations and unequal power relations in society.

The most extreme form of discrimination

South Africa experienced one of the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world, which was reflected in high levels of intimate partner violence. Violent expressions of masculinity across cultural lines fed into this, she said. Gender-based violence was the most extreme form of gender discrimination, which prevented women from achieving gender equality, she added. Interesting to note was that while literature on violence against children has tended to highlight the vulnerability of girls to experiencing sexual violence, the recent 2016 Optimus Study, which was the first national prevalence study on child maltreatment in South Africa, showed that rates of sexual abuse amongst boys and girls were actually very similar.



13% of learners experience bullying at school

Continued from previous page. However, girls were more likely to experience contact forms of sexual violence, while boys were more likely to experience non-contact forms such as exposure to pornography and sexual acts.

Warton said that government had initiated various laws and policies to address high rates of gender-based violence, but there was a gap between the legislation and implementation.

Statistics from a 2012 National School Violence Study showed that 13% of learners experienced bullying at school, Warton said, while rates of sexual violence were also very high and school children also experienced other forms of violence at school. Fellow learners were the primary perpetrators and sexual violence often entailed older males targeting female students. High-risk locations for sexual violence included toilet facilities.

“You can say schools are a microcosm of the community in which they are located,” Warton said, in that high levels of violence and gender-based violence in schools were often reflective of high levels in the community. Questions that needed to be addressed were whether or not there was proper security, access control, monitoring and oversight, all of which were risk factors for high levels of violence at schools. Often schools lacked incident reporting mechanisms and lacked effective, timely responses, she said. It was important to secure school premises and to ensure safety for learners in after school programmes as well as on the way to and from school, Warton said. “It really requires a comprehensive whole-of-school approach,” she emphasised.

The National School Safety Framework

The National School Safety Framework which addressed school violence, including gender-based violence, had been approved by the Council of Education Ministers in 2015 for national roll-out, obliging all South African schools to implement the stipulated measures. It called for every school to conduct an annual school safety audit, and to develop a school safety policy, school safety plan, emergency plan and code of conduct for learners, Warton said. The need for monitoring and evaluation of schools' implementation of the National School Safety Framework as well as the need for collaboration between various governmental and non-governmental school safety stakeholders was highlighted. “Basically, we are looking at a need for proper monitoring and evaluation of incidents and a more co-ordinated and integrated approach from all role-players, because often there is not clear communication between them,” she said.



Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies Celebrate 10 Years



The Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies participating in Western Cape on Wellness (*WoW!*) events.

PROMOTING PEACE AND AN END TO ABUSE

The Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies — partners for the past three years in Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network's health events during Women's Month — celebrate their 10th anniversary in 2017 with a strong record as champions of health and as dedicated promoters of peace and women's rights.

Breaking the Shackles of Domestic Violence

The group established by Soraya Salie celebrated their 10 active years with an event in the Bonteheuwel Community Hall on 7 August that drew nearly 500 people under the theme of "Breaking the Shackles of Domestic Violence". The Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies also took part in the Peace March in Cape Town on National Women's Day on 9 August and, in another initiative during Women's Month, commemorated women who have suffered violence.

***WoW!* Champions**

The Bonteheuwel Walking ladies are also dedicated participants in *WoW!*, the Western Cape on Wellness healthy lifestyle initiative of the provincial government. Four Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies have been trained as *WoW!* Champions, while two of them have also been made *WoW!* Team Leaders. The Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies have attended *WoW!* open days promoting health in Bonteheuwel and in Khayelitsha and they have taken part in exercises in the street. On 30 May the Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies accompanied 150 senior citizens on the train to Cape Town to attend a *WoW!* event hosted by Metrorail and the Western Cape Department of Health.

Knitting for peace

This winter the Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies knitted warm garments for babies and for the elderly, which were delivered to maternity hospitals and to old age homes on the Cape Flats. The group are also dedicated promoters of peace and an end to gang violence who have organised Peace Walks in their suburb and planted peace gardens. To this end they knitted a 'peace blanket' to take to the International Women's Peace Group 3rd Annual World Peace Summit that took place in South Korea on 15 September. Salie attended for the second time as a Peace Ambassador for South Africa.

Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies Celebrate 10 Years

Healing and transformation between women and men

On 14 to 16 August 2017, the Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies attended a Gender Reconciliation workshop for women and men hosted by GenderWorks. The workshop aimed to heal the impact of violence, patriarchy and gender injustice and was attended by members of the Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies and other community members from Bonteheuwel. The Gender Reconciliation workshop was found to be so valuable that the Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies have requested a repeat workshop later in the year to enable more members of their group and from the Bonteheuwel community to attend and experience the benefits.

Soraya Salie, founder of the Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies, said the workshop offered an important “opportunity for healing” for members of communities such as Bonteheuwel who were dealing with the impact of violence from phenomena such as domestic abuse and gang-related activity. Salie said she had benefited from the workshop by learning that both men and women could suffer painful experiences.

Compassionate listening

“Gender Reconciliation is an experiential methodology that brings women and men together in a safe space to share their stories of gender wounding and injustice,” explained Zanele Khumalo, co-facilitator of the workshop and a member of Gender Reconciliation International Southern Africa. “Everyone has a gender story. Space is created (in the workshops) in a skilfully facilitated process for deep truth-telling and compassionate listening.

“So much of our pain and wounding as women and men is kept hidden and is unspoken. By creating a safe forum for these stories, the gender-related experiences of women and men have a space and can be witnessed with compassion and love, not blame or shame or judgement,” she said.

Creating space for a new understanding

“Women gain a new understanding of the pain of men and the ways that men are afflicted by patriarchy; men have a new awareness and understanding of women's pain and gender-related experiences in a patriarchal society. When this happens, powerful breakthroughs in healing and forgiveness are experienced,” Khumalo said. “Gender relations in families, the workplace, schools, communities are transformed. Gender Reconciliation therefore holds an untapped potential as a vehicle for healing communities such as Bonteheuwel that are ravaged by gang violence, domestic abuse, trauma, drugs, sexual and gender-based violence.”

A vehicle for healing communities

Salie said she believed that the Gender Reconciliation workshop could be especially beneficial to youth who were “oppressed by their pain” as well as to break the “vicious cycle” of domestic violence in her community. The GenderWorks organisation is an affiliate of Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI). The Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies, GenderWorks and Gender Reconciliation International participated in the Family Unit Participative Conference.





POWER PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO TRANSFORM ECDS INTO ECO-SYSTEMS FOR CHANGE



Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network and the A2B Transformation Movement have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in the training and tooling of Early Childhood Development (ECD) principals in the Cape Town area to transform their ECD centres into Eco-systems for Change.

The 'Power Partnership' of Mhani Gingi and A2B brings together two passionate social entrepreneurs who have each made unique contributions in the field of human empowerment. Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, Lillian Masebenza, and Vivienne Schultz, founder of the A2B Transformation Movement and methodology, have both achieved recognition as Ashoka Fellows for their social entrepreneurial efforts.

The A2B principles, methodology and measuring tool that will be implemented in the partnership have also been acknowledged as an international best practice by the Ashoka Foundation. The A2B model is a developmental system designed to combat disempowerment.

Training crèche owners to become breeders of 'eagles'

The Mhani Gingi and A2B partnership will entail a pilot programme to be delivered to ECD principals in Western Cape communities. The initiative is spearheaded by Mhani Gingi Trustee, Joan Wright, a passionate educationist and leader of Mhani Gingi's Social Responsibility Programme which supports vulnerable groups in society.

The A2B Transformation Movement and methodology developed by Schultz has empowered more than 3 000 individuals and 80 organisations in South Africa, through a home-grown solution which addresses issues of disempowerment through a model for developing occupational intelligence. This is also referred to as 'the science of RESPONSIVENESS'.



Social Responsibility Programme



Vivienne Schultz (left), founder of the A2B Transformation Movement, and Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Continued. Schultz's model has been honed over the past 21 years with children, adults, educators and corporations in South Africa. The results achieved, according to Wright, have been both "ground-breaking" as well as sustainable.

Eco-systems for Change

With an academic background in human science, Schultz found her unique contribution to the world in the development of her operating system for non-governmental organisations and intervention methods and tools that require disempowered people to "take power back and play out their full dominium role on the earth."

Different applications for the A2B Operating System include the Ecosystems for Change model for social enterprise development. It has been implemented at the unique Macassar Pottery studio; at Kabusha Recycling Project, which recycles oil, vegetable matter and other products to create the fuel substitute, biodiesel; and at Wolwekrans farm in the Western Cape.

The miracles of transformation of a person

"The miracles of transformation of a person from DEPENDENCY and ENTITLEMENT to SELF EFFICACY confirm that every form of learning facilitation should ideally adopt neuroplasticity and occupational intelligence developmental approaches," said Wright. The Mhani Gingi and A2B partnership pilot programme aims to transform the ECD principals to become 'eagle' breeders.

Optimal child development — a foundation for achievement

Wright sees the challenge this way: "The period of early childhood sees the greatest brain growth and development (up to 90%) and provides the foundation for the achievement of individual potential, health and productive citizenry. It is also the period of greatest risk if conditions are not right for the child's optimal development."

As South Africa faces staggering unemployment statistics and a future where small businesses or entrepreneurship will have to cater for the majority of employment in the country, Wright cites panellists at the Trialogue CSI Conference 2016, who commented: "Basic education doesn't provide the work skills that we as corporates need. This goes beyond the CV, it's about life skills, and this means PRACTICAL INTELLIGENCE AND WILL TO ACT."

Social Responsibility Programme

Continued. “It is the new intelligence, and the only intelligence that can get humans to sustainability, called Occupational Intelligence,” Wright explains. The ability to become a self-driven, motivated entrepreneur, with volition and high 'responsibility', can be attributed to the early neural pathway development and growth and a firmly entrenched sense of self-worth in a child, she attests.

The need for the planned intervention is dire. “We have taken A2B practitioners to ECD centres run by level 5-qualified ECD practitioners — and have not observed more than 10% of the intervention that will breed EAGLE-adults as opposed to chicken-like adults,” Wright said.

Acknowledging the inherent value of people

Providing hand-outs perpetuated the dependency cycle, Wright said, reinforcing a mindset of 'I can't, so you need to give' and leading to the current socio-economic situation. “There is one message, and one message only that a disenfranchised person needs to hear, and that is, that 'I have value'”.

This encapsulates the A2B philosophy and value exchange system that runs over a minimum of three years. The aim is to move the principals from A dependent levels towards independent B-level functioning, whilst acknowledging their inherent value as humans from the outset and engaging them in value exchange.

“This ecosystem, specifically designed to 'incubate' eagle-breeding practitioners, along with the carefully tailor-made toolkit, is an opportunity to participate in the journey from DEPENDENCE TO DIGNITY TO INDEPENDENCE,” Wright said.

Power Partners

“With the current interventions and input, we are not seeing the expected ROI (return on investment), in other words, optimised Humans. The impact is way below the input and effort given and we are not reaping the fruits of all that has been sown. Despite schooling and academic qualifications, there is an inability to respond ably to tasks, and a lack of consciousness of 'self' in relationship to the task.

“At our ECDs we need to work smarter, not harder, and achieve the Pareto Principle — that 80% return on the 20% investment (input into the children's neurological make-up),” Wright adds. This is the turn-around that Mhani Gingi and A2B Transformation hope their 'Power Partnership' will achieve.



Children like this will benefit.



Joan Wright, champion of Mhani Gingi's Social Responsibility Programme.

MHANI GINGI WINS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network's activities in the field of food security and nutrition were acknowledged at the 8th Women in Environment Imbizo in Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal, in August 2017 when the organisation was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs, Barbara Thomson, for outstanding contribution to empowerment of women in the environment sector.

Tabisa Mahlathi, Co-ordinator of Mhani Gingi's Flagship Programme, which is responsible for Mhani Gingi's efforts to boost food security and the promotion of healthy nutrition and lifestyles, attended the 8th Annual Women in Environment Conference which formed part of the Women's Month celebrations of the Department of Environmental Affairs and was convened under the theme of "Pledge for Parity".

Mhani Gingi's Flagship Programme includes the Mhani Gingi Herb and Seedling Nursery in Athlone and the 25 community gardens established and managed by Mhani Gingi in the Cape Town area. They include gardening with 23 differently-abled adults at Uitsig Community at Uitsig on the Cape Flats; vertical gardening with adults at the Langa Cheshire Home for Disabled Adults; gardening with 20 young offenders in partnership with the Department of Correctional Services during 2016; and gardening with five learners with cognitive disabilities at Blouville School for learners with special needs, in Retreat. The Garden of Angels established at Angels Paradise ECD (Early Childhood Development) facility in Philippi is another food garden supported by Mhani Gingi's Flagship Programme. The aim is to boost healthy nutrition and to combat food scarcity resulting from poverty.

Mhani Gingi Herb and Seedling Nursery supplies the community gardens with herb and vegetable seedlings, training for the community gardeners, advice on nutrition, horticultural expertise, supervision, and other support. The Mhani Gingi Nursery is run by two nurserywomen, Siphokazi Siceko and Vuyiseka Tekwane, who have been trained by Mhani Gingi and earn a living which enables them to support their families from their employment in the nursery.

Mhani Gingi's environmental activities are funded by General Mills through United World Way, Pick n Pay Foundation and the Department of Social Development, with assistance also from the City of Cape Town, the Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Public Works through the Extended Work Programme (EWP).

Tabisa Mahlathi (right), Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme, with the Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mhani Gingi Trust.



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