

**The Pandemic of Patriarchy, Climate Change & Gender-Based Violence
for International Working Women's Day (IWD, 8 March 2021)
on Saturday 13 March 2021 16h00-20h00**

ENGENDER, WoMin Africa, Kayan Palestinian Feminist Centre, Zenobia Association for Syrian Women in Turkey, Tamil Nadu Women's Collective India, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Foundation for Human Rights, Women and Gender Institute Philippines, Center for Women's Studies University of Philippines, Resources Africa, KZN Network Against Violence Against Women, Shonaquip Social Enterprise, and a range of diverse partners invite you to a virtual public discussion:

The Pandemic of Patriarchy, Gender-based Violence and Climate Change in South Africa and the World

for **International Women's Day** (Monday 8 March 2021),
on **Saturday 13 March 2021**, 16h00-20h00, SAST (UTC/GMT +2).

International Working Women's Day, or International Women's Day (IWD), is a celebration of women workers' global struggles for women worker rights in the workplace, in society and at home.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a systemic challenge in South Africa and the world, rooted in Patriarchy and enforced through institutional and cultural practices.

ENGENDER and a range of diverse partners invite you to an interactive discussion featuring a multi-generational panel of activists:

- **Bernedette Muthien, engender** - facilitator & overview.
- **Winnet Shamuyarira, WoMin Africa** – women & mining.
- **Sheelu Francis, Tamil Nadu Women's Collective India** – rural women's organising.
- **Ahlam Almilaji, Zenobia Association for Syrian Women in Turkey** – migrant and refugee women.
- **Iman Jabbour, Kayan Palestinian Feminist Centre in Haifa** – Palestinian women.
- **Lesle Jansen, Resources Africa** – indigenous women.

Group Discussion.

Facilitator and Speakers:

Bernedette Muthien has held executive and senior management positions in academia, civil society and the public sector in South Africa and abroad for over twenty years. She is an accomplished facilitator, researcher and poet who designs, implements and evaluates projects for diverse institutions locally and internationally. She was the first Fulbright-Amy Biehl fellow at Stanford University, and holds postgraduate degrees in Political Science from the Universities of Cape Town, and Stellenbosch. She Chairs the Audit & Risk Committee of the False Bay TVET College Council.

Sheelu Francis holds a diploma in Gender Planning for Development from the University of London and is a head of Tamil Nadu Women's Collective (TNWC).

TNWC is a network of rural grassroots level women's groups working in around 20 districts in Tamil Nadu for the past 12 years, successfully promoting collective model farms in several districts of the state. TNWC focuses on Dalit rights, local governance, rights of workers in the unorganised sector and rights of senior citizens. With the collective's support and guidance, the women farmer's collectives have gained necessary skills on agriculture, improved their decision-making capacities, leadership qualities and thereby enhanced their economic and social status. Almost 90 per cent of the members are single women, landless women and widows. It has empowered one-lakh rural and marginalised women across 15 districts in the state. TNWC aims to strengthen rural women's food sovereignty by encouraging them to grow native millet varieties that are nutritious, drought resistant and easier to grow than rice or wheat.

Sheelu is an international spokesperson on international trade, debt and activities of transnational corporations on local development, food security and sovereignty. She has also won the Fifth Food Sovereignty Prize, presented in New York by the US Food Sovereignty Alliance in 2013.

Ahlam Almilaji, a civil and environmental engineer who over 14 years held senior management positions in the public sectors in Syria and the civil society sectors in the country of asylum (Turkey). She founded the Zenobia Association for Syrian Women, a civil society organisation concerned with raising the capabilities of Syrian women to be actively involved in formulating better life conditions in many areas (health, psychological, economic, and social) and in political concepts (such as the constitution, elections, transitional justice, governance systems, etc.) and seeks to participate Genuine Syrian women in achieving a deep and sustainable peace.

Founding member of the Association of ALAMAL for cancer in Gaziantep in 2013. She contributed in the founding of the first Association of Engineers in addition to being a member of the Council of Engineers Syndicate Liberal of Aleppo branch. Chairman of the Women Engineers Committee. She contributed in preparation of the first constituent conference of Sham orphans in the city of Gaziantep.

Lesle Jansen, is CEO of **Resources Africa** and former Director of Natural Justice's Cape Town Hub and Director of the Governance of Lands & Natural Resources Programme. She is an indigenous legal advocate from the Khoi-khoi community in South Africa, who specialises in indigenous peoples rights and Access and Benefit-sharing. She was one of the lawyers on the Rooibos case resulting in the first industry-wide benefit sharing agreement. Previously Lesle worked as legal consultant with the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia as part of their Lands, Environment & Development Project. She holds a Master's degree in Indigenous Peoples in International Law from the University of Arizona (USA). She completed a second Master's degree in the Rule of Law for Development from Loyola University (Chicago) in Rome, Italy, where she now serves as an external supervisor. She was appointed as an indigenous expert member to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' special mechanism called, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa. She also consults for the law firm Chennels Albertyn Inc.

Winnet Shamuyarira is a Zimbabwean feminist activist whose work focuses on women's bodily autonomy and interrogating power and patriarchy's impact on women's sexual and reproductive rights. She is passionate about creating safe spaces to support women to share their experiences and build collective power for change and action. Winnet holds an Honours Degree in English and Communications and is currently pursuing a Masters in Sexual and Reproductive Rights with The Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa. She has also worked at Just Associates (JASS), The Women's Trust and Katswe Sistahood.

WoMin Africa advances change through research, feminist schools, exchanges, solidarity, organising and campaigns in partnership with organisations in 13 countries across the continents.

Iman Jabbour holds a BA in Media and Political Science from Haifa University and an MA in Political Communication from Tel Aviv University. Prior to joining Kayan, Iman worked for years in the local press in both Arabic and Hebrew, in written and broadcast media. Iman has experience in media work for foreign channels and as a reporter in satellite Arab stations, as well as many years of experience in conducting research for local and foreign press. Iman worked as the director of the research department at Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement, an NGO based in Tel-Aviv, from 2010 to 2015. She recently joined Kayan Feminist Organization as its Communications Coordinator. **Kayan Palestinian Feminist Centre** envisions a secure and just society free of gender-based discrimination, in which Arab Palestinian women in Israel enjoy full and equitable opportunities for self-actualization, and take a leading and active part in society through realizing their individual and collective rights. Kayan's goal is to empower women to become transformative leaders and to protect and promote the human and civil rights of Palestinian women in Israel. <http://kayanfeminist.org>

And many more.

Event partners in solidarity on International Women's Day and every day:

ENGENDER, WoMin Africa, Kayan Palestinian Feminist Centre in Haifa, Zenobia Association for Syrian Women in Turkey, Tamil Nadu Women's Collective India, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Foundation for Human Rights, Women and Gender Institute Philippines, Center for Women's Studies University of Philippines, Resources Africa, KZN Network Against Violence Against Women, Shonaquip Social Enterprise, and many others including:

Active Citizens Coalition, Advice Desk for the Abused, Akehlulwalutho Organisation, BAFDT Community Support, Epic Youth Matters, Ethekwini Outreach, Ethekwini Secure, Ethembeni Crisis Care Centre, Isinamumva Liyabukeka Community Development, iThemba Care Centre, MEA Company, NK Foundation, Phephisa Survivors Network, Rainbow Circle Organisation Eshowe, She-Chem Hanover Park, South African Positive Women Ambassadors, South African YMCA, Siyaphambili Home Based Care, Tshekedi Foundation, Ukukhanya Kwesizwe Community Development, Unakho Wakho Youth Foundation, uThando Restoration Centre, We Will Speak Out South Africa (WWSOSA), West Coast Food Sovereignty and Solidarity Forum.