



CELEBRATING WOMEN ON WOMEN'S DAY

In one of the largest demonstrations staged in this country's history, 20 000 women of all races marched to Pretoria's Union Buildings on 9 August 1956, to present a petition against the carrying of passes by women to the Prime Minister, JG Strijdom. This famous march, which was first celebrated on the 9th of August in 1995, is now celebrated and commemorated every year.

The march against the pass laws was organised by the Federation of South African Women (FSAW or FEDSAW). The Federation famously challenged the idea that 'a woman's place is in the kitchen', declaring it instead to be 'everywhere'.

Although Prime Minister JG Strijdom was not at the Union Buildings to accept the petition, the women of South Africa sent a public message that they would not be intimidated and silenced by unjust laws. After the petition was handed over to the secretary of the prime minister, the women sang a freedom song: *Wathint' abafazi, Strijdom!* Since then, the phrase '*wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo*' (You Strike a Woman, You Strike a Rock) has come to represent the courage and strength of South African women. - SA History Online



Rahima Moosa (14 October 1922 - 29 May 1993) was a member of the Transvaal Indian Congress and later the African National Congress. She is well known for the role she played in the national uprising of women on 9 August 1956. Moosa was also a shop steward for the Cape Town Food and Canning Workers Union. In 1955 she played a significant role in the organisation of the Congress of the People, where the Freedom Charter was adopted.



Helen Joseph (8 April 1905 – 25 Dec 1992) is one of the most well-known South African women to campaign against apartheid. Born in Sussex, England, Helen graduated with a degree in English from the University of London in 1927. She was of the accused in the infamous Treason Trial of the 1950s, and the first person to be placed under house arrest, she continued despite bannings, gaol, and police harassment to campaign tirelessly for freedom and justice for all people in South Africa.



Lillian Ngoyi (25 Sept 1911 - 13 Mar 1980) was known as "the mother of the black resistance" in South Africa. She served as president of the women's league of the African National Congress. She joined the Garment Workers Union (GWU) under Solly Sachs, and soon became one of its leading figures. She toured Russia and China amongst other countries raising awareness on apartheid after attending an International Women's Federation. The South African government declared her a "banned person" in the mid-1960s. This meant that her movements and contacts were restricted and she could not be quoted in the press. Ngoyi lived under the banning order for 16 years.



Sophia Theresa Williams-de Bruyn (born 1938) is a former South African anti-apartheid activist. She was the first recipient of the Women's Award for exceptional national service. She is the last living leader of the Women's March. Executive member of the Textile Workers Union in Port Elizabeth, founder member of the South African Congress of Trade Union (SACTU), full-time organiser of the Coloured People's Congress in Johannesburg, a leader of the 1956 women's march.

Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something because of your gender, identity or your race. Justice is what love looks like in public, and we can all be a part of that!

WE MUST ANSWERS GOD'S CALL FOR
A society of light - *Lux*
A society with life in all its fullness - *Vita*
A future where we love our neighbors as ourselves - *Caritas*



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE