**FATIMA DIKE: PLAYWRIGHT; AUTHOR**

Known as the “Mother of South African Drama,” Fatima Dike has worked in theatre, writing and producing plays since 1974. She is the author of many plays, has taught in the UK and US, and is the Founder and Managing Director of Siyasanga Cape Town Theatre Company. Siyasanga focuses on helping South African women tell their stories, and perform and publish them. Her plays are a rich fabric that weaves the realities of black African culture, customs and rituals as well as violence against women and the LGBT community. Fatima is working with Sharon Bridgforth to develop a cultural exchange program between South African and African American lesbian artists.

**HERSCHELLE MILFORD, SURPLUS PEOPLE PROJECT**

Herschelle Milford is a social justice activist for pro-poor agrarian reform, agroecology and food sovereignty and currently serves as the managing director of the Surplus People Project (SPP). Born and raised in rural Namaqualand she brings to the organisation her passion for and long experience in development, working with rural communities and community-based initiatives. She believes in the emancipation and empowerment of people and women in particular and the strength of partnerships and collaborations. This skill and interest is utilised as chairperson of Tshintsha Amakhaya, a national collaboration of land rights and agriculture NGO’s.

She is a teacher by profession and as a career guidance mentor was instrumental in getting school going youth involved and interested in social activism. She pioneered the establishment of a NGO & Educational Resource Centre in rural Namaqualand. At SPP, Herschelle is carefully building a shared decision-making model, and is leading the organization in thoughtful and empowering transformational processes to support local movements and actions in agrarian reform and farmworker rights. Herschelle has experience serving on several NGO boards such as the South African San Institute and Biowatch, and currently is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Fund to Amplify Agro-Ecological Solutions.

**SURPLUS PEOPLE PROJECT**

The Surplus People Project (SPP) works to support the struggles of impoverished rural communities for agrarian reform and food sovereignty in South Africa. SPP’s mission is to facilitate pro-poor agrarian transformation and food sovereignty while promoting the implementation of agro-ecological practices as an alternative to dominant forms of production. Surplus People Project had its origins in the early 1980s when it supported South Africa’s black communities to resist forced removals, evictions, and privatization of land. The name “Surplus People” derives from a quote by M.C. Botha, former Minister of Bantu Administration, that “surplus people must be got rid of,” referring to forced removals of urban dwellers by the South African state. According to SPP’s analysis, the existing land reform policies and food security strategies in South Africa devised to correct the wrongs of apartheid have not translated into practice. Implementation of the
policies and strategy reveal a distancing from the expressed commitment and intentions especially towards rural women farmers.

Despite glimmers of hope in terms of the provision of ad hoc support, the most common reality is that emerging women farmers, their families and their communities are locked into poverty. Ensuring that emerging women farmers have access to productive resources thus requires interventions which not only address some practical barriers to access but also which challenges the patriarchal systems and institutions as well as their related policies and strategies. SPP therefore works on the Food Sovereignty Campaign with women farmers so that strategies developed ensure women have rights to access and control of productive resources.

JUST DETENTION INTERNATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA – SASHA GEAR & PRINCE NARE

Just Detention International is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention. Founded in 1980, JDI is the only organization in the world dedicated exclusively to ending sexual abuse behind bars. JDI works to: hold government officials accountable for prisoner rape; promote public attitudes that value the dignity and safety of people in detention; and ensure that survivors of this violence get the help they need.

In collaboration with local partners in South Africa, JDI has trained hundreds of corrections officials and prison ombudspersons nationwide, developed a sexual abuse policy framework for the Department of Correctional Services, and pushed for greater legislative oversight of prisons. JDI co-founded a national network of allied organisations — the Detention Justice Forum — to fight for the human rights of prisoners, and worked with Sonke Gender Justice, a South African nonprofit organisation, to produce the first-ever public testimonies of South African prisoner rape survivors. To deepen its work in South Africa and build and learn from local expertise, JDI established JDI-South Africa (JDI-SA) as an independent entity. JDI-SA — which was incorporated in November 2013 — is separate from JDI, but with the same mission: to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention. The JDI-SA team already has strong ties to leading activists and, following JDI’s example, will rely heavily on the wisdom of survivors of rape in prison.

Despite the stark reality facing many South African inmates, JDI considers prisoner rape preventable — in South Africa, in the U.S., and worldwide. That conviction is a founding principle of JDI-SA, and it will always be at the core of its work.

LESLEY ANN FOSTER, MASIMANYANE

Lesley Ann has a long history as a powerful activist for women’s rights. In 1995 she established the Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre, the first organization in the Eastern Cape devoted exclusively to combating violence against women and girls. Lesley Ann remains the Director of Masimanyane and also is a national and global advocate working to end violence against girls and women. Building on the community-based efforts of Masimanyane, she engages with national and global human rights activists and agencies, including the UN and other multilateral bodies to tackle these important issues on a bigger scale. As director of
Masimanyane, Lesley Ann chairs the secretariat for an International Network to End Violence against Women, drawing together organisations in about 42 countries focused on women in the global south. Lesley Ann was honored to recently host the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Croatian national Dr Dubravka Simonovic, who devoted more than a day of her week-long assessment of violence against women in South Africa, listening to victims and activists working with the organisation.

**MASIMANYANE**

Masimanyane Women's Support Centre was established in 1995 by its current executive director, Dr Lesley Ann Foster, who invited woman activists and survivors to assist in developing a support programme for women and girls who experience sexual violence. Initially, to work on decreasing the number of gender-based crimes against women and girls including trafficking, Masimanyane provided counselling support services to mostly black women and girls from marginalised communities. Central to this work was the philosophy that women from these marginalised communities could themselves be trained to provide support to survivors. The problem of gender-based violence proved to be so immense, and the responses from the criminal justice system so weak, that Masimanyane soon found itself drawn into providing paralegal support and engaging in a broad range of advocacy and public education initiatives.

Building women's leadership capacity is essential in ensuring accountability and improved government responses. Women have to know the law and be acquainted with the human rights instruments at their disposal to be able to bring about change. To this end, Masimanyane has developed a leadership training institute which brings women together and takes them through various training programmes. Not only do these programmes build their skills and knowledge base, but they also prepare them for government office. Five women trained by Masimanyane were taken up into local government following the elections in 2006.

**MARY MAGDALENE TAL**

Mary Magdalene Tal, founder and director of the Whole World Women Association (WWWA), is an African leader who works with refugee women and children through leadership and societal integration training, promoting HIV/AIDS awareness, supporting small business development, and protecting refugee rights. Mary has worked with the Human Rights Media Center as a refugee project coordinator and at Ilitha Labanthu, where she gave legal advice and assisted abused women and children with their court cases. As a Cameroonian refugee, Mary knows first-hand how difficult it is to get any type of support in South Africa. This experience inspired her to create an organization that provided support especially to refugee women. She has been instrumental in utilizing courageous storytelling techniques to address trauma suffered by migrants and refugees fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries outside of South Africa, and xenophobic attacks and sexual assault inside South Africa. In 2014, Mary was awarded the Voices of Courage Award for her outstanding dedication to the work by the Women’s Refugee Commission.

**WHOLE WORLD WOMEN ASSOCIATION**

Thousands of women have fled their home countries for South Africa to escape persecution, war, political conflict, and gender and/or cultural forms of violence such as genital mutilation or forced marriage. In their adopted country, the refugees face additional challenges including homelessness, poverty, and trauma, and are also vulnerable to acts of violence and xenophobia. They often lack access to basic necessities such as food, water, healthcare, jobs and education. WWWA works with refugee women to foster healing and transformation among themselves and their host communities by cultivating hope, social justice, and improved self-esteem. By building solidarity between refugee and local women, WWWA also works to minimize xenophobia. In addition, WWWA educates South Africans about refugees, further promoting tolerance and understanding. WWWA’s newest project involves building refugee women’s political agency and power in S. Africa in alliance with leading women political leaders in S. Africa.
**MATSHILO MOTSEI**

Mmatshilo is an author, speaker and spiritual healer with a keen interest in integrating indigenous wisdom with modern innovations. She started her career as a nurse, midwife, psychology graduate, social science researcher, rural development facilitator, and Metaphysics Practitioner. She is the Founding Director of Afrika Ikalafe Centre for Spirituality and Health. Aptly called Afrika Ikalafe, which means Afrika Heal Thyself, the work of the Centre serves as an invitation for Africa to challenge the lie of its inferiority and powerlessness.

For over 10 years, she worked as a founder and CEO of Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training, an organisation working on domestic and sexual violence based in Alexandra Township. She has been instrumental in involving men as part of the solution to violence against women. Part of her work included using theatre as a tool for social transformation for men in and out of prison. She has worked with women across the continent. This includes working with women who were raped during the war in Mogadishu, Somalia. Beyond Africa, she has worked with various institutions in USA, Australia, Canada, Europe and Nepal.

In 2015, she went back to university as a full time student to pursue her love for writing by studying for her MA in Creative Writing at Rhodes University. Her forthcoming collection of short stories is based on life experiences of people who live in the margins of society in post-apartheid South Africa. Inspired by Brenda Fassie, some of her characters are wild women who use subversive power to challenge tradition by reclaiming the power of the erotic.

**NOZIZWE MADLALA-ROUTLEDGE, INYATELO & EMBRACE DIGNITY**

Nozizwe has a long and distinguished history of campaigning for human rights and supporting civil society organisations that deepen and advance democratic participation. She served as a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 2009 during which time she was promoted to Deputy Speaker, Deputy Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Defence. In the struggle years, Nozizwe was Chairperson of the Natal Organisation of Women and served on the Regional Executive Committee of the United Democratic Front. She later served on the executive of the Women’s National Coalition as well as the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) as managing secretary for the Sub-Council on the Status of Women. Nozizwe was one of the four-strong South African Communist Party (SACP) delegation to the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) that negotiated the transition from apartheid. She also served with Cyril Ramaphosa in the Constituent Assembly that drew up South Africa’s Constitution.

Before joining Inyathelo, Nozizwe helped establish the African Women’s Peace Table, a partnership forum for integrating women’s perspectives on issues of peace and security in Africa. She set up the women’s human rights organisation ‘Embrace Dignity’ as well as ‘Democracy from Below’, a grassroots movement to strengthen participation in our democracy. Nozizwe also served as Non-Executive Director of the ‘Coalition Against Trafficking in Women’ (CATW International) as well as ‘Right to Care’ and ‘Right to Care Health Services’, a section 21 company providing treatment and care for people living with HIV/Aids.

**PRUDENCE NOBANTU MABELE, POSITIVE WOMEN’S NETWORK**
Prudence is the founder and Executive Director of the Positive Women’s Network (PWN) South Africa, which provides support to women living with HIV&AIDS at the community level, and is a key player in the campaign for access to ARV treatment in South Africa. Prudence is a passionate activist and leading advocate for people living with HIV and AIDS in South Africa. HIV-positive herself, she is widely known as one of the country’s first black women to courageously speak freely about her HIV status. In 1996, Prudence founded the Positive Women’s Network, an organization focused on the empowerment of HIV-positive women.

Prudence was also instrumental in the formation of the South African branch of the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA). Since 2007, she has been a key figure in South Africa’s ‘One in Nine’ campaign, which calls for policies to address violence against women and people with HIV/AIDS. She has received several awards at the international, national and regional levels in recognition of her dedicated contribution to the fight against HIV&AIDS. In 1998 Prudence was nominated by the Shoprite/SABC 2 women award as the South African Woman of the Year in the Education category, and was runner-up in the award for Excellence in Writing on Women & AIDS by UNAIDS and AIDSCAP. A traditional healer, Prudence has worked extensively with local grassroots groups and communities as well as national and international organizations. She sits on the African Women’s Leaders Network that addresses Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for women in Africa. She also serves on the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), which advises the government on issues relating to HIV and AIDS, and has represented PWN on the Global Conference on AIDS planning committee.

- **POSITIVE WOMEN’S NETWORK**

PWN works in the townships outside of Johannesburg, South Africa with HIV-positive women and their families. PWN combats stigma by encouraging HIV-positive women to “come out” and create support groups to address discrimination and access treatment and other resources. Highlights of PWN’s core activity include outreach on accurate information about HIV/AIDS, grief counseling, treatment literacy for women to learn the basics of Anti-Retroviral Treatment, nutrition, and prevention of disease transmission (especially mother-to-child transmission). Related training topics include home and community-based palliative care, strategies for supporting orphaned and vulnerable children, counseling resources, and women’s rights and resources pertaining to domestic abuse and rape. It also operates a “train-the-trainers” program where women are trained to form new support groups. PWN is a recipient of the Red Ribbon Award from UNDP for outstanding community leadership and action on AIDS.

**SHIRLEY GUNN, HUMAN RIGHTS MEDIA CENTRE**

Shirley Gunn is a South African former anti-apartheid activist, and one of the key white South African members of the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK or Spear of the Nation). She joined the ANC in 1980, and was falsely accused of the Khotso House bombings in 1988, Headquarters of the South African Council of Churches. She was recruited in the ANC’s political underground activities where she helped develop militant strategies and received military training.

As a result of her anti-apartheid activity, Shirley was continuously harassed, detained, tortured and imprisoned by the security forces of the apartheid regime, including while pregnant and with her young son. In June 1990, Gunn and her 16-month-old son travelled with her mother and sister to a guest farm outside Victoria West in the Karoo. Here she was arrested by large numbers of security policemen. She and her son were driven to Cape Town where they were again detained. Gunn was detained and tortured for 64 days.
Years later, when it was discovered that the security forces were responsible for the Khotso House bombing, Gunn laid defamation charges in a civil case against Ministers Vlok, Rina Venter and Kobie Coetsee. She won an out-of-court settlement for the trauma she and her son endured and for having been framed. In 1996 Gunn testified of her own experiences to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), while Vlok, former Police Commissioner Johan van der Merwe and 17 others were granted amnesty for the bombing. In 1998, former President F.W. De Klerk admitted to the TRC that the government was responsible for the bombing of the Khotso House.

Gunn continues to work in advancing human rights. She is currently the Executive Director of Human Rights Media Centre in Cape Town and a board member on the Khulumani Support Group.

**HUMAN RIGHTS MEDIA CENTRE**

The Human Rights Media Center advances an awareness and activism about human rights through the documentation and disseminating oral histories through a variety of media forms and social interventions. Activities highlight important and current human rights issues with a focus on victims of gross human rights violations during apartheid, children and youth, media ethics, disability, African refugees, community history, women workers and the inter-generational impact of apartheid. Projects include Art and Memory Healing workshops, poetry and storytelling and books such as “Knocking on…Mothers and Daughters in Struggle in South Africa,” a collection of stories by six activists and their daughters born during apartheid.

**SIBONGILE NDASHE, INITIATIVE FOR STRATEGIC LITIGATION IN AFRICA**

Sibongile Ndashe is the founder of ISLA. She is a feminist lawyer who has worked as a public interest lawyer for the past 15 years. Sibongile first practiced as a domestic lawyer in South Africa working for two of the largest public interest litigation organisations, the Legal Resources Centre and the Women’s Legal Centre focusing on women’s rights, and then as a researcher at the South African Constitutional Court.

For over six years, she was the lead lawyer on Equality in Africa at Interights, focusing on litigating women’s human rights and violation based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE). Her work focused on regional human rights litigation, working before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights with a focus on discrimination. She has litigated cases before the African commission, worked with domestic lawyers from a range of African countries, and provided technical legal assistance to lawyers litigating before national courts.

In a context where access to legal representation for people whose rights are violated on the basis of SOGIE, Sibongile has worked to support regional and domestic movements who are looking to litigate sexual orientation and gender identity matters before domestic courts. She continues to provide technical legal support to African domestic and regional organisations working before the African Human Rights Systems and The United Human Rights Systems. She has worked to establish The African LGBTI Rights Lawyers Network (ALRILaN) a network aimed at supporting lawyers who are litigating SOGIE cases.

**INITIATIVE FOR STRATEGIC LITIGATION IN AFRICA**

The Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA) is a Pan-African and feminist led initiative that aims to contribute to the development of jurisprudence on sexual rights and women’s human rights on the continent by providing expertise on strategic litigation. We began operations in July 2014 and were incorporated in
February 2015. The need for an organisation like ours was born out of a concern of the dearth of jurisprudence before the African Human Rights Systems and domestic courts, which focus on the violations of women’s human rights and sexual rights.

Despite persistent and visible human rights violations based on gender and sexuality, current legal efforts to hold states accountable for the violations of human rights have not produced a lot of jurisprudence. At ISLA, we believe that a sustained investment in local institutions and individuals is the key to creating a critical mass of domestic lawyers who can engage in strategic litigation. This method is used to bring about significant change, via taking carefully selected cases to court and using them to change law, practice and public awareness. We work side-by-side with targeted institutions and individuals to provide ongoing capacity strengthening programmes. We aim to create a network of African women’s rights organisations, sexual rights and legal practitioners, who will identify and engage with issues at a regional level with the end-goal of social transformation.

**TALENT JUMO MADZIVA, KATSWE SISTAHOOD**

Talent Jumo Madziva is an education rights and development activist from Zimbabwe. A qualified teacher and development practitioner, Talent has more than 10 years experience organising with and supporting local women's rights groups around their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights matters. Talent has used popular education tools to catalyse community focused and driven processes. She is the co-founder of the Young Women's Leadership Initiative, now known as Katswe Sistahood, which was formed in 2007, and has since then championed key agendas towards improved SRHR for girls and young women in Zimbabwe. Katswe Sistahood's focus is to support young girls and adolescents’ transition safely into adulthood, and Talent is the current Director and convener of the Katswe Movement building platform. She leads a strong team of young dynamic feminists who are equally passionate about grassroots- girl/young women led processes. Talent is currently working to establish a Pachoto Centre for Girls & Young Women's Wellness and Empowerment- a physical one stop centre for at risk girls. She is also Passionate about Life Coaching for girls, and is currently studying to become qualified as a life coach.

**KATSWE SISTAHOOD (Zimbabwe)**

Katswe Sistahood targets Zimbabwean women aged 15-35, including school dropouts, sex workers, young mothers, students, and young professionals. The women are organized in Pachoto Study Circles -- platforms where peers examine the linkages between sexuality, and the political economy, to come up with social transformation initiatives that are relevant to women’s daily survival needs. Katswe’s Pachoto meetings are used as an entry point for creating sustained dialogue on issues that relate to women’s bodies, sexual health and rights, reproductive health and rights, general wellness issues, gender based violence and for celebrating themselves, their diversities, their victories. They are creating strategies for action in taking full charge of their own lives; bodies; spirits; sexualities. A core initiative is their signature Heart, Body, Mind program that focuses on the total wellbeing of a person. Many of the young women members encounter multiple challenges on a daily basis, both at home and in public spaces, or may be living with unresolved issues from past traumatic events or experiences, including domestic violence and political upheaval related to Zimbabwe’s violent political history. Katswe Sistahood was awarded

**CONVENING 3 CORE FACILITATORS**

**MONICA DENNIS, MOVE TO END VIOLENCE FACULTY**
Monica is the Co-Founder of The Spirit of A Woman Leadership Development Institute, and is an expert in cultivating sisterhood, leadership and healthy racial identity in girls and women of color. She serves as a training consultant, facilitator and keynote speaker for organizations who seek her expertise in creating culturally-relevant and sustainable Rites of Passage and mentoring programs. She is the creator and facilitator of the Sojourn 4 Truth: The Journey To Self™ empowerment process which offers workshops and retreats that address the multi-layered impact that racism and sexism have on women and their families.

Monica has spent the last two decades training, and providing leadership development to organizations and communities focused on racial justice and equity. She was a Core Trainer with the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, a renowned leader in the movement to end racism. Her work focuses on shifting from a personal to a systemic analysis of structural racism and understanding its impact on intersecting oppressions.

RAJASVINI BHANSALI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDEX

Rajasvini Bhansali is a passionate advocate for participatory grassroots-led social change and movement building. In a wide-ranging career devoted to social and economic justice, she has led a national social enterprise, managed a public telecommunications infrastructure fund addressing digital divide issues and worked as a researcher, planner, policy analyst and strategy consultant. Vini also worked alongside community leaders as a capacity builder for youth polytechnics in rural Kenya for over two years. Born and raised in India, Vini has been involved in community organizing and volunteer board roles for the last two decades. She is currently active on the Board of Directors for Greenpeace USA and the Rockwood Leadership Institute. Inspired by the potential of social justice philanthropy to support movements and community based organizations, Vini has also served on the steering committee for the Bay Area Justice Funders Network (BAJFN) and on the advisory board for the Agroecology Fund. She currently serves on the Planning Committee for the 2016 Association of Women in Development (AWID) International Forum on Women’s Rights and Development on cross-movement dialogues, solidarity and strategies.

In 2015 Vini was honored with a Leaders in Action award by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP). Vini is also a published poet, essayist, storyteller and popular educator.

SHARON BRIDGFORTH, ANCHOR ARTIST & IDEX ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

"I am a southern Spirited/queer gendered wo’mn-mother/lesbian/child of The Great Migration. I am a Transdenominational practitioner of Jazz. I believe in Love and Joy and generosity and kindness. My Life’s mission is to create and share art and art-based processes that are rooted in my personal healing journey - that use Black traditions to bring people from different backgrounds together - for transformational experiences."

Transformation Strategist/Theatrical Jazz Artist
TRINA GREENE BROWN, MOVE TO END VIOLENCE FACULTY

Trina is the Outreach and Engagement Manager for Move to End Violence. Trina has worked in violence prevention for the past 10 years, managing multiple local and national initiatives. Before coming to Move to End Violence, Trina served as a Director for the YMCA, incorporating violence prevention education focusing on resiliency in the Department of Youth Development. Formerly a Manager at Peace Over Violence, a social service agency dedicated to the elimination of sexual and domestic violence and all forms of interpersonal violence, Trina co-authored a female empowerment curriculum, Be Strong: From The Inside Out and contributed to the second revision of In Touch With Teens, a nationally recognized relationship violence prevention curriculum.

She has held a national leadership role in directing Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships, the largest initiative ever funded to prevent teen dating violence and abuse by teaching 11- to- 14-year-olds about healthy relationships. Trina served as a Lead Organizer for the Building Healthy Communities, a 10-year, $1 billion program of The California Endowment. In this role, she recruited and organized cohorts of youth activist facilitating their political education, and equipping them with the tools necessary to engage in systems change and political action.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXCHANGE STAFF: IDEX Bios Here

- TRISHALA DEB, Regional Director, Asia
- VERONICA MORENO, Operations Coordinator
- YESHICA WEERASEKERA, Regional Director, Africa

MOVE TO END VIOLENCE/THE RABEN GROUP STAFF: Bios Here

- EMILY CAVANAUGH, Director of Operations
- JACKIE PAYNE, Executive Director
- PRISCILLA HUNG, Deputy Director

NOVO FOUNDATION STAFF: Bios Here

- JESENIA SANTANA, Program Officer, Initiative to End Violence Against Girls and Women
- PAMELA SHIFMAN, Executive Director