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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the
Director's Report for the past year,
reflecting Kwanele's commitment to
empowering survivors of genderbased violence (GBV) and driving
positive change in our society.
Throughout the year, we have made
significant strides, and I am proud
to share our achievements.

One of the highlights of the year was the successful launch of the Kwanele Mobile Application. Through a collaborative cocreation process with survivors and stakeholders, the app went live in November, just in time for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The successful beta testing phase ensured that the app was ready to support survivors on their journey toward justice and healing.



Additionally, we expanded our legal network through two networking events held in Johannesburg and Cape Town. These events brought together lawyers, activists, and stakeholders to collaborate in the fight against GBV. With the support of Bowman's Law in Cape Town, we were able to grow our pro bono legal team to over 25 lawyers, strengthening our ability to provide comprehensive legal support to survivors.

In recognition of our efforts, we were honored to receive the Zen Desk Tech for Good Award, which acknowledges our innovative use of technology to address social challenges. Furthermore, we secured funding through the Voice and Choice Fund facilitated by Gender Links, enabling us to expand our reach and impact even further.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our feminist principles and values, which underpin all our endeavors. We strive to center survivor voices, ensure data privacy and ethical Al practices, and create an inclusive and supportive work environment for our team. Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans for the coming year. We aim to deepen our impact through strategic partnerships, community engagement, and continuous improvement of our technology and services. We will continue to advocate for gender equality and the prevention of GBV, fostering a society that is safe and just for all.

None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated team, volunteers, partners, and donors. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to Kwanele's success and growth.

Together, we can continue to bring justice and support to survivors of GBV and work towards a world free from violence and discrimination.

# OUR STORY SO FAR

# "He promised to kill me"

### THE KWANELE MOBILE APP

The Kwanele Mobile App is a groundbreaking technology designed to empower survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa. This userfriendly app serves as a comprehensive support system, providing survivors with vital resources, guidance, and access to justice. Through the app, survivors can report incidents of violence, access information on available support services, and navigate the legal process with ease. The app's innovative features, such as a panic button for emergencies, a geolocated and time-stamped live stream, and a secure vault to store evidence, ensure that survivors have the tools they need to seek justice and safety.

At the core of the Kwanele Mobile App is a feminist approach that centers on survivor voices and experiences. The app's cocreation process involved survivors and stakeholders, ensuring that it addresses the unique challenges faced by GBV survivors. As a result, the app serves as a powerful tool against GBV, empowering survivors to break the silence and access the support they deserve.

## OUR PURPOSE

At Kwanele, our purpose is to empower GBV survivors and combat violence and discrimination. Through our technology, like the Kwanele Mobile App, survivors access resources and navigate the justice system. With a feminist approach and ethical Al practices, we prioritize survivor voices. In the coming year, we will focus on integrating Al into our app, further enhancing our impact in the fight against GBV.

370/o
OF ADULT MEN
IN SOUTH AFRICA
REPORT HAVING RAPED
A WOMAN

# OUR 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

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#### **Completed BETA testing of the app**

In 2022, Kwanele achieved significant milestones in our mission to empower survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and drive positive change in our society. We successfully completed the beta testing phase of the Kwanele Mobile App, a critical step in ensuring the app's functionality and user-friendliness. This milestone marked a significant advancement in our efforts to provide survivors with a comprehensive support system through technology.

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#### **Launch of the Kwanele Mobile App**

Moreover, in 2022, the Kwanele Mobile App officially went live, becoming accessible to survivors seeking assistance and justice. The app's launch coincided with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, amplifying its impact and reach.

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#### **INCREASED FUNDING**

Additionally, we achieved a significant milestone in securing increased funding, enabling us to scale our operations and expand our impact. With enhanced resources, we further developed our pro bono legal team, solidifying our commitment to offering comprehensive legal support to survivors navigating the justice system. This included funding from the Urgent Action Fund and Gender Links.

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#### OUR LAW INTERNSHIP WON INTERNATIONAL AWARD

In 2022, Kwanele reached new heights as our law internship program received international recognition, winning a prestigious award in the field of human rights and social justice. This achievement showcased our commitment to empowering survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) through innovative and impactful initiatives.

# STORIES OF IMPACT

"The police and family members urged me not to"

Honestly don't even know where to start... The amount of support me and my family have been given by Kwanele far exceeded our expectations as a family during a very difficult time. From the day I requested assistance via Facebook, I have never felt so empowered to further assist my niece in ensuring that her perpetrator goes behind bars.

I was referred to this organization by a friend who went through a terrible time in her life, she assured me that I would get all the help I'll need for the case through Kwanele, she was not wrong. The person who contacted me from the foundation has been like a big sister, trusted friend, and protector throughout. No matter what concerns I have, big or small she is always a phone call away to assist me and goes all out to even meet up at court.

I think I wouldn't have the strength to even support my niece had it not been for Kwanele. I am humbled by your work ethic, the kind of respect you give to victims and their families.

If you are reading this and are scared to get justice for yourself or your loved one, please don't hesitate to contact Kwanele. As God is my witness, you will get the help you need from them and will never feel like you're alone.

Thank you team Kwanele, May you help many more women in South Africa and beyond.



# 400+

Hours in legal support

# OVER 7000

WOMEN REACHED



# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued donors, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in driving positive change and transforming the lives of survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Your generosity and belief in our mission have empowered us to expand our reach, develop innovative solutions, and provide comprehensive support to those in need. Your contributions have made a tangible impact, helping us offer critical resources, legal assistance, and access to justice to survivors navigating challenging circumstances. We deeply appreciate your commitment to creating a safer and more just society, and we recognize that without your continued support, our work would not be possible. Together, we are making a difference and standing united in the fight against GBV. Thank you for being an indispensable part of our journey and for championing the rights and dignity of survivors.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

URGENT ACTION FUND
GENDER LINKS
ZEN DESK
WOMENS VOICE AND CHOICE
THE ONE GROUP
JVK ATTORNEYS
BOWMAN'S LAW
WERKSMANS ATTORNEYS
EDU AFRICA
ROOTS
JORDAN ALLMARK
CASEY JURIES
WE MAKE CHANGE
MOZILLA
EMMA WALSH

# FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT