

# Reach out to BJ

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Lindani Hlaba, also affectionately known as BJ is a 17 year old trans\* woman from Duncan Village in East London. Trans identifying from a very young age, BJ has had to battle quite a few challenges in her young life. She is a local constituent of S.H.E, Social, Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa, a registered non-profit organisation 106-631-NPO.

BJ's family is not accepting of her trans\* identity and she has faced violence from her older brothers and other family members. She says in her own words: "I slept outside one night with just a blanket to cover myself". I have faced different forms of violence and I feel like I am an outsider in my own family. My cousin once beat me with an iron rod".

Apart from the physical violence she encounters, BJ's future is under threat because she feels she is not supported in her studies at school. "When I ask for items to take to school, I am told that my mother works and she can afford to pay for these things but my mother lives in Johannesburg and is not aware of what is going on", she says.

In response to this, she questions, what is the point of the social grant she receives from government if she does not benefit from it? For asking this question, BJ has been ostracised from her family.

You can reach out to BJ by making a small contribution to her needs while we are waiting on an intervention from the Department of Social Development. She is prepared to take any items that you can spare. Please give generously to make sure that this young girl stays in school and that she is taken care of.

To make a contribution please contact Phiwe Ngcengi at +27(0)43 722 0750 during office hours. Alternative send an email to [transfeminists@gmail.com](mailto:transfeminists@gmail.com) with the subject line: Reach out to BJ.

In solidarity

The S.H.E Team