

S.H.E.

Annual Report 2014 – 2015

*Social, Health and Empowerment
Feminist Collective
of
Transgender Women of Africa*



S.H.E. – Social, Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective was born from a need to contextualize the lives of African transgender women employing a feminist framework. The lack of vocal African transgender women gave birth to the organisation. Further, transgender women are not visible in African feminist spaces. This is something that needed to be changed. S.H.E., as an organisation was first represented in a meeting on women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights in East London, South Africa in November 2010. Since then, the organisation has gone from strength to strength.

Abbreviations

LGBTIAQ+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Asexual, Queer.

Vision

S.H.E. works with and for:

- Trans women/girls in Africa;
- Sexual and gender minorities;
- Sex workers, and collaborates with relevant stakeholders to achieve our objectives.

S.H.E. is working towards:

- Increased awareness of and support for transgender women’s issues;
- Increased visibility of transgender women in feminist spaces;
- Achievement of greater gender diversity and equality for transgender women in African societies.

Mission

S.H.E. envisions a world in which women of all ages, independent of gender identity, have the freedom to realise themselves fully as human beings and celebrate their womanity and womynity.

Contact us

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Twitter: [@tweetqueen111](https://twitter.com/tweetqueen111)
Skype: transfeminists

S.H.E. is a registered non-profit organisation (106-631 NPO) & registered public benefit organisation (PBO 930 047 424)
VAT Reg No: 4700268768



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Message from S.H.E. Founder and Coordinator

It is my pleasure to introduce our annual report for the 2014-2015 period. During this time, I have been delighted to have overseen the implementation of a range of comprehensive and incredibly valuable projects aligned to our mission. From our annual presence at PE and East London Prides respectively, to attendance of high-impact conferences in New York, Cape Town, Philadelphia and Melbourne – the rewards remain singular, offering our local and global constituents our voices in solidarity with intersecting struggles – and in turn allowing ours to be amplified.

We want to see transgender women aware of their realities, the inequalities and oppression they experience. We want to engage organisations and interested individuals in order to gain different perspectives but also to apply the feminist framework to their own contexts and experiences.

We need to share the experiences, find commonalities and differences, and aim to drive a feminist agenda, to articulate clearly what that means to us – as organisations, individuals and as part of the feminist movement.

Aluta Continua.

Leigh Ann van der Merwe



Picture credit: Jabu Pereira

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is a collective of outstanding leaders in social justice advocacy. The Board is comprised of Barbra Wangare Muruga, Busi Deyi, Marion Stevens, Pearl Xakoshe and our Treasurer, Xolani Gugwana.

Chairperson

Barbra Wangare Muruga is a queer African feminist from Nairobi, Kenya. She strongly believes in the feminist and transfeminist values and considers herself as a human rights and social justice activist. Her goal in life is to see the rights of gender minorities truly upheld in the countries they reside in and specifically the Kenyan and African communities. She believes she is still a young activist and has got a lot to learn from the much more experienced activists out there and this is one of her other goals.



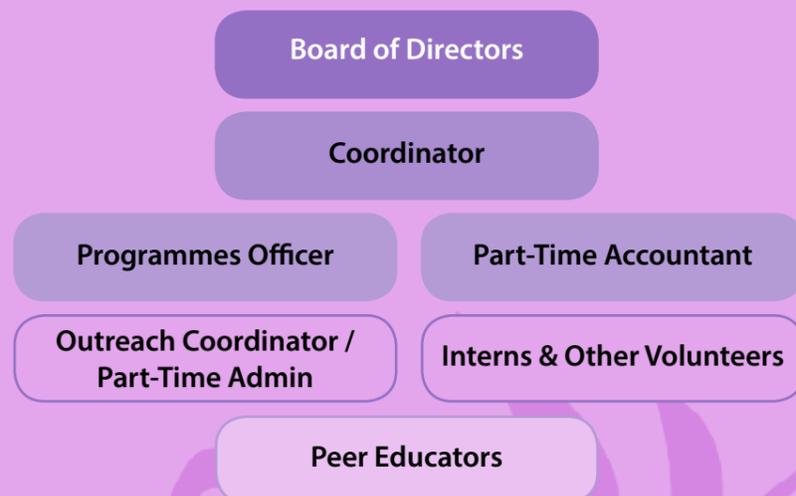
Board Member

Pearl Xakoshe is a young trans woman from Sebokeng, South Africa. She identifies herself as a feminist and is passionate about fashion, music, drama and entertainment more broadly. Pearl joined the board of S.H.E. in October 2012. She previously worked for Transgender and Intersex Africa as an Outreach Coordinator.



Human Resources & The S.H.E. Team

S.H.E. implements project work with a diverse, talented and passionate team. Each employee offers unique and useful insight based on their own expertise. Many are also studying whilst working. The S.H.E. organizational organogram summarises these portfolios:



The team is comprised of the following 12 portfolios:

- Coordinator and Founder – Leigh Ann van der Merwe
- Programmes Manager – Siziphiwe Lulolu Masiko
- Finance and Administration Manager – Zikhona Ncukana
- Human Resources / Procurement Officer – Babalwa
- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer – Sibulele Tyakuma
- Community Engagement Officer – Phiwe Ngcengi
- Peer Supervisor and Nurse – Nombulelo Julia Duze
- Office Administrator – Felicity Theresa de Kock
- Office Assistant – Buntu Karabo Xabanisa
- Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, Research, Training and Development – Vuyiseka Ngcawa
- Feminist Intern – Njekwa
- Media Intern – Anda Nqonji / Mzolisi Nongqai

Marketing

Aim

To ensure consistent and comprehensive communications of all initiatives to existing and new networks.

Implementation

S.H.E. routinely engages local and national journalists. In addition, we run a newsletter, so as to keep our constituents updated and informed, not only regarding our own projects, but also relating to LGBTIAQ+ life in general.

We have presence on social media, with a reach of audiences of +600 persons on Facebook, and ongoing engagement on Twitter. We have also been privileged to engage with our multiple stakeholders and constituents via our existing networks.

Coverage

<http://transfeminists.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Transfeminista-Vol-2-ed-1-2015.pdf>
<http://transfeminists.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Transfeminista-Vol-2-Issue-2-2015.pdf>

In addition, the following mainstream media coverage was afforded to S.H.E.:



Daily Dispatch, 1 August 2014. Plight of transgender people receives international attention



Eastern Cape Today, 17 October 2014. Transgender activists fight for healthcare.

Programme Development & Pride Presence

Over the 2014-2015 period, 14 activities in total were funded and implemented. Two of these were presences at Prides (PE Pride and East London Pride). A total of five of these activities were attendance of congresses/conferences, locally (Cape Town) and internationally (Melbourne, New York, Philadelphia and Italy). The remaining seven activities had a core focus on capacity building, community outreach support and legal advocacy.

Over the course of 2014-2015, we engaged with two critically influential pride movements, namely PE Pride and East London Pride.

Port Elizabeth / Nelson Mandela Bay Pride: 29 November 2014

Impact assessment:

S.H.E.'s participation in PE Pride allowed us to continue to forge useful connections with our target audiences, and to share the work we do with other organizations. We provided HIV counselling, testing and referral services. This event offered a good opportunity to interact with trans people, MSM and WSW for safer sex education and health promotion more broadly.



East London Pride: 2014



Impact assessment:

S.H.E. gained important ground in our profile as an advocacy organisation. For many LGBTIAQ+ people, Pride spaces are a safe and welcoming experience, and thus, civil society organisations benefit immensely in reaching these target audiences.

Conferences

In the reporting period, five congresses/conferences were attended by S.H.E. representatives locally (Cape Town) and internationally (Melbourne, New York, Philadelphia and Italy).

Respective reports from each conference/congress are as follows:

- Melbourne AIDS Conference – 20 - 25 July 2014:
<http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pagelD=618>
- Annual Commission on the Status of Women, New York – 10 - 21 March 2014:
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014>
- Philadelphia Trans Health Conference: Cultural Elements of HIV programming in the 3rd World: Experiences from India, South Africa and Thailand – 12 - 14 June 2014:
<https://genderidentitywatch.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/session-schedule-philadelphia-trans-health-conference-1.pdf>
- Cape Town Trans Health Conference – 31 May - 2 June 2014:
<http://genderdynamix.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/GDX-2014-conference-report.pdf>
- Global Dialogue on Decriminalisation, Choice and Consent, Italy – 22 - 24 October 2014:
<http://www.creaworld.org/blog/global-dialogue-decriminalisation-choice-and-consent>

Conference Reports

The following seven advocacy projects were implemented during the reporting period:

1. Transilience Project on Violence against Trans Women in South Africa.
2. Free Talk Support Group for Trans Women.
3. Feminist internship – Njekwa's impact beyond S.H.E.
4. Feminist Leadership, Movement Building and Rights Institute.
5. Impilo Yethu Health and HIV Programme for LGBTIAQ+ people around East London.
6. Legal Advocacy: Work with the Commission on Gender Equality to create access to psychosocial support for trans people in and around East London.
7. Ms Trans Diva 2014 pageant.

1. Transilience Project on Violence Against Trans Women in South Africa

Implemented: Over 2014. Provincial dialogues (24 - 28 May 2014), Anti-Violence project campaign strategy (1 August - 10 December 2014).

Impact assessment: We have started a discourse on violence against transgender women with the release of our report. This data was presented at various conferences including the annual Commission on the Status of Work 2015 and 2016.



Background:

The objectives of the Transilience Project for Transgender Women in South Africa –

- To highlight the human rights violations committed against transgender women in South Africa;
- To disseminate information and findings of the project among relevant stakeholders;
- To create strategies to prevent and combat violence targeted at transgender women in South Africa;
- To create tools to advocate for the human rights of transgender women in South Africa.

S.H.E. implemented the Transilience Project for transgender women project by running three provincial dialogues and an awareness campaign. These three provincial dialogues were held in three cities, namely Cape Town, East London and Durban. The primary aim of the dialogues was to explore the issues related to violence, and to learn and share strategies to prevent and combat violence targeted at transgender women. Through our outreach programme and other community engagements, we have identified a need to engage with stakeholders on issues that causes anti-violence project for transgender women.

These provincial dialogues were recorded and documented (using photography, videography and recording equipment) to produce firstly, a written report on anti-violence project for transgender women, from which an advocacy documentary will be produced as a tool to highlight this issue facing transgender women in South Africa. The documentary comprises six case studies highlighting the different forms of violence that transgender women in South Africa experience.

This project also ran awareness campaigns starting in August until 10th of December 2014. The campaign was at the centre of strategic efforts to highlight transgender women's challenges during August (National Women's month in South Africa) and went on until the end of the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children. The campaign explored issues of tradition and/or culture and religion, which also compounds the violent situations experienced by transgender women.

2. Free Talk Support Group for Trans Women



Implemented: Over 2014.

Impact assessment: S.H.E. reached out to trans women and invited them to share their stories and experiences in a safe support group specifically targeting these women.

3. Feminist Internship – Njekwa's Impact Beyond S.H.E.

Implemented: Over 2014.

Impact assessment: S.H.E. launched an internship, which was filled by Njekwa – an influential and passionate feminist, who was provided with intensive training and mentorship during her time at S.H.E.

Background: Njekwa received training on human rights frameworks during this internship, and was issued with a certificate following successful completion of the internship with S.H.E. She returned home and subsequently began training with a local organisation as an HIV counsellor and tester and incorporated this into her work. Njekwa integrated all her training into the peer education which she implemented with a number of LGBTIAQ+I civil society organizations in her country.



As an alumnus of the S.H.E. internship, she has gone on to become one of the youngest pioneering transgender women in global advocacy movements, taking skills learned at S.H.E. across and beyond the continent.

4. African Transformative Feminist Leadership Institute



Implemented: 9 August 2014.

Impact assessment: S.H.E. reached a significant population group with this programme and laid foundations for sustainable advocacy work.

Background: The S.H.E. team wanted to see transgender women become aware of their realities, the inequalities and oppression they experience, wanting to engage organizations and interested individuals in order to gain different perspectives but also to apply the feminist framework to their own contexts and experiences.

S.H.E. values creating a safe space where those women who are typically marginalized in mainstream feminist discourse can have a voice and articulate their own expressions of feminism, what it is and what it should be.

Feminist thought, ideology and principles were introduced to this group in order for them to be able to examine their own socio-political, cultural and economic contexts in their respective communities and countries of residence.

It's vital to encourage active participation in other social justice movements (HIV, women's movement / feminist movement, labour rights, public health movements, political movements, etc.) and gaining an understanding of the inequalities in these movements through feminist analysis.

5. Impilo Yethu Health and HIV Programme for LGBTIAQ+ People Around East London

Implemented: Over 2014.

Impact assessment: S.H.E. worked towards producing a report on how best to support trans women in empowering knowledge around HIV/AIDS.

6. Legal Advocacy: Work with the Commission on Gender Equality to Create Access to Psychosocial Support for Trans People In and Around East London

Implemented: Over 2014.

Impact assessment: S.H.E. worked towards producing a report on how best to support trans women in realizing their legal rights and defending them from abuse.



7. Ms Trans Diva: A Pageant with a Focus on Identity

Implemented: 27 September 2014.

Impact assessment: Approximately 70 persons were reached, 15 of whom were trans women, and were provided with a valuable safe space to celebrate trans women in East London.

Background: Ms Trans Diva has become an increasingly influential initiative since its 2014 launch, affirming how crucial dedicated spaces for LGBTIAQ+ people are. Since its inception in 2013, Ms Trans Diva beauty pageant has established itself as a highlight of the year for the local queer community. It has gained prominence both in participants and attendance from community members. Ms Trans Diva provides a platform for community engagement between participants and the community at large.

Independent Auditor's Report

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MOORE STEPHENS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (SA)

Independent Auditor's Report

To the directors of Social Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa

I have audited the annual financial statements of Social Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa, as set out on pages 6 to 13, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2015, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Directors' Responsibility for the Annual Financial Statements

The organisation's directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these annual financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities and requirements of the Companies Act, 71 of 2008, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these annual financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the annual financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the annual financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the annual financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the annual financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

This is the first year that the organisation has been subject to an audit. We were not able to verify, even by alternative means that opening balances are free from material misstatement, and can therefore not provide any assurance on these balances.

In common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the organisation to institute accounting controls over cash collections from donations prior to initial entry of the collection in the accounting records. Accordingly it was impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

Qualified Opinion

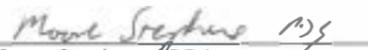
In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Social Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa as at 31 March 2015, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities.

An independent member firm of Moore Stephens International Limited - members in principal cities throughout the world.

Moore Stephens PDB Inc.
Reg No. 1997/002064/21 trading as Moore Stephens, Registered Auditors - Practice Number 952710.
Director: JJ Pretorius, SR Barry

Other matter

Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to the fact that supplementary information set out on page 14 does not form part of the annual financial statements and is presented as additional information. We have not audited this information and accordingly do not express an opinion thereon.


Moore Stephens PDB Inc.
Chartered Accountants (S.A.)
Registered Auditors

Director: SR Barry

28 August 2015
East London

Independent Auditor's Report

Statement of Financial Position

Social Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa
(Registration number NPO 106-631)

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2015

	Note(s)	2015	2014
Assets			
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	3	98,275	–
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,018,161	333,531
Total Assets		1,116,436	333,531
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Retained income	–	313,035	305,482
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Deferred income	5	791,986	–
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	11,131	28,049
Bank overdraft	4	284	–
Subtotal		11,415	28,049
Total Liabilities		803,401	28,049
Total Equity and Liabilities		1,116,436	333,531

Statement of Comprehensive Income as at 31 March 2015

	Note(s)	2015	2014
Donation income	7	1,933,134	473,937
Operating expenses	–	(1,933,134)	(165,334)
Operating Surplus			308,603
Investment revenue	8	9,975	–
Finance costs	9	(2,422)	–
Surplus for the Year		7,553	308,603

Conclusion & Acknowledgement of Donors

In conclusion, the 14 activities implemented over 2014 - 2015 have created encouraging precedents for our work going forward in supporting trans women. In 2015 and beyond, we look forward to continuing our commitment to excellence in implementing programmes that create real, sustainable change.

We would like to thank everyone who have made our programmes a successful reality. You are the drivers of S.H.E.

Our heartfelt thanks to our donor partners, which provide us with the vital support needed for us to realize our vision.



The Wheat Trust Women's Fund
www.wheattrust.co.za



MaMa Cash
www.mamacash.org



OutRight International
(formerly International Gay and Lesbian
Human Rights Commission)
www.outrightinternational.org



Global Fund for Aids, TB and Malaria
www.theglobalfund.org



The DiDiRi Collective
www.facebook.com/didiri.collective