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# Y-TALK

Empowering Young People for Life, Leadership & Service

## From the NGS



Womens Month is an important feature of the South African calendar each year. While this presents a unique opportunity for women to make their voice and opinion heard, let us not fall into complacency in September, thinking that its over until next August. We must all continue to work tirelessly towards equality and against gender based violence in our communities and nation. The struggle is fierce and it is ongoing. At times it feels like we are losing the battle. The only way to rid our world of this scourge is to speak and act collaboratively. To build partnerships and coalitions of like minded individuals and organisations. God requires us to act justly and with humility, which is not the same as being passive. We can be aggressive in building a just society, in humility, because its demanded of us as Christians. Let us move forward, together!

## Why We Need to Nurture Entrepreneurship in Young Girls

According to the American Express 2017 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report, women owned 39 percent of all privately held US firms, but those businesses contributed to just 4.2 percent of revenues. Statistics reveal that these numbers are far worse in the developing world, demonstrating the necessity to reassess support for female entrepreneurs, writes Girl Scouts USA CEO Sylvia Acevedo. She argues that addressing inequality must begin with a focus on young girls. Acevedo expresses the need to provide girls with courage and confidence as well as business and technology-focused education to foster creative problem solving and leadership.



The SA YMCA TEEEP programme (The Economic Education and Entrepreneurial programme) developed by SA YMCA in collaboration with the Northern Illinois University in Chicago and the YMCA USA, has been transforming \*young girls into entrepreneurs since 2015. The



project is now being threatened by lack of resources. If you are able to support the programme to continue to empower young girls and women through growth of entrepreneurial skills, please contact the SA YMCA through Pasca at [pascandlovu@saymca.org.za](mailto:pascandlovu@saymca.org.za)

*\*TEEEP has reached over 1,500 girls since 2015.*

## Y BUSINESS HUB / Student YMCA, University of Kwazulu-Natal

The Y Business Hub, a program of the UKZN Student YMCA, was established in 2019 to address the need for students who are venturing into the entrepreneurship. The hub has become a space where such young people access resources that include business training, help with business plans, mentorship, application for funding and support as they embark on their entrepreneurship journey. The Y Business Hub is facilitated by a volunteer and board member, Janet Okeyo, a Business Development Consultant. The program has reached out to 18 Entrepreneurs at UKZN. Among the young people we have been able to assist in starting and running their businesses are Penelope Gumede and Sibusisiwe Xulu. They share the stories of their businesses and how the YMCA has helped them to get started.

**Penelope Gumede** holds an LLB Law Degree from the University of KwaZulu Natal, finished a Masters in Medical Law and is registered for a Post Graduate Diploma in Forensic Auditing Criminal Justice. She attained her LLB Law Degree in 2012 and was admitted as an attorney in 2015. She found herself in the plight of many University Graduates who are unemployed. In 2020, through the encouragement of



a friend, she decided to open her own Law Firm focussing on criminal law, family law, medical malpractice and forensics. The YMCA provides her with an office space. As part of contributing to the YMCA she mentors Law students and advocates for student issues on campus. "One of the things I like about the YMCA is the Christian ethos and how much the General Secretary believes in assist them to reach their full potential. I am grateful for the opportunity

YMCA has given me when I didn't know where to start", says Penelope.

**Sibusisiwe Xulu**, known to many as Sbusi, is the founder of MaSbonga Beads that was started in



June 2019. She is a second year student in Bachelor of Social Work at UKZN.

MaSbonga Beads focuses on making bead work like necklaces, bangles, beaded hats, beaded shirts and dresses. A business that

was started with only four full sets of traditional bead work now has over 50 sets which are hired out for ceremonies like Memulo, Graduations and is used at exhibitions. Sbusi says YMCA has helped her through personal growth as well as in the growth of her business. Been given a space to work from and a space to showcase her bead work in events such as the YMCA Gala dinner and the SA YMCA National Council has helped in growing her clientele list. Through mentorship from the YMCA she has been able to register her company and has developed networking skills that have helped to grow her business. Sbusi is proud of her association with the YMCA as she has found family that has helped her to deal with depression, uplift her spiritual life, taught her how to market her business. Covid 19 has affected her business drastically as most events were cancelled due to the government restrictions. This has presented huge challenges which she says has taught her to think about how to diversify to withstand such calamities in the future.

**Article by Pasca Ndlovu. Communications Intern.**

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## Hands on Ministry: Taxi rank preaching, mask distribution and sharing meals

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Humility requires courage: A group of dedicated church ministers are literally taking to the taxi ranks, loud hailer in hand, to minister to commuters while handing out complimentary masks.

Many church leaders have not physically interacted with their congregations since March. They are simultaneously anxious about Covid fatigue, lax hygiene protocols, hunger and mental health issues among their communities and are looking for an opportunity to minister and engage. An elegant solution to this challenge is literally to go to where the people are – taxi ranks and homes.

“We wanted to help the public, and to pray in public and private spaces. We were looking for an opportunity to share the gospel while practically making a difference,” considered **Andile Mafa, General Secretary of YMCA UKZN.**

“As church leaders we need to get a sense of where people are at. Now that we don’t meet as churches, we don’t know how communities are doing.

In a response to Covid 19, Church leaders have gathered together to support each other and to work together.

Three key areas of focus currently among church leaders are hygiene protocol support, food relief and counselling services.

As well as home visits, ministers are also handing out free masks at taxi ranks. Both provide tangible opportunities for ministers to engage personally and practically with people.

These interventions provide more than food and mask distribution opportunities, but also mechanisms to meet and talk to people and offer words of scripture and encouragement.



# IN CONVERSATION WITH OUR LEADERS

As part of celebrating women's month, in the YMCA we celebrate the amazing work of the women in our movement. For this edition we spoke to Ms Queen Ndlovu, Vice President of the Africa Alliance of YMCA's and an NEC member of the South Africa YMCA. As part of the Covid 19 response, she and her team initiated the Social Enterprise workshops. In conversation with Queen, she shares details of what the workshops cover.

**1. Please share a brief description of what the Social Enterprise workshop sessions are all about.**

The workshops cover topics such as Social Enterprise (SE) concepts; normal business vs social enterprise; types of social entrepreneurship; what is a social entrepreneur and what makes them succeed; why SE?; benefits of Social Enterprise; how to start a SE; various SE models and a 4 point sustainability plan.

**2. Where and how are the sessions held?**

2 hour Virtual interactive sessions on zoom usually on Tuesday or Thursday from 11-1pm.

**3. What is the goal and objectives of the SE training?**

To create Social enterprise awareness, training of youth SE champions and to promote sustainability within YMCA.

**4. How is the training meant to benefit the young people?**

Social innovation, self-reliance, sustainability, entrepreneurship and job creation.

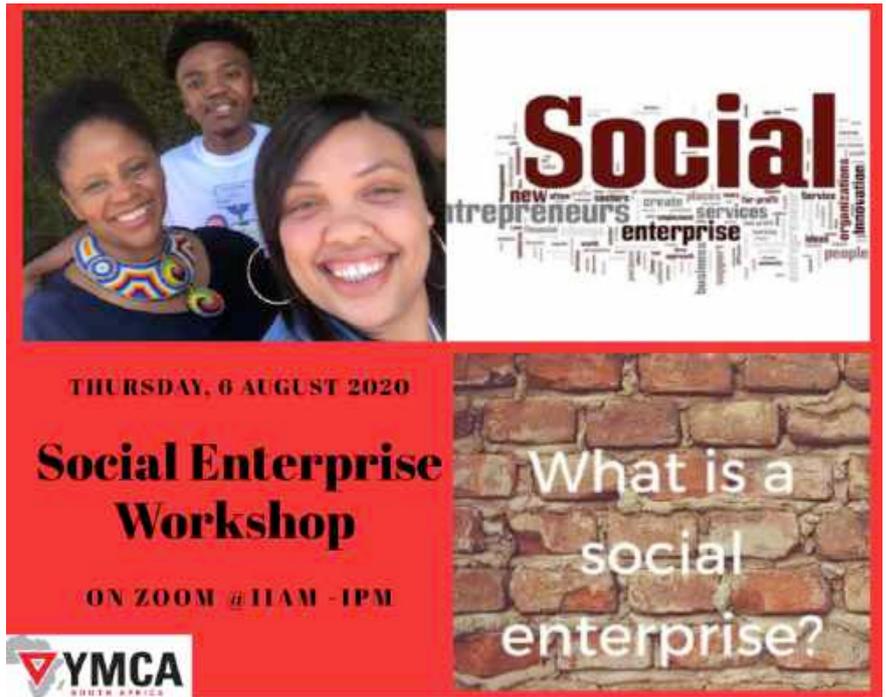
**5. For how long are the sessions going to be held?**

Spread over 6 months. It is a series of 3 series workshops. 1st series - what is SE? 2nd - fund raising and scaling. 3rd - lean start up and

involves training staff and Local YMCA Board members (once off 2 hours sessions for the Board).

**6. Are there long term plans for the initiative?**

- Locals should support the Youth after this training because SE entities should be registered and implemented and the



Board should help them to raise funds and attract investment and partnerships.

- We have plans to expand to Southern region starting with Madagascar in September followed by Zimbabwe as advised by the AA.

**7. What has made you passionate about SE and helping young people to be SE?**

I believe Youth are our Future. We need to keep on empowering and investing in young people and linking them to opportunities that will drive innovation, sustainability and entrepreneurship. We are lucky because I happen to have studied Innovation and Technology and am currently running a business with drones to which the Youth can relate to.

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## THE CODE FOR SUCCESS

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In Nigeria, youth coding education has typically been an opportunity accessible only to boys and select girls whose families are financially comfortable. Girls Coding, a free after-school and weekend program run by Pearls Africa Foundation, extends this

opportunity to girls residing in slums, orphanages, and correctional homes, as well as those displaced by militant conflict.

“Some of [the girls] may have gotten pregnant, dropped out of school, or simply have gotten lost in all the wrongs around them. But now they have dreams and are working towards achieving them, ” volunteer Esohe Osinoiki tells journalist Festus Iyorah.

The TEEP programme currently being offered by several YMCAs, has space to add a coding course that will further empower young, aspiring entrepreneurs. Coding for young girls and women can provide tools for promoting gender balance in the tech industry, which is notably male dominated. While not being promoted as a gender equalising tool, the skill of coding, if accompanied by gender awareness, resilience and personal development, can reduce inequality and provide women with greater access to well paid employment opportunities.



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## WEBINAR WITH JUSTICE THERON

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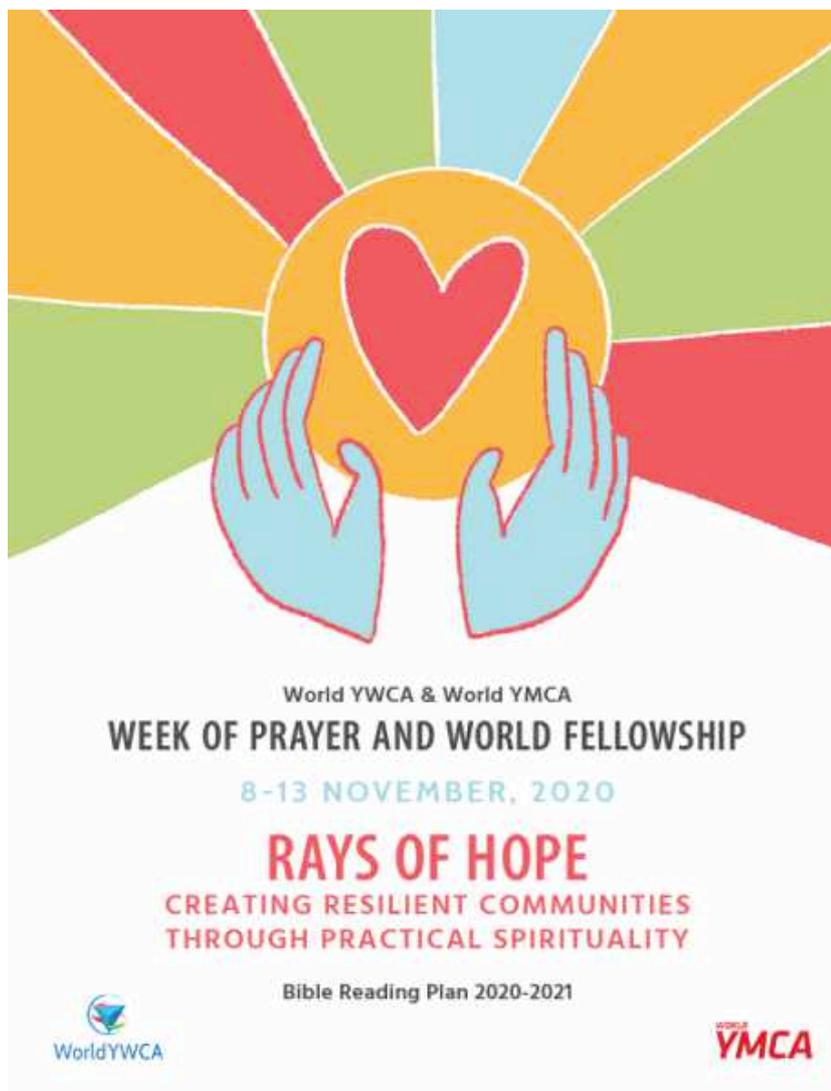
**Leona Valerie Theron** is a judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa and formerly of the Supreme Court of Appeal. She was first appointed to the bench in 1999, aged 33, becoming the first black woman judge on the KwaZulu-Natal High Court.

The Judge was in dialogue, through a Y-Leaders Talk webinar, with close to 500 YMCA members and supporters, on 19 August 2020. She brought her immense experience and knowledge to the conversation, enthralling us all with stories from her legal world and encouraging us all to get involved in creating and supporting a just world.



#### 4 takeaways from Judge Theron's dialogue from one listeners viewpoint.

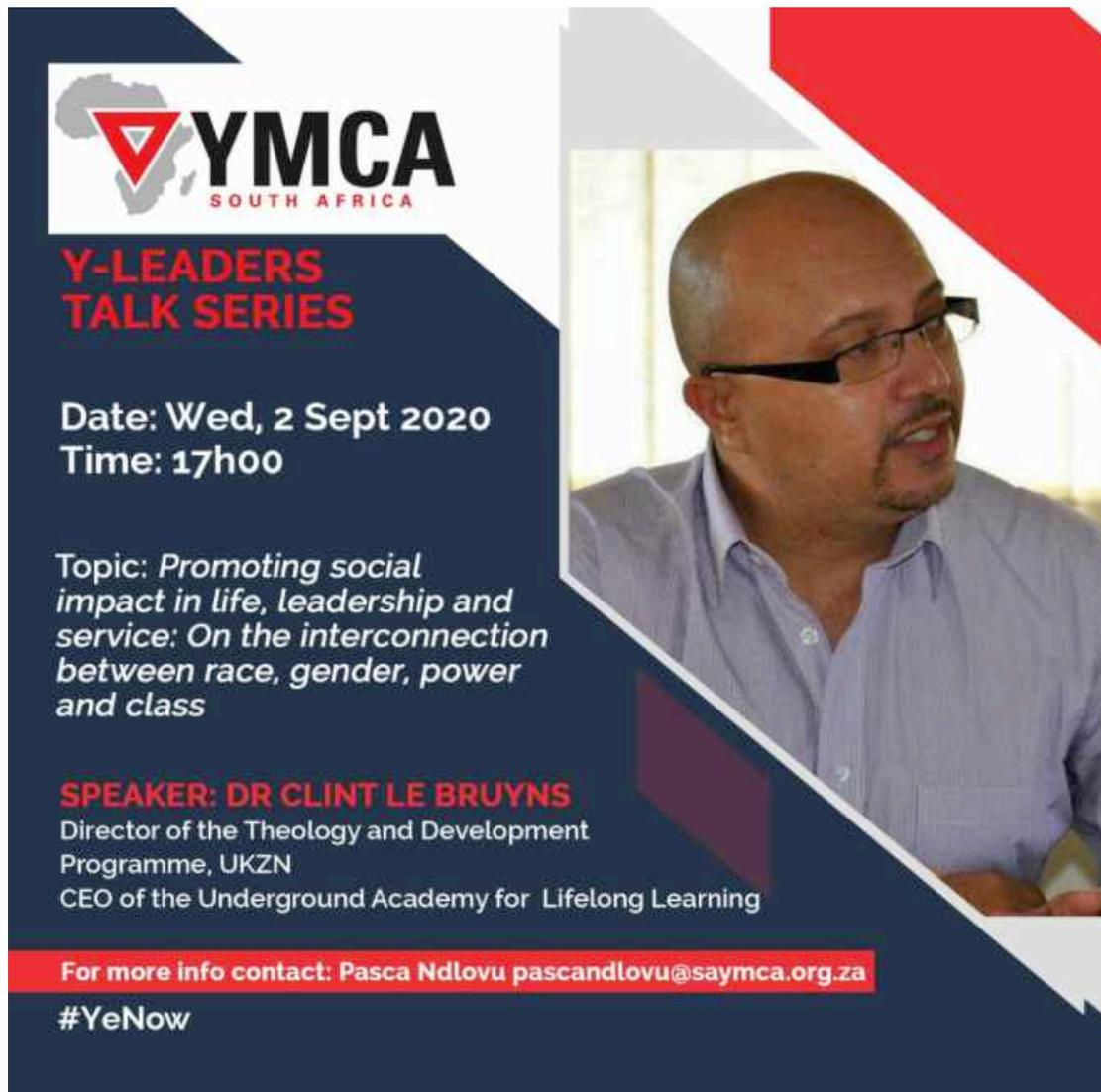
1. **Innocent until proven guilty.** While this seems obvious, in a world of judgement through social media, it is critical to the effectiveness of a sound judicial system.
2. **Don't do what you can not measure.** This requires an organisation to develop strong skills in impact assessment. These skills have to become part of an organisations culture.
3. **Empowerment of women at all levels as a vision and goal.** Its no good just having quota's or policies for women at the top level. These policies need to be immersed throughout the organisations leadership and decision making levels.
4. **Diversion programmes for young children are essential.** Any society that jails its children, is in a moral quandry. A child's bad behaviour is usually caused by bad adult behaviour and prevention and/or diversion programmes are the responsibility of adult Duty Bearers in society.



**Take note  
of this  
important  
event in  
the life of  
YMCAs  
across the  
globe.**

A prayer book will be distributed to local YMCAs during October 2020.

## Y-LEADERS TALK SERIES - The 4th webinar



**YMCA**  
SOUTH AFRICA

**Y-LEADERS  
TALK SERIES**

**Date: Wed, 2 Sept 2020**  
**Time: 17h00**

*Topic: Promoting social impact in life, leadership and service: On the interconnection between race, gender, power and class*

**SPEAKER: DR CLINT LE BRUYNS**  
Director of the Theology and Development Programme, UKZN  
CEO of the Underground Academy for Lifelong Learning

**For more info contact: Pasca Ndlovu [pascandlovu@saymca.org.za](mailto:pascandlovu@saymca.org.za)**

**#YeNow**

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