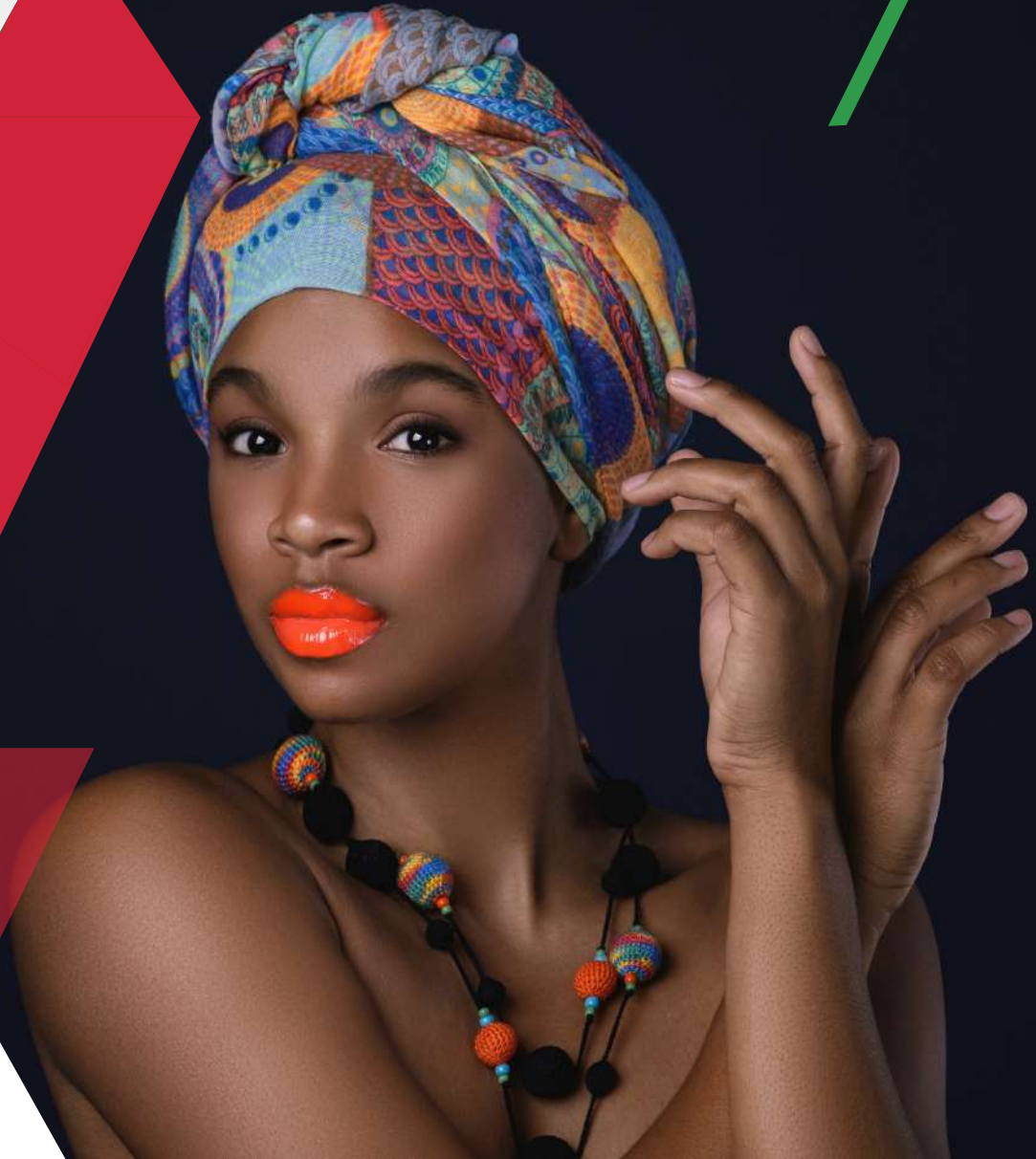




The Organisation for Young Women's Dignity
Helping young women find their wings



**The Organisation for Young
Women's Dignity (TOFYWD)**

PROFILE



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1. TOFYWD INFORMATION

Registered Non Profit Organisation Name:	The Organisation for Young Women's Dignity
CIPC Registration Number:	2018/980771/08
NPO Registration Number:	266-256 NPO
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2. BACKGROUND

The Organisation for Young Women's Dignity is a registered non-profit organisation that was established with the aim of uplifting and restoring the dignity of young women between the ages of 15 and 35yrs. Our main objective is to provide in and out-of-school adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) with community services that are focused on reducing incidents of Gender Based Violence (GBV), HIV/AIDS, providing psychosocial support services, assistance for people living with disabilities, reduced teenage pregnancies, provision of sanitary wear, preventing alcohol and substance abuse among the youth and increasing school retention.

Majority of young women in South Africa are victims and survivors of gender based violence, which resultantly affects the mental health of survivors. According to Stats SA, almost 50% of all assaults are committed by someone close, such as a friend or acquaintance (22%), a relative or other household member (13%) or an intimate partner (15%).



STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



About 29% of assaults are committed by unknown persons. With the advent of COVID-19, which led to several lockdown protocols being put in place, the gender based violence (GBV) statistics have since risen as victims of GBV were forced to be closed indoors with their perpetrators.

Sadly, GBV is not the only issue that affects the dignity of young women. Young women are also carrying the burden of the HIV pandemic and are particularly susceptible to HIV infections which shatter their opportunities for healthy adult lives. They also carry the burden of caring for family members living with HIV/AIDS. South Africa currently has the highest HIV epidemic in the world with an estimated 7,520,000 people living with HIV (PLHIV). Sadly, AGYW account for a quarter of the HIV infections in South Africa.

Menstrual poverty is another issue that affects the dignity of young women. There are 7 000 000 girls in South Africa between the ages of 13 and 19. This is the school going age of menstruating girls. Statistically, 4 000 000 of these girls do not have regular access to sanitary products and adequate sanitation facilities.



3. VISION

A society where young women are valued and treated with dignity.

4. MISSION

To empower young women with the skills, knowledge and resources they need in order to live a life worthy of honour and respect.

5. VALUES





6. OUR AIM

The Organisation for Young Women's Dignity aims to contribute towards the fulfilment of SDG5, which endeavors to 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030'. The target being to 'Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation'. Sexual assault may lead to teen and unwanted pregnancies as well as the contraction of sexually transmitted infections.

7. BENEFICIARIES

Young women between the ages of 15 and 35

OUR FOCUS

- Community based education
- Community outreach programmes
- Peer to peer support groups
- Facilitating counselling to survivors of gender based violence

8. PROGRAMMES

The following are programmes we have been working on to date:

ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS & FUNDERS	PROVINCES
24 hour counselling and crisis intervention	Victim Support Centre-Modimolle	Gauteng
Victim empowerment programmes	Partners for Sustainable Development Solutions (PSDS)	Limpopo
HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programmes	Eyerus App	Eastern Cape
Counselling for PLHIV	Luhambo Marketing	Western Cape
Counselling for people living with disabilities	Gender Links	Northern Cape
Pre-and post HIV Test counselling		KwaZulu-Natal
GBV awareness and trauma counselling		Free State
Peer-to-peer support groups		North West
Youth empowerment programmes		Mpumalanga
Sanitary wear drives		
Community Support groups		
Referrals for HIV prevention and treatment		
GBV safety initiative through a state of the art mobile application called Eyerus		





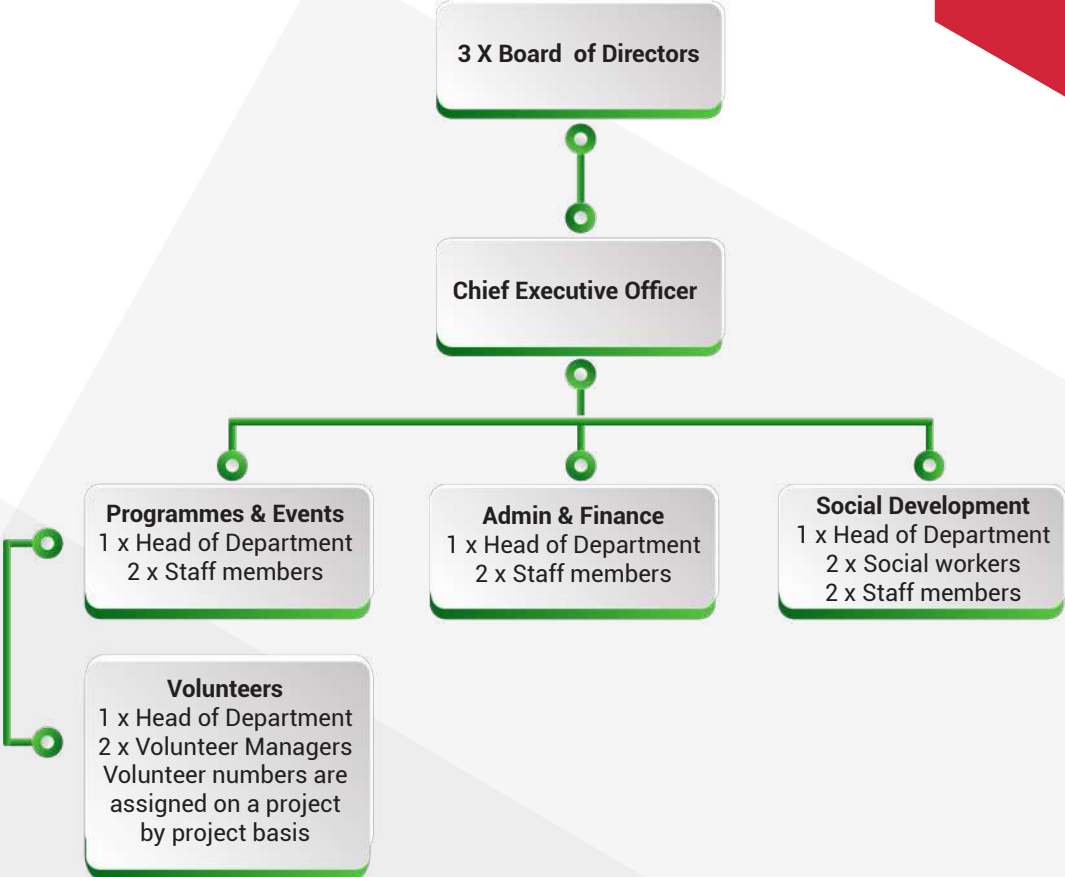
Working with young women between the ages of 15 and 35, GBV and HIV/AIDS awareness is provided through community outreach programmes using existing networks of community educators, peer educators, peer-to-peer support groups physical as well as virtual safe spaces using ZOOM, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp and social media platforms. The organisation facilitates access to licensed social workers, social auxiliaries, provides referrals for biomedical services and SAPS support services so that professional services are provided by licensed and qualified practitioners. Training on the use of the Eyerus App, a mobile application that was designed by Eyerus to help keep South Africans Safe, is provided in communities where women feel unsafe and need the help of technology to have security at their finger tips at all times.

Qualified community educators engage young women in open dialogue on topics of reproductive health, menstruation, teenage pregnancies, feminine hygiene, sanitary dignity, HIV/AIDS as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) with the aim of de-stigmatizing, raising awareness and empowering young women to stay in school. During peer-to-peer support groups, AGYW use their own experiences to help each other to navigate challenges they might be facing. This may be in the form of knowledge sharing, emotional support, social interaction or providing practical solutions. Every person's experience is treated as equally important and no one is more of an expert than the other.

Research has shown that peer to peer support can improve people's mental health and wellbeing, meaning they have fewer hospital stays, larger support networks, and better self-esteem, confidence and social skills.



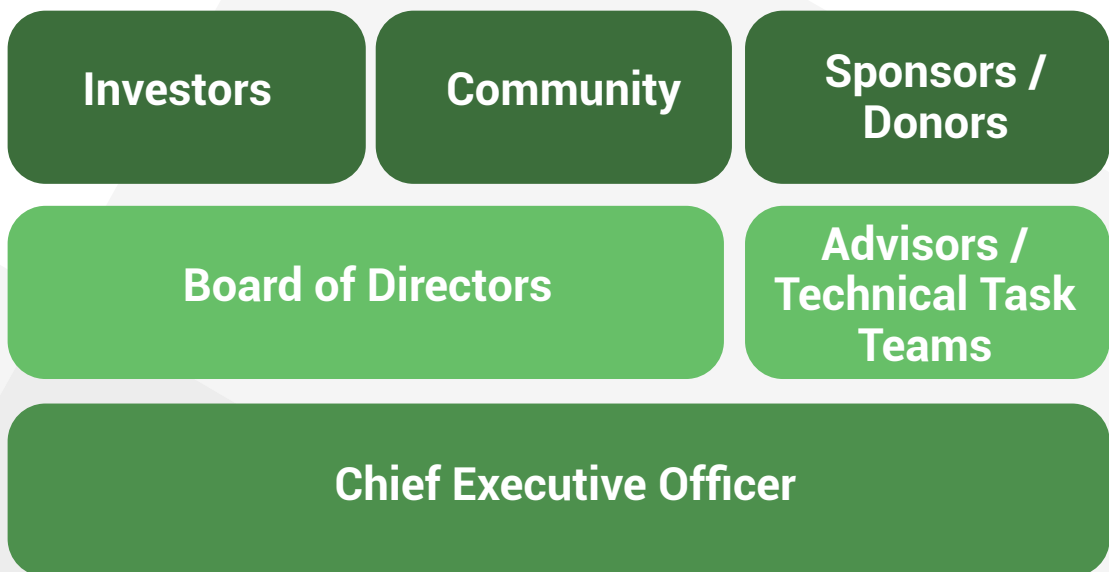
9. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



10. OUR PARTNERS




11. ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE






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