

Ending Gender Violence Together

Sharing stories, lessons and actions to end sexual and gender-based violence in South Africa

Ndoda's story

Ndoda is a young man from Cape Town, South Africa. As a child, the loss of his grandmother and her support, resources and guidance impacted him greatly. His mother was an alcoholic. Without family support, he was forced to leave school, and to find strategies to survive; these included joining a gang, substance abuse and violent crime. Eventually, Ndoda was imprisoned for two and a half years. Here, he made a choice to change his future, to respect himself and others. He found opportunities to build positive relationships and learn from role models. Always remembering his grandmother's love, he has now joined community programmes to stop gender violence, to build strength for change in himself and others.

Collective action against sexual and gender-based violence

Ndoda's is one of 11 digital stories and 25 key informant interviews that has informed in-depth case study on the role of men and boys in collective action to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Cape Town, South Africa.

Findings show that:

- Harmful social norms and a lack of accountability and discrimination in government institutions amplify violence.
- Building inclusive and fair social relationships through collective organising nurtures people's sense of belonging enabling them to take action against SGBV.

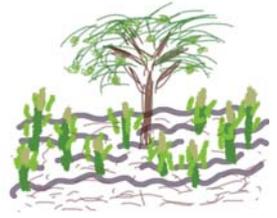
What does this mean for collective action to address SGBV?

- Collective action engages men and women to transform unequal gendered power relations in the process of change.
- Individual, and community-level actions interact with deep rooted economic, social and political drivers of violence which must be addressed.
- Collective action must work with actors and institutions at all levels and across all sectors to ensure a whole system approach to change that enables the prevention of violence.

For more information on this research, the digital stories of gender activists from Cape Town and comparative global case studies, visit:

interactions.eldis.org/gender-based-violence

Ndoda's story



'Story for life' is a digital story produced by Ndoda