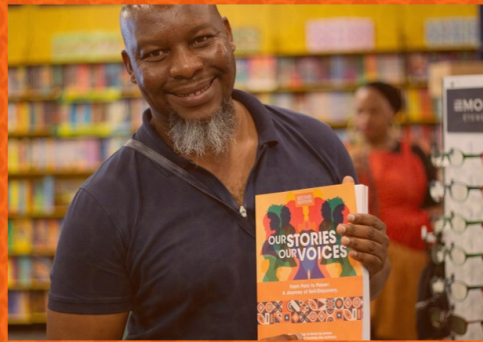




ILITHA LABANTU
PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE



ILITHA LABANTU ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE 2026



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WELCOME



MESSAGE FROM **MS NKHABELE MARUMO** CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

As South Africa continues to grapple with persistent inequality, poverty, unemployment, and one of the highest rates of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in the world, the role of trusted community organisations has never been more important.

For more than three decades, Ilitha Labantu has stood alongside women, children, families, and communities facing some of society's most complex challenges. What began as a grassroots response to the injustices experienced by women in under-resourced communities has grown into a respected institution that influences policy, strengthens systems, and delivers life-changing support to thousands of people every year.

Our work is grounded in the belief that lasting social change goes beyond crisis intervention. It requires prevention, healing, empowerment, advocacy, and sustained investment in

communities. Through an integrated approach, we support survivors of violence, strengthen economic resilience, build local leadership, and contribute to shaping policies that advance gender equality and social justice.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our impact while staying true to the values that have guided us since our founding in 1989. We recognise that no single organisation can address these challenges alone. Meaningful change requires strong partnerships between civil society, government, development agencies, the private sector, and communities themselves.

We thank our partners, supporters, and communities for their continued trust and collaboration. Together, we can build a more just, equitable, and violence-free society for all.



MESSAGE FROM
MS ELLA MONAKALI-MANGISA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every day, Ilitha Labantu witnesses both the challenges facing South African communities and the remarkable resilience of those we serve.

Across our programmes, we continue to see growing demand for trauma-informed psychosocial support, legal assistance, skills development, economic empowerment opportunities, and community-based interventions that help prevent violence before it occurs. Women and children continue to bear the greatest burden of poverty, inequality, and violence, making integrated support services more important than ever.

Our programmes continue to reach thousands of beneficiaries through clinical services, community education, advocacy initiatives, employment readiness training, food security interventions, and capacity-building programmes. We have also strengthened our commitment to developing future practitioners through the Ilitha Labantu

Academy, which is helping professionalise and expand South Africa's social service workforce.

As we look ahead, our priorities include expanding survivor support services, strengthening prevention programmes, scaling skills development opportunities for women and youth, and growing the Academy's reach and impact. Continued investment in these areas will enable us to deepen our impact and respond more effectively to evolving community needs.

We remain grateful to our donors, government stakeholders, development partners, corporate supporters, and community partners whose contributions make this work possible. Together, we are creating pathways to safety, dignity, opportunity, and lasting change.

WHO WE ARE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, ADVANCING JUSTICE, AND CREATING PATHWAYS TO SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND OPPORTUNITY SINCE 1989.

OUR STORY

Founded in 1989 by the late anti-apartheid activist and community leader Mandisa Monakali, Ilitha Labantu was established in response to the widespread prevalence of domestic violence, political violence, and the abuse of women and children's rights in township communities.

Over the past three decades, the organisation has evolved into a leading community-based development organisation working to advance gender equality, protect vulnerable groups, strengthen livelihoods, and promote social justice. While rooted in communities, Ilitha Labantu's influence extends nationally and internationally through policy engagement, advocacy, training, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Today, Ilitha Labantu continues to empower women, children, youth, older persons, and vulnerable families through integrated programmes that address both immediate needs and the systemic factors that drive inequality and violence.





OUR VISION

To assist in the elimination of all forms of violence, particularly those occurring within families and communities, while advancing human dignity, justice and the wellbeing of vulnerable people.

OUR MISSION

We strive to end violence and abuse against women and children in disadvantaged communities. We provide emotional support, practical advice, education and training for coping with and addressing violence against women and children. We utilise interactive and inclusive methodologies in our education and empowerment programmes.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that communities possess the strength, resilience, and knowledge required to drive their own development. Our role is to provide support, opportunities, resources, and platforms that enable individuals and communities to realise their full potential.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **SERVING** all survivors of domestic violence and those supportive of them at any time, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, income, ability, religion, or geography.
- Providing **TIMELY ACCESS** to services and programmes.
- Creating a **SAFE, WELCOMING, AND RESPECTFUL** environment where survivors and their families can heal and grow, working to end the silence surrounding violence against women and children, and ending the stigma found within our communities through outreach programmes.
- **RAISING AWARENESS** about how societal acceptance of oppression relates to the incidence of sexual violence.
- Promoting a work environment that **EMPOWERS** each person to do their work to their fullest capacity; that supports each person in their efforts, and that inspires teamwork in order to provide the best service to the community.



OUR APPROACH

Ilitha Labantu's service delivery model is grounded in the understanding that violence against women and children is a complex social challenge that cannot be addressed through a single intervention or sector-specific response.

Violence is influenced by interconnected individual, household, community, institutional, and structural factors. Therefore, effective prevention and response require an integrated approach that simultaneously addresses survivors' immediate safety needs, supports healing and recovery, strengthens access to justice, challenges harmful social norms, reduces vulnerability, and builds the capacity of individuals and institutions to prevent and respond to violence.

In response to this complexity, Ilitha Labantu has developed a holistic and multi-dimensional model of intervention that extends beyond crisis response towards long-term social transformation. The organisation's approach recognises that survivors of violence often experience multiple and overlapping challenges requiring coordinated support.

For example, a survivor experiencing domestic violence may require emergency shelter, psychosocial support, legal assistance, court preparation, economic empowerment opportunities, and continued community support. By providing interconnected services across multiple areas, Ilitha Labantu seeks to ensure that survivors and vulnerable individuals are supported through a continuum of care rather than receiving fragmented assistance.

OUR INTEGRATED APPROACH PROVIDES A CONTINUUM OF CARE AND SUPPORT



Emergency shelter for women and their children



Psychosocial support / counselling



Legal support e.g. protection orders



Court preparation and accompaniment



Economic opportunities



Community support

WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

South Africa continues to face interconnected challenges of poverty, inequality, unemployment, and violence. These realities disproportionately affect women, children, youth, and other vulnerable groups, limiting opportunities and undermining social and economic development.

Gender-based violence remains one of the country's most urgent human rights challenges, while high levels of unemployment and economic exclusion continue to place additional pressure on families and communities. Many survivors of violence face multiple barriers to accessing support, justice, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated, long-term interventions that strengthen individuals, families, communities, and systems. Ilitha Labantu's integrated approach responds to immediate needs while helping build safer, more resilient communities.



GBVF PREVALENCE

A third (**33.1%**) of South African women over the age of 18 have experienced physical violence in their lifetime. (*HSRC, 20204*)



UNEMPLOYMENT

The national unemployment rate stands at **32.7%** but for young people (15 - 24 years) the rate is **60.9%**. In 2026, **4.7 million** young people aged 15-34 were unemployed and the remaining **10.6 million** were outside the labour force. (*Stats SA, 2026*)



POVERTY

About **37.9%** of the population lives below the Lower-Bound Poverty Line (R1,300 per month), equating to approximately **23.2 million** people. Females account for **53.6%** of the country's poor population. (*Stats SA, 2025*)



INCOME INEQUALITY

South Africa remains the most unequal country in the world with a Gini coefficient of around **0.67**. The top 10% of income earners capture approximately 70% of total pretax national income while the bottom 50% receive less than 5%. (*World Inequality Database, 2025*)



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Violence against women and children does not occur in isolation. It is shaped by a complex combination of poverty, inequality, unemployment, harmful social norms, limited access to justice, and the lasting effects of historical exclusion.

As a result, sustainable change requires more than crisis response alone. Coordinated interventions that support survivors, strengthen families, empower communities, and improve the systems responsible for protection and prevention, become vital.

Ilitha Labantu's Theory of Change is built on the belief that when women, children, and vulnerable individuals have access to safety, healing, justice, economic opportunities, and supportive communities, they are better able to rebuild their lives and contribute to more resilient societies.

Our integrated approach combines seven complementary programme areas that work together to address both the immediate consequences and underlying drivers of violence. Through psychosocial support, legal assistance, prevention education, food security interventions, economic empowerment, policy advocacy, and professional capacity development, we provide a continuum of care that accompanies individuals and communities on a journey from vulnerability to resilience.

At the output level, this approach enables survivors to access shelter, counselling, legal support, and referral services; equips communities with knowledge and tools to prevent violence; provides vulnerable households with humanitarian assistance; creates opportunities for skills development and employment; strengthens institutions through training; and generates evidence that informs policy and advocacy.

Over time, these interventions contribute to meaningful outcomes at multiple levels. Survivors experience greater safety, wellbeing, and empowerment. Families and households become more stable and resilient. Communities are better equipped to challenge harmful norms and prevent violence. Institutions become more responsive and accountable, while policies and systems are strengthened through evidence-based advocacy.

Our ultimate goal is to contribute to a society where women, children, and vulnerable individuals can live free from violence, discrimination, and abuse. While no single organisation can achieve this transformation alone, Ilitha Labantu's role is to strengthen the protective factors that enable individuals, communities, and institutions to create lasting change. Through partnerships, innovation, and community-centred approaches, we help build safer, more equitable, and more resilient communities for future generations.

ILITHA LABANTU THEORY OF CHANGE

A holistic, integrated response to end violence against women and children in our communities

THE PROBLEM

Women and children continue to live with high levels of violence, abuse and inequality, driven by poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, limited opportunities, and weak systems. These challenges are intergenerational and deeply rooted in our communities.

THE CHANGE WE SEEK TO CONTRIBUTE TO

A society where women, children and vulnerable individuals live free from violence, have equal rights and opportunities, and are supported by empowered communities, responsive systems and sustainable solutions.

OUR CHANGE PATHWAYS (WHAT WE DO)



OUR OUTCOMES (WHAT WE ACHIEVE TOGETHER)



OUR COLLECTIVE AND HOLISTIC IMPACT

Women and children live free from violence and abuse. Communities are safe, empowered and resilient. Justice, equality and human rights are upheld. Strong institutions provide effective and sustainable support. Society is transformed through collective action and accountability.

OUR FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES



OUR PROGRAMMES

CLINICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES

For many survivors of violence, the journey towards healing begins with access to safety, support, and someone who listens without judgement. Ilitha Labantu's Clinical and Psychosocial Services provide this critical first point of contact, offering trauma-informed care that helps women, children, and vulnerable individuals navigate the immediate and long-term impacts of violence.

Through counselling, psychosocial support, crisis intervention, risk assessments, safety planning, victim empowerment services, referrals, and court preparation support, the programme responds to individuals facing abuse, trauma, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of violence.

Services are delivered through both community-based interventions including our mobile clinic which reaches underserved areas, and the Dorothy Zihlangu Transitional House, which provides temporary shelter and comprehensive support to women and children seeking refuge from unsafe circumstances.

The programme recognises that recovery is rarely linear. Survivors often require a combination of emotional support, practical assistance, and ongoing accompaniment as they rebuild their lives. By creating safe spaces for healing and restoring a sense of agency, the programme helps individuals regain confidence, strengthen coping mechanisms, and reconnect with support networks.

Over time, this support contributes to improved emotional wellbeing, increased feelings of safety, and greater resilience among survivors. Individuals are better positioned to make informed decisions about their futures, access available services, and pursue pathways towards independence and recovery.

Beyond supporting individuals, the programme strengthens community awareness of available support mechanisms through an extensive engagement programme throughout the year, helping ensure that survivors do not face violence and its consequences alone.



ILITHA LABANTU LEGAL CLINIC



Access to justice remains out of reach for many survivors of violence, particularly those facing financial hardship, limited information, or intimidation within legal processes. The Ilitha Labantu Legal Clinic, registered with the Legal Practice Council, helps overcome these challenges by ensuring that vulnerable individuals can exercise their rights and access the protections available to them under the law.

The Clinic provides legal advice, consultation services, assistance with protection orders, court preparation and accompaniment, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, and strategic litigation support where appropriate. Working closely with survivors and their families, the programme helps individuals understand their rights, navigate legal processes, and make informed decisions.

Beyond legal representation, many survivors require guidance and encouragement throughout what can be an overwhelming process. By offering practical support and demystifying legal procedures, the Clinic helps reduce barriers that often prevent people from seeking protection or pursuing justice.

As survivors gain greater access to legal remedies and protection mechanisms, they are better able to safeguard themselves and their families from further harm. The programme also contributes to greater accountability by supporting the effective implementation of laws designed to protect vulnerable individuals. In doing so, it strengthens confidence in justice systems while reinforcing the principle that violence and abuse should never go unchallenged.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PREVENTION



Creating safer communities requires more than responding to violence after it occurs. It demands sustained efforts to challenge harmful attitudes, strengthen protective behaviours, and foster environments where respect, equality, and dignity can flourish.

Ilitha Labantu's Community Education and Prevention programme works at the frontline of social change by engaging children, young people, families, schools, and communities in conversations and activities that promote violence prevention. Through awareness campaigns, school-based initiatives, community dialogues, positive masculinity programmes, rights education workshops, bystander interventions, and youth-focused activities, the programme encourages critical reflection on the social norms and behaviours that contribute to violence.

Particular emphasis is placed on reaching young people before harmful attitudes become entrenched. School visits and youth programmes create opportunities to discuss healthy relationships, gender equality, consent, conflict resolution, and human rights in ways that are relevant and accessible.

These interventions help communities develop a stronger understanding of violence, its causes, and the resources available to those seeking assistance. Over time, participants become more confident in recognising abuse, supporting those at risk, and challenging behaviours that perpetuate harm. As awareness grows and social norms begin to shift, communities become better equipped to prevent violence, promote accountability, and create safer spaces for women, children, and vulnerable individuals.



FOOD SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The realities of hunger, poverty, and economic insecurity often heighten vulnerability to violence and exploitation. Recognising these connections, Ilitha Labantu's Food Security and Humanitarian Response programme addresses immediate needs while helping families and communities build greater stability during times of crisis.

The programme supports vulnerable households through community kitchens, nutrition initiatives, emergency food relief, humanitarian assistance, and food security interventions designed to strengthen local resilience. These services provide a vital safety net for individuals and families facing hardship, ensuring that basic needs can be met during periods of acute vulnerability.

Community-based approaches play a central role in this work. By supporting local initiatives and fostering collective action, the programme strengthens social solidarity while helping communities respond to challenges more effectively. Nutrition education activities further equip households with practical knowledge that supports long-term wellbeing.

While emergency assistance addresses immediate concerns, the broader objective is to create conditions that enable recovery and resilience. Access to food and basic necessities reduces pressure on vulnerable households, allowing individuals to focus on education, employment, caregiving, and other activities that contribute to longer-term stability. The programme therefore helps to strengthen the foundations upon which safer and more secure lives can be built.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Economic insecurity remains one of the most significant barriers preventing women and vulnerable individuals from achieving independence and escaping harmful situations. Sustainable change therefore requires opportunities that strengthen livelihoods, increase agency, and expand access to economic participation.

Ilitha Labantu's Community Development and Economic Empowerment programme focuses on equipping individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to improve their economic prospects. Activities include employment readiness training, entrepreneurship support, financial literacy programmes, livelihood development initiatives, mentoring opportunities, and targeted interventions that promote women's economic empowerment.

The programme recognises that empowerment extends beyond income generation. Participants are encouraged to develop practical competencies, build self-confidence, strengthen decision-making abilities, and identify pathways towards sustainable livelihoods. Support is tailored to local realities, ensuring that opportunities remain relevant and accessible.

As individuals gain new skills and access to economic opportunities, they become better positioned to support themselves and their families. Increased financial independence can reduce vulnerability, strengthen household resilience, and create greater freedom to make choices that support personal safety and wellbeing. The programme ultimately contributes to stronger communities by enabling individuals to participate more fully in local economies and take greater control of their futures.



RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Lasting progress in addressing violence depends on policies, systems, and institutions that are responsive, accountable, and informed by the realities experienced by communities.

Ilitha Labantu's Research, Policy and Advocacy programme connects frontline experience with broader efforts to influence social change. Through research, evidence generation, human rights monitoring, policy engagement, advocacy campaigns, stakeholder dialogues, and knowledge dissemination, the organisation helps ensure that community voices inform decision-making processes at multiple levels.

Drawing on decades of practical experience, the programme identifies emerging issues, documents challenges affecting women and vulnerable groups, and contributes evidence that can strengthen policy responses. Engagement with government institutions, civil society networks, development partners, and international platforms creates opportunities to advance discussions on gender equality, violence prevention, social justice, and human rights.

This work helps build stronger links between lived realities and policy action. By contributing evidence, facilitating dialogue, and promoting accountability, the programme supports more effective institutional responses to violence and vulnerability. Over time, these efforts contribute to improved policies, strengthened systems, and greater recognition of the rights and needs of those most often excluded from decision-making processes.



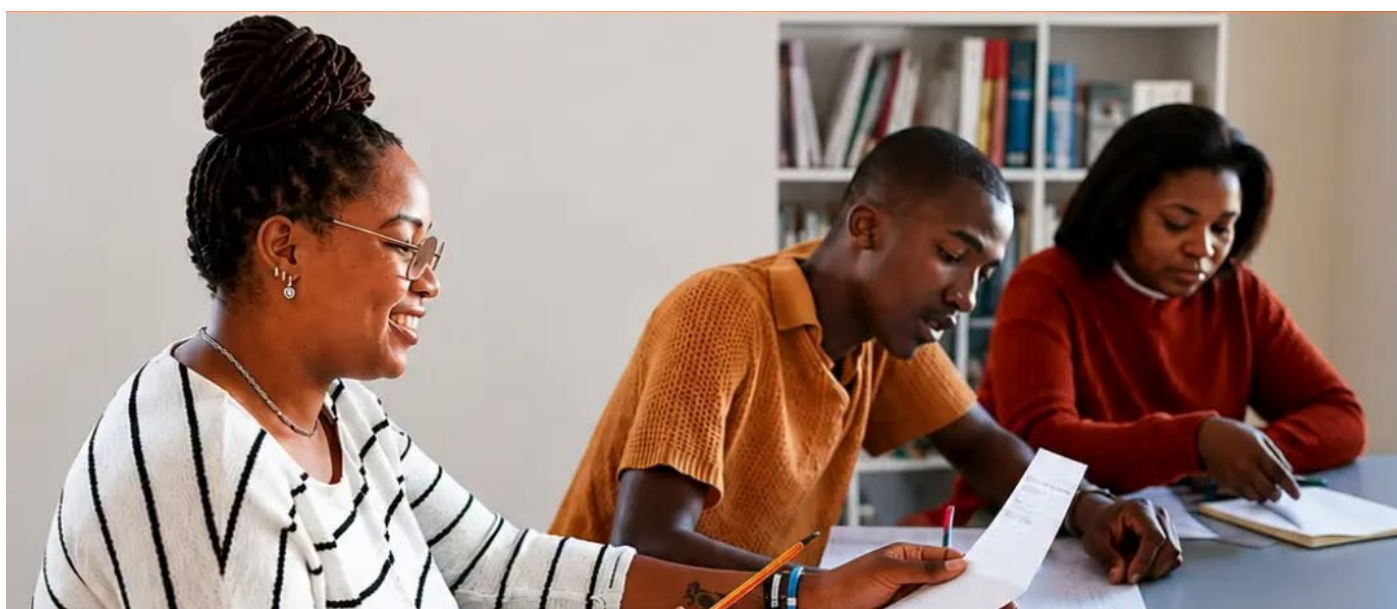
ILITHA LABANTU ACADEMY

Sustainable social change depends on capable institutions and well-equipped practitioners who can respond effectively to complex community challenges. The Ilitha Labantu Academy was established to strengthen the people and organisations working at the forefront of social development.

The Academy provides qualifications accredited by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations, professional development opportunities, specialised training, and curriculum development programmes. It also facilitates knowledge-sharing initiatives for frontline responders, community practitioners, civil society organisations, government stakeholders, and emerging leaders. Its programmes draw on both academic knowledge and practical experience, ensuring that learning remains relevant to the realities faced by communities.

By investing in skills development and institutional capacity, the Academy helps strengthen the quality and consistency of services available to vulnerable populations. Participants gain practical tools, evidence-informed approaches, and enhanced professional competencies that can be applied directly within their areas of work.

The benefits extend far beyond individual learners. As practitioners, organisations, and institutions strengthen their capabilities, they become better positioned to prevent violence, support survivors, and deliver effective community-based services. Through this multiplier effect, the Academy contributes to stronger systems, improved professional practice, and a growing network of change-makers working to advance social justice and community wellbeing across South Africa.



OUR GLOBAL PRESENCE

While Ilitha Labantu's work begins in communities, its impact extends far beyond them. For more than three decades, the organisation has played an active role in advancing national, regional and global dialogue on gender equality, the prevention of violence against women and children, and women's rights. Drawing on decades of frontline experience, Ilitha Labantu connects the lived realities of women and communities with policy processes, international advocacy and evidence-informed action, ensuring that local voices help shape broader development agendas.

INFLUENCING GLOBAL POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

As an organisation with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Special Consultative Status, Ilitha Labantu contributes to international policy discussions that seek to advance gender equality, human rights and sustainable development. Through its participation in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the organisation brings community perspectives, survivor

experiences and practical lessons from South Africa into global conversations on preventing violence, strengthening access to justice and advancing the rights of women and girls.

Through community dialogues, national consultative forums and civil society engagements convened in advance of CSW, Ilitha Labantu works with women's organisations, community activists, legal experts and government stakeholders to identify priorities, document emerging challenges and develop recommendations that inform South Africa's participation in these global processes. In doing so, the organisation helps ensure that international commitments are grounded in the realities experienced by women and girls at community level.

ADVANCING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Ilitha Labantu's work is closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls, while also contributing to Goals 1 (No Poverty), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Working alongside government institutions, including Statistics South Africa, and international partners, the organisation contributes to tracking and reporting on progress towards SDG 5 by



documenting the economic, social, legal and structural barriers that continue to affect women and girls. Ilitha Labantu also advocates for meaningful civil society participation in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals, recognising that lasting progress depends on inclusive partnerships and community-driven accountability.

DRIVING INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Ilitha Labantu believes that lasting solutions emerge through collaboration and shared learning. The organisation regularly contributes to

international conferences, policy dialogues, publications and multi-stakeholder forums that bring together governments, civil society, academia, development partners and practitioners to exchange evidence, innovations and good practice on gender equality and women's empowerment. It has also convened its own international conferences, creating platforms for dialogue on issues such as access to justice, gender-responsive policy and the role of civil society in advancing sustainable development. These engagements strengthen partnerships across sectors and countries, while ensuring that lessons from South African communities inform and benefit from global knowledge and experience.

OUR LEGACY PROGRAMMES

THE LEGACY OF MANDISA MONAKALI

The story of Ilitha Labantu is inseparable from the life and vision of its founder, Mandisa Monakali (1960 – 2024). A respected anti-apartheid activist, community leader, and tireless advocate for women's rights,

Monakali established the organisation in 1989 after witnessing the devastating impact of domestic violence, poverty, and social exclusion on women and children in township communities. As a survivor of gender-based violence, she understood the immediate realities faced by survivors and the systemic barriers that prevented many from accessing support, protection, and justice.

For more than four decades, Monakali dedicated her life to advancing the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of women and children. Her work extended beyond individual cases to challenging the structures and social norms that enabled violence and inequality to persist. She was also a strong advocate for ensuring that women's voices influenced policy and decision-making, including her contribution to civil society participation in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995.

Today, her legacy lives on through every aspect of Ilitha Labantu's work. Her commitment to survivor support continues through the organisation's clinical, psychosocial, and legal services. Her belief in prevention, empowerment, and community leadership remains central to education, advocacy, livelihoods, and capacity-building programmes. Her conviction that lasting change requires strong institutions and informed practitioners is reflected in the work of the Ilitha Labantu Academy.

Monakali also understood the importance of preserving and amplifying women's stories. This vision is carried forward through the Isisele Senyathi Women's Hub on African Women's History and publications such as the Our Stories, Our Voices anthology series. Her legacy is further honoured through the Annual Mandisa Monakali Memorial Lecture and Annual High Tea, which serve as important platforms for dialogue, advocacy, leadership recognition, and partnership building. These events bring together community leaders, policymakers, activists, donors, and supporters to advance conversations on gender equality and social justice while helping mobilise the resources and relationships needed to sustain and expand Ilitha Labantu's work.



Mandisa Monakali's legacy continues to guide our mission, inspire our partnerships, and shape our contribution to a more just and equitable society.

ISISELE SENYATHI WOMEN'S HUB ON AFRICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY

Established by Ilitha Labantu, the Isisele Senyathi Women's Hub on African Women's History is South Africa's first public exhibition and educational hub dedicated to preserving, documenting and celebrating the histories, knowledge and lived experiences of African women.

Named after the isiXhosa expression meaning "a reservoir of knowledge", the Hub seeks to ensure that the voices, achievements and contributions of women, particularly those whose stories have been overlooked or forgotten, are recognised as an integral part of Africa's history and future.

The Hub serves as a centre for research, learning and dialogue, bringing together academics, historians, writers, artists, community leaders, activists and ordinary women to preserve historical memory while creating new opportunities for intergenerational learning and knowledge exchange. Through exhibitions, conferences, writing programmes, public dialogues, publications and community storytelling initiatives, Isisele Senyathi captures lived experience as a powerful form of evidence, recognising that personal narratives are essential to understanding social change and shaping future generations.

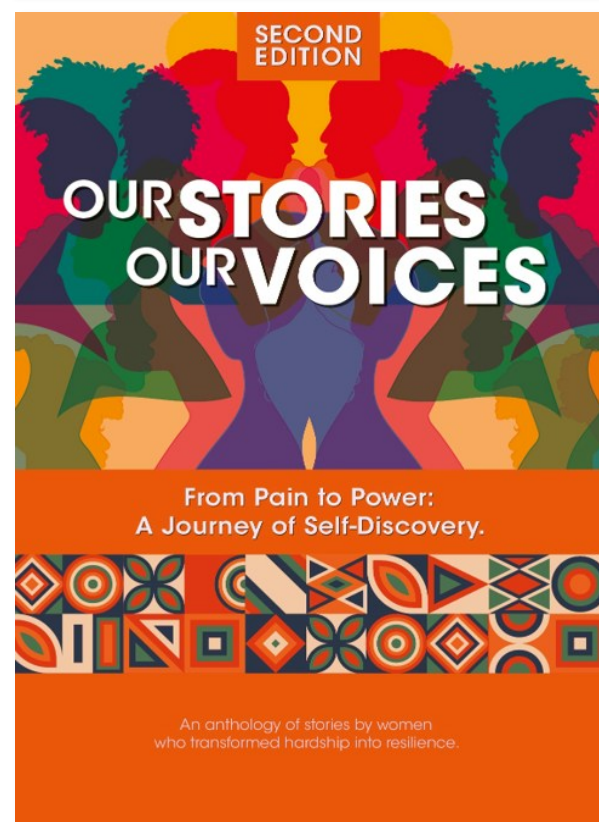
A cornerstone of the Hub's work is its commitment to transforming knowledge into accessible resources that educate, inspire and influence. Since its establishment, the Hub has convened annual conferences on African women's history, creating a unique platform where scholarship, activism and community experience intersect to strengthen collective understanding of women's contributions across the continent.



The Hub also provides an important platform for documenting women's stories through publications. To date, it has produced two volumes of the Our Stories, Our Voices anthology, creating a permanent record of personal histories, reflections and creative expression from women across Southern Africa. Together, these publications ensure that women's voices are preserved, shared and celebrated—not only as records of the past, but as catalysts for healing, learning and social transformation.

As the Hub continues to grow, Ilitha Labantu is seeking partners to expand its research, publications, exhibitions, writing programmes and digital knowledge platforms, ensuring that African women's stories continue to inform public dialogue, inspire future generations and shape a more inclusive historical record.

Our purpose is to promote women's history by keeping women's voices alive, sharing their untold stories and restoring African indigenous knowledge.



OUR STORIES, OUR VOICES

AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S VOICES THROUGH STORYTELLING

One of the flagship initiatives of the Isisele Senyathi Women's Hub is the *Our Stories, Our Voices* anthology series, which creates a platform for women to tell their stories in their own words.

Developed through the Hub's writing retreats and annual conferences, the series brings together deeply personal narratives, poetry and reflections from women across Southern Africa. The anthologies celebrate courage, resilience and hope while documenting experiences that have too often remained invisible in mainstream historical records. By placing lived experience at the centre of storytelling, the series affirms that every woman's story has value and that personal testimony can become a powerful force for healing, solidarity and social change.

The first volume, *Our Stories, Our Voices: Discovering Ourselves*, marked the beginning of a growing movement to reclaim women's histories and amplify voices that have too often gone unheard. Building on this foundation, the second volume, *Our Stories, Our Voices: From Pain to Power – A Journey of Self-Discovery*, continues this legacy by bringing together a new collection of stories that honour women's lived experiences while celebrating resilience, identity and transformation. Together, the two volumes demonstrate the enduring power of storytelling to preserve history, foster healing and inspire future generations.

ILITHA LABANTU ANNUAL LECTURE

The Annual Mandisa Monakali Memorial Lecture honours the life, leadership, and enduring legacy of Ilitha Labantu's founder while advancing the conversations she championed throughout her life.

More than a commemorative event, the Lecture serves as a platform for thought leadership, bringing together policymakers, academics, activists, development partners, community leaders, and civil society organisations to engage on issues affecting women, children, and vulnerable communities.

Each year, the Lecture creates space for critical reflection on progress, persistent challenges, and emerging opportunities in the areas of gender equality, human rights, social justice, and community development. By connecting local experiences with national and global discourse, the event helps ensure that the voices of communities remain central to policy and practice. It also strengthens partnerships, promotes knowledge exchange, and reinforces Ilitha Labantu's role as a trusted advocate and convenor in the pursuit of a more equitable society.



ILITHA LABANTU ANNUAL HIGH TEA

The Annual High Tea is one of Ilitha Labantu's flagship fundraising and awareness events, bringing together supporters, partners, community leaders, philanthropists, and advocates in celebration of the resilience and achievements of women.

The event provides an opportunity to recognise individuals and organisations that have made meaningful contributions to advancing gender equality, social justice, and community wellbeing.

Beyond celebration, the High Tea plays an important role in strengthening the sustainability of Ilitha Labantu's work. Proceeds from the event support the Dorothy Zihlangu Transitional House, which provides temporary shelter, psychosocial support, and holistic assistance to women and children escaping violence and abuse. By raising both awareness and critical resources, the event helps ensure that survivors can access safety, dignity, and the support they need to rebuild their lives.

The High Tea also serves as a valuable platform for partnership building, networking, and advocacy. Through storytelling, recognition, and shared commitment, it mobilises support for Ilitha Labantu's broader mission while demonstrating the collective role that individuals, organisations, and communities can play in creating safer and more resilient futures for women and children.



OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Meaningful and lasting social change is only possible through collaboration. Ilitha Labantu works alongside government institutions, development agencies, foundations, corporations, academic institutions, civil society organisations, and community-based partners to advance gender equality, strengthen community resilience, and improve the lives of women, children, and vulnerable populations.

These partnerships extend beyond financial support. They enable innovation, strengthen service delivery, inform research and policy development, expand access to training and skills development, and create opportunities for collective action at local, national, and international levels. Together, our partners help ensure that communities have access to the protection, support, knowledge, and opportunities needed to thrive.

Our work is strengthened by close collaboration with government departments and public institutions responsible for social development, justice, education, health, and community safety. We also work with United Nations agencies, international development partners, academic and research institutions, civil society networks, and private sector organisations committed to advancing social justice and sustainable development.

We are grateful to the organisations that invest in our mission and share our vision of a society free from violence, inequality, and exclusion.





PARTNERS WITH US

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP BUILD COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERY PERSON HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE WITH SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND HOPE.

Since 1989, Ilitha Labantu has worked alongside women, children, families, and communities to address South Africa's most pressing social challenges. Through a combination of survivor support, violence prevention, economic empowerment, advocacy, capacity building, and systems strengthening, we help create opportunities for people to live safer, healthier, and more dignified lives.

We welcome partnerships with funders, development agencies, foundations, corporates, academic institutions, and individuals who share our commitment to advancing gender equality, protecting vulnerable groups, and strengthening community resilience.

Partners can support our work through:

- Programme funding
- Strategic investments in organisational growth and innovation

- Sponsorship of training and capacity-building initiatives
- In-kind contributions
- Skills-based volunteering
- Research collaboration, and knowledge-sharing opportunities

Whether your interest lies in supporting survivors of gender-based violence, strengthening access to justice, advancing women's economic empowerment, expanding food security initiatives, developing the next generation of social service practitioners through the Ilitha Labantu Academy, or influencing policy and systems change, there are many ways to contribute to meaningful and measurable impact.

Together, we can help build communities where every person has the opportunity to live with safety, dignity, and hope.

To explore partnership opportunities, contact us at: admin@ilithalabantu.org.



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COURTS

ATHLONE MAGISTRATE COURT – DV SECTION

Address: Old Klipfontein Road, Athlone, Cape Town
Hours: Monday – Friday, 09:00 – 16:00

PAARL MAGISTRATE COURT – DV SECTION

Address: Corner of Market Street and Bergrivier
Boulevard, Paarl
Hours: Fridays, 09:00 – 15:00

PHILIPPI MAGISTRATE COURT – DV SECTION

Address: New Eisleben Road, Browns Farm,
Philippi, Cape Town
Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 09:00 – 15:00

STELLENBOSCH MAGISTRATE COURT – DV SECTION

Address: Alexander Street, Stellenbosch
Hours: Mondays, 09:00 – 15:00

WELLINGTON MAGISTRATE COURT – DV SECTION

Address: 30 Jan van Riebeeck Street, Wellington
Hours: Wednesdays, 09:00 – 15:00



ILITHA LABANTU
PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE