

Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting of We Will Speak Out South Africa Coalition held on Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 0830 at Glenridge Church, Durban

1 Attendance:

Present

See attached attendance list.

Apologies

Vusi Tshabalala, Queen-Brenda Mngayi, Adele Munsami, Anthony Waldhausen (Gay and Lesbian Network), Simon John Read, Mxolisi Nyuswa (KRCC), S'thembile Sibiya (KRCC), Amy Leigh Benn, Bafana Khumalo (Sonke Gender Justice).

2 Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Chair, Rev Desmond Lesejane, welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the presence of those in other parts of the country, who are following the proceedings via a Webinar link.

Veena O' Sullivan (TearFund) described the beginnings of WWSOSA, applauded its achievements and opened the meeting in prayer.

3 Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

4 Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the Inaugural Meeting of We Will Speak Out South Africa (WWSOSA) held on 25 November 2016 were taken as read, and were unanimously adopted as a true reflection of the meeting.

Proposed by Lyn van Rooyen, and seconded by Stephanie Thomas.

5 Annual Report - tabled

The Chair referred to the Coalition's first Annual Report, and expressed appreciation to Management Committee and the Coordinator, whose energy and dedication was crucial to the formal establishment of WWSOSA as an NGO that complies with all necessary legal requirements.

The Chair handed over to the Coordinator who spoke about the challenges and achievements in the year under review, as contained in the Annual Report.

In sum, the Coordinator:

- encouraged participants to sign a Membership Form, and mentioned that the members' contributions formed the foundation of the organisation – in fact, the reason for its existence, as it does not work directly on the ground but offers services to strengthen its' members' work on the ground. She added that the structuring of the membership base will continue to be debated by Management Committee and will be adjusted if necessary.
- thanked Management Committee for their support.
- mentioned that an 'intelligent' data base will be created during 2018 that will facilitate further networking opportunities - especially community-based networking, where often support is not as strong and developed as it is in the city centres.
- cautioned against stigmatising survivors, and emphasised that we are ALL survivors – either directly, or through being in solidarity with survivors or because we live in fear in an increasingly violent society.
- thanked Veena o' Sullivan and TearFund for enabling the formation of WWSOSA and expressed gratitude for her presence at the 2nd AGM.
- emphasised that the ultimate goal is for improved synergies across all sectors, that create a continuum of care for survivors, where ever they may be.

The report was warmly received by those present.

6 Financial Report – tabled.

The Coordinator expressed appreciation to Zoe-Life for their expertise, support and management of the Coalition's finances. She also thanked Amplify Change, TearFund for their input that enabled WWSOSA to open a bank account and register formally as an NGO. In addition, she said that having the Finances signed off by an Auditor will be beneficial when submitting funding proposals in the future.

7 Acceptance of Reports

The Financial and Annual Reports were accepted by those present. Proposed by Rev Lulamile Bodla and seconded by Bongani Nyembe.

8 Future Plans.

PLAN A (with adequate funding) This plan explained the way in which WWSOSA will operate if funding is available. The Coordinator explained that WWSOSA is a hub as illustrated in the graphic (a ceiling fan), and explained in Attachment 1 of the WWSOSA Annual Report.

PLAN B – This provides for continued activity through volunteer inputs even if the work is not funded in 2018, while attempt will continue to mobilise resources.

There is a link to an online funding and social media site, “Loving thy neighbor” on the WWSOSA Facebook page. Members were urged to visit this site and contribute, or send the link to people they know who might contribute. Many small contributions will enable the coalition to continue activities and services.

Discussion –

Members felt that the most important points raised by the Coordinator in her report and presentation were the following:

- The Coalition is us and we are the Coalition. The coalitions strength lies in the partners, and not in donors.
- The Coalition is about people coming closer to each other and helps with healing and transforming communities. “It starts with me and I can influence my neighbour and the whole street can be changed”.
- Gratitude for all those present and their support. Appreciation for the growth of the Coalition and what the Coordinator and her team have done. Happy that the Coalition is formally structured and has a bank account.
- Commended Management Committee for their achievements despite lack of resources. It is a model for the faith community.
- Happy that it is an inter-faith coalition, even though it is currently predominantly Christian. This is creative and will make it strong.
Response: Religions and Peace (interfaith network) are co-hosting the event. Karen Read from the Interreligious Council mentioned that she is representing them at this meeting. Islamic Relief is currently the only member organisation from another faith.
- Widows and people within the LGBTQ sector are vulnerable and subject to violence and should become a focus of the Coalition.
Response: Because WWSOSA is a Coalition, the agenda needs to be driven by its members. Thus, there are opportunities to link and work together on issues considered crucial by its members. For examples, the Gay and Lesbian Network are part of the Coalition (and event co-hosts) and can help facilitate the development of a strategy.
Response: It is challenging when engaging with the church and other faith groups and the Coalition provides a platform for this.

9 Management Committee Elections

Status of Management Committee membership:

- a. Management Committee members who are standing for their 2nd year of 3-year term of office: Bafana Khumalo, Lyn van Rooyen, Solange Mukamana, Stephanie Thomas, Marlene Wyngaardt and Nompilo Gcwensa.
- b. Resigned: Des Lesejane and Narshnie Maharaj.

Background information was provided in respect of the following nominees.

Nominee	Proposed according to the criteria for nomination	Seconded according to the criteria for nomination
Amy Leigh Benn (Youth Sector)	<i>Stephanie Thomas –Amy Leigh is a youth faith leader. She stands up for people who are marginalized and lives her life accordingly. She will bring her skills, networks and passion to the Coalition.</i>	Lyn van Rooyen
Simon John Read (Treasurer)	<i>Daniela Gennrich –Simon John is a professional accountant with his own practice who has NGO experience. He will assist the transitioning process.</i>	Des Lesejane
Phumzile Mabizela	<i>Daniela Gennrich - Phumzile has a huge heart, and an incisive mind. She has leadership experience in the faith, GBV and HIV and AIDS sectors - locally and internationally.</i>	Lyn van Rooyen
Puseletso Modimogale	Sthembile Sibiya	<i>Daniela Gennrich –Puseletso is a powerful, well connected woman, who is able to help mobilize women and churches. She is passionate about GBV. She is a business mentor and would help us ensure a rigorous business model going forward.</i>

Election Result:

All the candidates were duly elected *en bloc* - as permitted by the Constitution. Proposed by Daniela Gennrich and seconded by Mandisa Gumede

Discussion:

- There are only 2 men on Management Committee. Is this acceptable?

Response: *Ideally there should be more men as gender is not solely a women’s issue. This balance and the question of inclusivity will be addressed by Management Committee in future, by considering co-option of more members as is constitutionally possible.*

- Survivor representation?

Response: *The Coordinator explained that Nompilo Gcwensa and Marlene Wyngaardt are the 2 survivor representatives. She added that the Coalition is able to co-opt additional members during the year.*

- A Comment in response to the above questions

The nomination process offers an opportunity to members to ensure they have a good representation of their desired leadership. This has to be undertaken in specific timeframes and no new nominations can come at the AGM- as spelled out in the Constitution. As the Coalition is dependent on its members, they need to take the initiative themselves and lobby people to step up and be part of Management Committee.

10 Closing Prayer and Formal Closure of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, and assured the meeting that he will remain committed to the Coalition, even though he has resigned from leadership, as that was merely due to being unable to give the time needed in order to support the Coordinator adequately.

The meeting closed with a hymn and a prayer.

11 Signed:

Chairperson: Rev Desmond Lesejane

Signature:

Date

Attachment 1:

ATTENDANCE REGISTER – 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WE WILL SPEAK OUT SOUTH AFRICA HELD AT GLENRIDGE CHURCH ON 28 NOVEMBER 2017

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Dlamini Philisiwe	Phephisa	Iteyineza Ivette	Phephisa
Mayer Kerry	Phephisa	Mbhele Sindi	Phephisa
Mkhize Phillip	Phephisa	Mkhize Smangele	Phephisa
Ngema Philile	Phephisa	Sithole Sharon	Phephisa
Zondi Thandi	Phephisa	Sayed Saydoon Nisa	Religions for Peace
Muganga PS	PCM	Xulu Tsupie	Gugu Dlamini Foundation
Read Karen	Anglican Church	Van Rooyen Lyn	CABSA
Niyedusenga Olivia	Vision It	Phillips Bridget	1 Home
Madlala Gugu	Diakonia	Wyngaardt Marlene	Woman of Strength
Mabhena Mphokuhle	Sonke Gender Justice	Ntombela Nombuso	Phephisa
Kok Kaitlin	Phephisa	Gcwensa Nompilo	Phephisa
Dludla Phindile	Phephisa	Ngcobo Londiwe	Phephisa
Sokhulu Thokozani	Phephisa	Mbhele Sindisiwe	Phephisa
Bigiriman Esperande	Phephisa	Cwinya-ai Lihle	Phephisa
Ndlovu Zanele	Phephisa	Duma Nxele Thandekile	Phephisa
Zondi Regina	Phephisa	Mhlongo Busiswe	Phephisa
Sithole Hlengiwe	Phephisa	Zungu Hazel	Phephisa
Dladla Thandazile	Phephisa	Phungula Khonzeni	Phephisa
Malinga Khanyisile	Phephisa	Mabizela Phumzile	INERELA
Joseph Ashmeer	ELCSA-DS	Dlamini Dr BD	Siyakhona Ecuenical Committee of the Paraclete
O' Sullivan Veena	TearFund		

Thomas Stephanie Dr	Zoe-Life	Keenan Neville	Phephisa
Green Makhotso?	Phephisa	Dladla Thandalile	Phephisa
Malinga Khanyisile	Phephisa	Dhoba Zibuyile	Phephisa
Ndlovu Bongiwe	Phephisa	Zuma Jabulile	Phephisa
Phungula Khenzeni	Phephisa	Green-Thompson Ashley	ACT
Dlamini Mandisa?	GDF	Xulu Tsupie	GDF
Vilakazi Nonkululeko	GDF	Manzi Phumzile	GDF
Memela Vusi	GDF	Mncwango Nonsikeleko	LifeLine KZN
Dlamini Noluthando	Philangethamba Impact	Kunene Noluthula	LifeLine
Burczak Warren	Arise Worship	Irvins Lucy	Arise Worship
Taylor Stewart	Arise Worship	Zondi Thabani	GLN?
Madondo Sanele	Ashdown	Mbalo Olwethu	MCSA
Lesejane, Desmond	Individual	Kimish Mbalo	Methodist Church (Bishop's Representative)
Puseletso Modimogale	Individual (via Webinar)	Xana McCauley (via Webinar)	Rhema / Hands of Compassion