

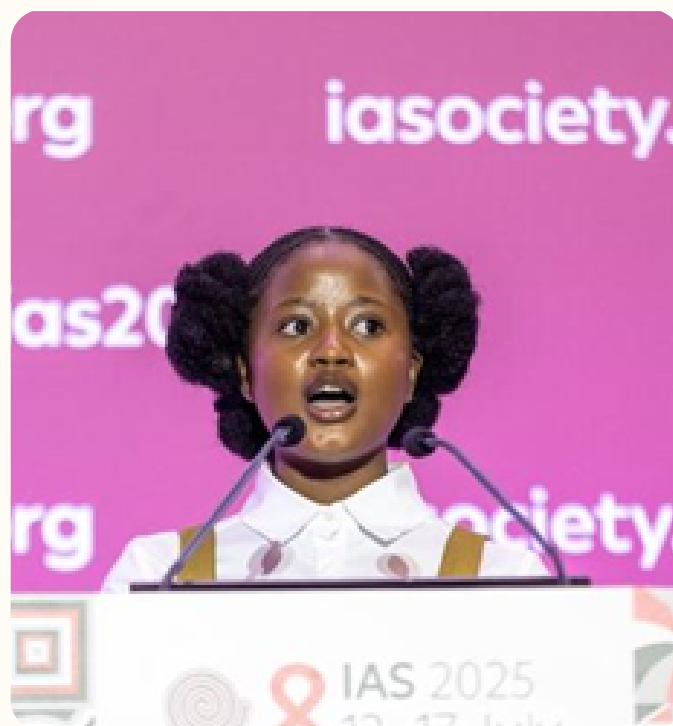


Spotlighting SOUTH AFRICA

HER Voice Fund South Africa Ambassador: Amplifying AGYW Leadership in Global HIV and Gender Policy Spaces

South Africa's Her Voice Fund Ambassador elevated youth leadership on the global stage through high-level advocacy engagements. At the International AIDS Conference, she delivered closing remarks underscoring the central role of young people as leaders—not just stakeholders—in shaping an inclusive and effective HIV response.

Her advocacy continued at the W20 platform, where she addressed ministers and global policymakers, highlighting the lived realities of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). She called for sustained investment in women's economic empowerment and girls' education as critical foundations for health equity and long-term development. Through these platforms, she reinforced the Her Voice Fund's commitment to ensuring young women meaningfully influence global health and gender policy decisions.



Unolali Concepts: Placing AGYW at the Centre of Cultural and Community Decision-Making in the Eastern Cape

Between April and July 2025, Unolali Concepts supported AGYW participation in stakeholder dialogues hosted by the Amathole District Municipality and Buffalo City Metro as part of efforts to #CreateTheEasternCapeWeWant. The engagements brought together AGYW (Intombi zenkiyo), traditional leaders, and government and civil society partners to address health awareness, safety in rites of passage, and cultural identity.

Participants included traditional healers (Amagqirha), the Xhosa Queen, and representatives from the Department of Education, ECPTA, NYDA, and SEFDA. In recognition of its leadership, Unolali Concepts was selected to serve on the Planning Committee for a National Heritage Month project hosted at the Xhosa Kingdom (September 2025), strengthening AGYW participation in shaping culturally grounded, inclusive development.



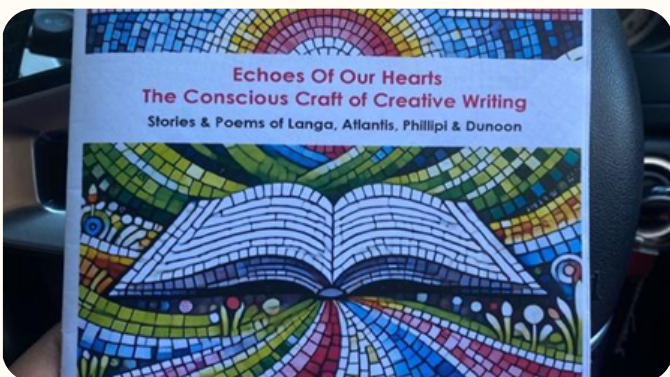
**Amathole
District**

Idwalaletu Foundation: Creative Expression as a Tool for Youth Healing and Social Change



In partnership with the City of Cape Town, Idwalaletu Foundation launched Creative Writing for Change, a youth development initiative that uses storytelling to promote healing, confidence, and civic engagement. Through workshops, mentorship, and collaborative writing sessions, young participants explored personal and community narratives linked to their lived experiences.

The programme will culminate in a collective publication showcasing participants' stories, amplifying youth voices and reinforcing their role as agents of social transformation. The initiative demonstrates how creative spaces can support youth leadership, well-being, and self-expression.



Katlo Development Centre: Youth-Led Innovation for Stigma-Free Health Services in Hebron

On 28 October 2025, Katlo Development Centre conducted a youth-led community outreach at Hebron Clinic focused on breast cancer awareness, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health. The engagement brought together clinic staff, AGYW, and community members to strengthen knowledge, reduce stigma, and improve access to services.

Health services included TB sputum testing, distribution of OraQuick HIV self-test kits, and sessions on HIV prevention, contraception, safer sex, and STI awareness. During dialogue on treatment access, AGYW raised concerns about stigma associated with clinic visits. In response, Katlo proposed a home-based ART delivery model in collaboration with the clinic's Adolescent Friendly Services unit. The clinic expressed readiness to pilot the approach, which aims to support adherence while preserving confidentiality and dignity for young women living with HIV.



**Hebron
Clinic**



Kgorogo Social Investment: Girls in STEM: Youth-Led Innovation through LEGO Robotics

On 17 July 2025, Kgorogo Social Investment hosted a LEGO Robotics training at the Khuma Transnet Community Centre, reaching 33 girls, including 12 young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs) and learners from three local primary schools.

The session was facilitated by NEET youth trained through collaboration with North-West University, modelling peer-led learning. Participants engaged in hands-on coding and robotics challenges that built confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. The workshop prioritised girls' participation in STEM and demonstrated the impact of youth-led facilitation in expanding learning opportunities in underserved communities.



**Khuma
Transnet**

