**Executive summary**

**Dear Potential Donor**

Ithemba Labantu is a nonprofit organization provides critical needs of abused Women and Girls, in the rural and semi-urban areas in Durban and around the province of KwaZulu Natal, in South Africa, through our community skills development, counseling, placement, and health nutrition programs. We are writing to request $100 000 to build a new home for abused women and girls, and salary support for Facilitators, equipments and furniture’s. Ithemba Labantu is currently the only organization in the province that is working in the rural areas with the abused women and girls, that exists specifically to serve 10,000 abused women and girls since our inception.

Ithemba Labantu was formed was registered in 19 October 2016, to help women, young girls and children in need, in historically disadvantage communities, who are abused, living in hunger, and finding difficult to continue with their education due to the poor family background. Since its inception the program has manage to open 5 soup kitchen, placed 304 abused women and girls, in Lazarus women and girls shelter for the duration of 3 months for each 76 people intake per period. Due to the high demand of the and high rate of women and young girls who are getting killed, abused especially in our province KwaZulu Natal, specifically in the rural areas , Ithemba Labantu need an extra facility to place these women and girls. Ithemba Labantu strives to meet the social and academic needs of these women and girls in our communities, through skills development, health nutrition, entrepreneurships, cultural enrichments activities, teambuilding & leadership events, and focus on prevention of risky behaviors, such as drugs, alcohol, violence against women and girls and teen pregnancy.

Last year Last year abused women and girls in Ithemba Labantu achieved an average increase of 15,53% in skills development and 8,91% in entrepreneurship women and girls tracked. 2018/19 50% of women who knew were the place of safety or a shelter, 56.9% of the women are very close to these facilities, 7.11% women are very far from these institutions , they take more than 2 hours, to get into these facilities , Ithemba Labantu would like to bring these facilities closer and within rural areas .

As women and girls who are coming and some referred to Ithemba Labantu continues to grow due to the high rate of women and girls abused in the Country, please consider assisting us so can build this facility, hire facilitators, counselors and buying equipments and furniture’s, to serve more abused women and girls who are abused.

**Background**

Violence against women and girls is a worse violation of human rights. Its impact ranges from immediate to long term multiple physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls including death.

It negatively affects women general well being and prevents women from fully participating in their communities. Violence against women not only has negative consequences for women but also their families, their communities, and the country at large. Gender based violence is breaking up families, breaking trusts, create life time scares and even results to death.

**Objectives**

To mobilize the civil societies and women’s organizations to end gender based violence high on regional, national, and international agendas.

South Africa has laws in gender based violence, sexual assault, domestic violence and other forms,

Of violence.

Challenges remain in implementing these laws, limiting women and girls, access to safety and justice, interrogations in the court rooms as they are the one at faults treating the perpetrators as victims, and most of the perpetrators get bails out of prisons, some getting paroles to come and traumatized their victims even further to death, because the law is failing women and girls big time.

This organization objective is to conduct awareness and against gender based violence, provide counseling, equip women with skills to develop themselves and stop depending to their partners because they get scared to pull out of the abusive relationships because they have nowhere to go with nothing to work on to survive, they were depending entirely to their partners with no proper education, or skills to survive or better their lives.

**Solutions**

Ithemba Labantu want to partner with government agencies, civil society organizations, and other nongovernmental organizations to advocate for ending violence , increase awareness of the causes and consequences of violence and built capacity of partners to prevent and respond violence, to promote the need for changing behaviors of men and boys and advocate for gender equality and women rights.

Ithemba Labantu will give supports to women by expanding access to quality multi-sectoral responses for survivors covering safety, shelter, justice and other essential services .Ithemba Labantu will work with the government to develop dedicated action plan to prevent and address violence against women and girls.

**Prevention to stop femicide**

Prevention will start in early stages in life, educating and working with young boys and girls, promoting respectful relationships and gender equality. Working with youth is the best start for faster, safer and sustained progress on preventing and eradicating gender based violence.

Making the homes and public spaces safer for women and girl, ensuring women economic autonomy and security, and increasing women participation and decision making powers, in businesses, home and their partners.

To challenge the inequalities and social norms that perpetuates men’s control over women and reinforces tolerance for violence against women and girls.

Working with men and boys to help accelerate progress and ending violence against women and girls.

**Activities**

* **Education for Prevention**

To provide young people with tools and expertise to understand the root that causes violence against women and girls in their communities.

To involve their partners and communities to prevent gender based violence.

To learn about where to access support when violence occurred.

* **Workshops**

 The program long term goal is to reduce the gender based violence in the communities through behavior, attitude change among boys and men, increase institutional capacity and facilitate policy enhancements

1. **Future goals**

To create a well inform and understanding communities on gender based violence.

Strengthen the ability of national government to provide top- notch sustainable programs for women and girls.

Use data to reach high risk groups, inform public in general about government policies and strategies in women and girls abuse

**Our Key Programs**

1. Health Nutrition
2. Counseling
3. Skills development programs
4. Business studies
5. Shelters
6. Workshops and seminars

**Stigma reduction**

* The organization continues to foster zero tolerance to any form of human rights violation including women and girls abuse, and sexual abuse, gender based violence related stigma and discrimination.
* The organization will also continue to use platforms via training programs, workshops, peer education and one on one interaction

**Empowering Abused Women and Girls**

The organization will foster self –sufficient of abused women and girls and invest in enhancing their capacity through various means, like skills development, training in arts and crafts, sawing, and entrepreneur skills.

The organization seeks to enhance the economic situation of these women and girls so that they can be self sufficient.

**Community outreach**

Ithemba Labantu has always been an advocate for different services delivery as we have believed in services close to the communities.

The organization together with the partners has reached out to various communities with different services ranging from education, to screening to HIV/AIDS treatment.

In addition to conduct and bring prevention and treatment services, in the areas of HIV, TB STi sand non communicable diseases to the communities.

The organization seeks to scale up to include issues such as sanitation, maternal and child health care, with first aid techniques.

**Gender based Violence Survivors involvement in community awareness programs**

Survivors of the gender based violence must play an integral part in the communities by sharing their experiences, their knowledge and the life experiences needed to design and implement appropriate responses to gender based violence.

In particular, the can help combat the fear of coming out of the abusive relationships, or abusive situation they are facing and experiencing, the can make other victims to know that there is a way out and there is still life out there, the only thing they need to do is to come out and report their situation or talk to people they feel they can trust.

**Working with media**

Ithemba Labantu has guidelines which are designed for use by media and others who communicate and communicate on women and girls abuse, covering topics, such as language use, delivery of accurate and precise information, in cases, outcomes, preventions, treatments and care, rather than a vague and sensationalized stories and how women and girl abused should be abused in the media.

**Organization and community engagement**

Ithemba Labantu activities with the communities will include presenting awareness-raising, workshops, on women and girls abused, related stigma training with local community leaders.

After attending these facilitated, participatory action planning, community leaders developing their own interventions.

**Statistics**

* One-third of women worldwide or nearly 1 billion women have or will experience intimate partner violence or non –partner violence sexual violence in their lifetime. This is equivalent to the population of Africa as whole.
* Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by intimate partner.
* Recent global estimates indicate that 60 million girl’s age20-24 were married before they reach the age of 18 years.
* Globally, 125 million women have experienced female genital/cutting.

Violence against women and girls also referred as violence against women, gender based violence or sexual violence is a global pandemic, a widespread and pervasive infringement on human rights and well-being that has no social or economic boundaries.

**16 Days of Activism**

This year, Ithemba Labantu will be joining the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign starting November 25 through December 10 from the international day for elimination of Violence against Women to international Human Rights Day. Over the 2 weeks our face book account will run will run one new post everyday to explore findings and approaches geared towards the elimination of gender based violence .Also included in this campaign is an event and discussion (Violence against women and girls : involves everybody)

**South Africa’s shocking gender based violence statistics**

**South Africa has one of the world’s highest gender based violence rates in the world, some experts say it is comparable to countries that we are at war**

South is becoming an increasingly an unsafe place to live for women to live in .The crime against women in south Africa report by statistics SA shows that femicide (the murder of women on the basis of their gender)is 15 times higher than the global average. This means that in South Africa, women are 5 times more likely to be killed due gender-based violence committed by men

Horrendous tales of young and women going missing make rounds on social media, hitting radio and television headlines every day. Stories range from Celebrities, well –known women figures, sports women down to a normal young school girls and university students, the most perpetrators are their partners and family friends for young girls.

This issue is so pervasive in South African society that 41% of people raped are children and only out 9 rapes is reported. Of those reported, only 4% result in prosecution.

This can be attributed to an inept justice system and a culture of denialism and rape culture, which protect perpetrators and vilify survivors for being victimized.

The solution to South Africa gender based violence crisis is not to task women with the responsibility of arming and protecting themselves, but rather to change the societal narrative around women and their bodily anatomy.

The best protection is to teach nonviolence and respect for women, only then we can have safer communities for marginalized identifies, so that they don’t have to protect themselves in the first place.

**Outrageous statistics about gender inequality**

Around the world , women achievements are being celebrated on International women’s days which began back in 1911.But the day also highlights the work remains to be done in order to achieve gender parity.

As the following statistics show, there are huge differences in the types of inequality faced by women in different parts of the world, from cultural representation, to domestic burdens and teen marriages. But through collective action and shared ownership, change is possible

1. Women are 47% more likely to suffer severe injuries during car accidents because safety features are designed for men.
2. 33,000 girls become child bride’s everyday; 12 million girls get married before the age of 18 every year, girls are not valued as highly as boys and marrying them at young age transfers the economic burden to other family, there are 650million women alive who were child brides.
3. Women in rural areas in Africa spend 50 billion hours a year fetching water, because of the lack of infrastructure , it is their job to collect water and wood and cook food for their families
4. It will take another 108 years to reach gender equality, at this current progress, according to the World Economic Forum in the recent Global Gab report.
5. Only 8 countries give women equal legal work rights as men, Belgium, Denmark, Luxemburg, France, Latvia and Sweden. According to the forum global gender gap report, only 22% of the world’s Al professional are female, compared with78% who are men.
6. Every one female film character , there are 2,24 men

**Conclusion in Violence against Women and Girls**

1. **Reporting Practices**

Mandatory reporting is thought to enhance early case detection and to increase the likelihood that services will be provided women and the girl in need. For domestic violence, mandatory reporting requirements for professional groups like healthcare groups, social workers, and Therapist must be adopted by the State of South Africa. Mandatory must seen as a method by which offenders who abuse multiple partners can be identified through the health care community for law enforcement purposes.

For the women abuse, studies suggest that a high level of public and professional awareness and the availability of comprehensive services to identify, treat and prevent violence are preferable to reporting requirements in improving rates of case detection.

**Recommendation 1,**:the Organization recommends that the State initiate evaluations of their current reporting laws in addressing gender based violence to examine whether and how early case detection leads to improve outcomes for the victims and promote changes based on research

**Recommendation 2**: In absence of research that demonstrate a specific model of treatment can reduce violent behavior for many domestic violence offenders, courts need to put in place early warning systems to detect failure to comply with or complete treatment and signs of new abuse or retaliation against Women, as well as to address unintended or inadvertent results that may arise from the referral to or experience with treatment.

**Recommendation 3**: The organization recommends that health and social services providers to develop safeguards to strengthen their documentation of abuse and histories of gender based violence in both individual and group records, regardless of whether the abuse is reported to the authorities.

**Recommendation 4:**  Collaborative strategies among caseworkers, police prosecutors, and judges, are recommended as law enforcement interventions that have the potential to improve the batterer’s compliance in addressing gender based violence.

**Recommendation 5: Intensive** family preservation services represent an important part of the continuum of family support services, but there should be required in a situation in which a child is recommended for out of home placement like our organization shelter for women and girls who are abused.