

## Cowgirls Supporting Luleki Sizwe

To summarise, this is what has happened so far. Please note, some of this is very distressing:

- Cowgirls form a bond with Luleki Sizwe, a charity in South Africa set up by Ndumie Funda
- Cowgirls raise money and send to Luleki Sizwe to support their work helping victims of corrective rape
- Luleki Sizwe support Millicent, a woman raped by her neighbour for 5 hours to "correct" her homosexuality, to bring a court case against him
- the man, despite being caught by 3 of Millie's neighbours in the act, is released on bail
- Milly has to face him in the court room ALONE without her mother or Luleki Sizwe friends
- the man has been terrorising Millie and Ndumie, driving Millie to despair and suicidal wishes
- yesterday Ndumie went into hiding from this man. The police are doing very little to protect her or Millie.
- While Ndumie was hiding, another woman who had been "correctively raped" called her office for help. There was no reply. Ndumie found out that this woman killed herself, feeling there was no where else to go.
- Millie's tormentor is still out on bail and the court case has been adjourned to the New Year.
- December 2010 Cowgirls hold letter writing evening in support of Millie, Luleki Sizwe and sending protest letters to the Minister of Justice.

Here is an email we received from Jules , Luleki Sizwe's UK representative:

You gals did a great job before with the fundraising and Ndumie really appreciates the support. She's having a tough time as you know, with threats against her and little security. She'd love to receive messages of support.

Please make as much noise as you can about the Millicent case as currently the rapist is out of prison and threatening Ndumie and the police are doing nothing about it.....so tell lots of people!

Thanks for your continuing support

Jules Hussey  
UK Representative- Luleki Sizwe

## **About Luleki Sizwe**

**\*you may find this distressing\***

Luleki Sizwe was founded by Ndumie Funda to rescue, support and campaign for lesbian women in Cape Town's black townships and rural areas who have been victims of corrective rape.

"Corrective rape" is a criminal practice in South African culture. It is when men rape a lesbian woman as a means of "curing" her sexual orientation.

South Africa guarantees the rights of gay and lesbian people, including the right to same sex marriages. However, hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation are not recognised by South African law. In the last 10 years, 31 lesbian women have been murdered because of their sexuality. Only one conviction has been secured, and despite the overwhelming evidence that it was because of the woman's sexual orientation that she was targeted, the judge refused to acknowledge this.

More than 10 lesbians a week are raped or gang raped in Cape Town alone. 150 women are raped every day in South Africa. For every 25 men accused of rape in South Africa, 24 walk free.

The most high profile of the women to be murdered was Eudy Simelane, former star of [South Africa's](#) acclaimed Banyana Banyana national female football squad. She was raped then stabbed over 25 times to her death.

It was an article on her and corrective rape that caught the attention of one of the Cowgirls last year and so began the friendship we have now pledged to Luleki Sizwe.

### **Luleki Sizwe's objectives are:**

1. To change the existing negative perception about lesbian, bi-sexual and transexual (LBT) women in our society.
2. To provide support and reach out to lesbians who have been forced from their homes due to their sexual orientation and HIV status.
3. To educate and empower lesbians about issues such as safe sex, healthy living, health programmes, sport, media, arts/ culture and human rights
4. Raise awareness on social issues e.g. rape, sexual assault, discrimination
5. Celebrate young and older lesbians through arts, drama and other forms of expression
6. Fundraise necessary funds for different programs
7. To create awareness around LBT human rights at a professional and social level

### **The way that Luleki Sizwe do this is through:**

1. Providing a safe house and medical care for recent victims of "corrective rape"
2. Cooking and distributing healthy meals for victims of rape and their families
3. Distributing donated goods such as bedding and toiletries
4. Educational programmes and computer classes
5. Campaigning and advocating (see news section)
6. Sports teams for friendship, support, solidarity and fun! 2 soccer teams and 1 rugby team
7. Cultural activities and trips
8. Assisting across all local groups including the elderly and HIV charities

## About Ndumie Funda

Ndumie Funda was born in [Gugulethu](#), Cape Town and is a community based activist/feminist.

She is the Founder/Director of Luleki Sizwe that rescues, supports, nurses, feeds and campaigns for LBT in Cape Town's black townships and rural areas.

Ndumie is supporting Millicent in her trial at her own personal risk.

Here in Ndumie's words are some of the things that have happened:

... i'm going back to my cabin,I saw him yesterday his was still driving the red tazz.

Still not safe but sparkling. Sunday i turn some girls were looking for help down, Ayanda called me first to say sis Ndumie my friend just got raped and i need your help ,she was wants to kill herself pls help sis Ndumie,i said in response sis i understand you honestly but i also need help,as i'm currently being harassed when helping you guys.

Yesterday i received another call from Ayanda she said – sis Ndumie my friend killed herself on Monday . She couldn't stand watchting the 4 guys who raped her because she was a lesbian. Stigma its a problem here and also one of the this Ayanda highlighted to me is you report the case to the police and do nothing about it no protection. All Ayanda was asking from is sis Ndumie help my friend like the other victims – you help and i could because i also need help.

Now i feel bad Bulelwa is no more and i couldn't help her with my space and advice her how to lay charges. Sorry this is my calling i will fight up until the last drops of my blood. I once lost my partner and a friend not this tme .a months back another lesbian from Nyanga was found dead in area called Delft and her funeral was 2 weeks back and now this shit and the

Zuma is granting these animals bail.

Bulelwa's funeral is nextweek in Port Elizaberth.

We shall over come one day for deep in my heart i do believe!

Ndumie.



## **About Millicent**

**\*you may find this distressing\***

Millicent Gaika was beaten and raped for 5 hours by a man who told her he wanted to “turn her into a woman”.

“I thought he was going to kill me; he was like an animal. And he kept saying: ‘I know you are a lesbian. You are not a man, you think you are, but I am going to show you, you are a woman. I am going to make you pregnant. I am going to kill you.’”.

The attacker was her neighbour.

The attack ended only after other neighbours finally heard her screams, broke down the assailant’s door and found Gaika naked from the waist down on a bed and bleeding. They then held the assailant until police arrived.

Millicent was in severe shock and traumatized to the point of wanting to kill herself. Luleki Sizwe have been supporting her through this time, raising the profile of her case world wide, giving her practical help, and being there for her throughout the proceedings.

Millicent asked for her photo to be published so that the world could see what happened to her.

Despite threats on her life and the rapist being released on bail, back to her neighbourhood, Millicent took the local bus to get to Court (the police wouldn't driver her there) to testify.

She was propped up by other victims and members of Luleki Sizwe, determined to bring ‘the animal’ to justice. This is not the first time she has suffered such brutality. She was raped by a group of four men some years back, same motive and testified against them - they are now serving 15 year sentences.

After the first court session, Ndumie Funda sent this email: (it's been abridged):

“I’ve never been so tired like yesterday... we arrived in Wynberg court at 8.30am, Millicent was ready to take a stand she was called in at 10am, were not allowed to enter the court reason for they said journalist were going to wright the false story. I then spoke to Millicent about that and she was fine with getting everybody in including the journalist.

Then it again the persuaded her not to allow anybody in while she was testifying not even her own mother was allowed to get in inside.

We all sit in the bangers next to us was the Andile Ncoza the guy who raped Millicent, all he does was steering as me with those angry eyes .not forget last week while i was driving passing his house he was standing out side ,when he saw my car he was swearing at me and saying i’m gonna get you bitch.

Back to Milly she was alone testifying nervous and the court was surrounded with cameras,i remember her telling me yesterday that while she was standing in front of the magistrate facing Andile Ncoza the whole picture came back,1pm was lunch time and Andile was walking to the shop all the Luleki Sizwe together with Milly’s friends and his niece who happened to be a lesbians were singing a song called Elizuma lilapha lisenzeli wari/it means this rapist is making us worried cameras where on him.

He could’nt come out of the shop ,his niece that happened to Milly’s friend throw him with water some spit in his face .we spand the whole day in court we left 4.30pm,next court case is next Wednesday in Wynberg court f 5th floor “

So Millicent had to give evidence while the rapist, caught in the act, is allowed to be released on bail. She had to stand alone - no mother, no friends, no support group. She has no protection except the women who are standing by her.

The latest is that the judge has adjourned the trial to next year. The rapist is still walking free. His

friends have begun a campaign of terror and intimidation against Millicent and her Luleki Sizwe friends. Currently, Millicent is unsure how much longer she can continue for.



A statement released by South Africa's national prosecuting authority said: "While hate crimes - especially of a sexual nature - are rife, it is not something that the South African government has prioritized as a specific project."

