



form for upcoming artists featuring a variety of performance styles. It happens once every month. While the focus is generally not on gender-specific issues, I now look at the world through gendered lenses and try to improve things for women in the spheres where I do have influence.

As part of my contribution towards feminism and gender equality, I have written a lot of feminist poetry and I don't allow any of my artistic content to ignore the importance of creating an equal society and discarding the toxic masculinity that has been embedded in men, focusing on Black men and Black boys, as we are the most direct oppressors of Black women.

I put on a poetry and music show very specifically dealing with this issue called *She for Vendetta* which zones in on Afro-feminist struggles which, in my opinion, are of the most important issues on this side of the planet. Black women in particular face a much harder battle than other women and so it is important to make the distinction.

In *Remote Control*, a play I wrote and directed through the Goethe Institut, I took to task gender roles and highlighted mental health issues faced by Black women as a result of abuse.

The other times I have participated in events were to perform

or to simply watch and learn. I believe the most important role of any man who considers himself an ally of women, is to listen and accept the lessons taught by women.

As part of the celebration for International Women's Day for this year we focused on a theme that would purvey gender survival stories and the beauty of women through art. The Gathering featured women from all walks of life expressing themselves through their gifts and most importantly, telling their stories. We only hope that we can provide such platforms more often throughout the year as the journey to equality is a long one and, I believe, art is the best way to translate social messages.

My role as a man is to teach my son that he is no better because of his gender, that he must listen to women and understand that their lives are their own, he can never feel entitled to anyone's being. While there are gender roles, he must clean up after himself and take care of himself both physically and emotionally. He is not any woman's responsibility. He is his own responsibility and should become all the man he can be without using and abusing others, especially women. As a father it is my duty to teach my daughter to reach for the stars, to take any space she wishes to, to refuse anything that does not sit well with her soul, to fight at anyone – especially a man – who trying to undermine her for being a woman. I will teach her to not feel any obligation to fix boys that are not willing to live according to the dynamics of a truly equal society. I will also be honest, I will remind her that she is a Black woman and therefore has to work thrice as hard as the whole world to get where she wants, and because she is a Black woman, she is unstoppable. ♀



FAST FACTS

- **THE FIRST WOMEN IN COMPUTING CONFERENCE IN NAMIBIA** was held at the Namibia University of Science and Technology on 27 February 2017.
- **THE UNAM RUNDU CAMPUS** at its 2017 graduation ceremony conferred a higher diploma in accounting and auditing on Rosalia Sindimba, the first San woman from Kahenge village in Kavango West region.
- **PRIMARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT** in Namibia increased from 442729 learners in 2015 to 499455 in 2016.
- Globally, **65 MILLION GIRLS ARE NOT IN SCHOOL.**
- **A CHILD BORN TO A MOTHER WHO CAN READ** and write is 50 percent more likely to survive past the age of 5.
- **HALF OF THE CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT IN SCHOOL LIVE IN CONFLICT-RIDDEN COUNTRIES.** Girls make up 55 percent of this total.
- **IF ALL WOMEN HAD A PRIMARY EDUCATION** there would be 15 percent fewer child deaths.