

## WHO WE ARE

**S**ister Namibia is a feminist and women's rights organisation located in Windhoek, Namibia. On the principles of equality, democracy and harmony we aim to contribute towards the social, political, monetary and artistic equality between women and men.

Through the generation and dissemination of information we envision equipping women and men with knowledge and skills that will contribute towards the achievement of a society of equality and human dignity. We aim to inspire and equip women to make informed decisions and act as agents of change in their private lives and communities.

Our activities include the publication of this magazine, running advocacy campaigns, feminist forums and workshops on gender related matters. We also house a resource centre stocked with material on feminism and gender issues. As of 2015 we will be training trainers and creating resource material to expand our information-sharing reach. With our website, a rich source of resources, we hope to become the first port of call for policy makers and researchers.

Our publications are made possible through funding from Olof Palme Centre and Heinrich Böll Stiftung.

**F**ree copies of our magazine can be picked up at: 163 Nelson Mandela Avenue, Eros, Windhoek. We invite all readers to send us feedback on the magazine via any of our contacts.

## Be part of our online community

**Website** [www.sisternamibia.org](http://www.sisternamibia.org)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/SisterNamibia](https://facebook.com/SisterNamibia)

**Twitter** @SisterNamibia

**Blog** [www.sisternamibia.blogspot.com](http://www.sisternamibia.blogspot.com)

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# HELLO

## EDITOR'S NOTE

**WINTER IS OVER AND SPRING HAS FINALLY SPRUNG. THE NEW SEASON NOT ONLY BRINGS ABOUT CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE, IT SIGNIFIES RENEWAL AND REJUVENATION BOTH IN NATURE AND IN SOCIETY. THERE IS PERHAPS NOTHING THAT STANDS FOR RENEWAL AS THE BIRTH OF A BABY.**

We are happy to share the news that our Director, Vida, towards the end of August, gave birth to a baby girl. We, the 'big sisters' congratulate the proud parents and wish the baby girl that her life be filled with joy, love and good fortune. We hope that you grow up to become spunky, quirky and kick ass in whatever you may choose to become. This old

world of our need a girl's kick in the rear.

Vida on maternity leave means in with the new. In this case, in with the old new. It has almost been eight years when I first joined the Sister team. Having returned to Namibia in May, I am honoured to be entrusted the position of interim director. I am looking forward to continuing the work and furthering the cause for women's rights and justice that committed women started more than three decades ago.

In this issue, sadly, we pay tribute to Otilie Abrahams, who dedicated all her life in the service of "education for liberation" and girls' education in particular. Tilly, at the age of 80, died while still in the service of her school and her cause. As a persisting issue, we unfortunately have to deal with aspects of violence against women and girls. Why is it for example that the media focus on one type of violence while ignoring other types completely? Do not all victims deserve at least mention? Also we reflect on the issue of children as perpetrators. What are we as a society do to contribute to this phenomenon and is there something we can or must do to prevent children becoming criminals or mentally ill?

With the internet playing an increasingly important role in our personal every-day communication, so has the potential of the net as a way not only to post selfies and showcase ourselves, but also as a tool to promote social activism. Read how ICT has been used also in Namibia, but also about how trolls can use the internet against social causes.

End of August and the beginning of September have come to be time for the re-enactment of Olufuko. This year the political leadership have made extra effort to pre-emptively dis "some churches and women's rights campaigners" for criticising 'tradition.' We are not criticising tradition, we want to ask questions about the prerogative and motives of the political elite to determine what tradition is and what certain forms of tradition might mean in our society.

With a full magazine, all that remains is to say happy reading.

## HAPPY READING!

Laura Sasman

