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Join the Fight Against Gender-Based
Violence

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Introduction

We are a team of three young men, in grade 9 at Bishops College, involved in a pilot project called Big Ideas which aims at focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the UN and gathering skills to come up with an idea that begins to tackle the SDGs.

The course is only available to grade 9 boys and this is the second year that the course is taking place. Any boy is allowed to take part, the only requirement is that you hand in a motivation in which you explain why you want to take part. The project takes place in the slots dedicated for 5 subjects- Biology, History, EMS, Life Orientation, and Geography. All the work that we miss in those subjects is covered at the beginning of grade 10 so that no important work is missed.

The project takes part in the second semester of the year, during terms 3 and 4. In the first few weeks of the course, we had classes where we learned about the different Sustainable development goals and did summaries and activities which all contributed to expanding our knowledge about the different goals. We had workshops and went on outings which developed our skills and future thinking. We then entered a stage called 'siting in the cloud' where we were left to choose which goal we wanted to focus on. Once we had picked our goal we started to do research and brainstorm ideas that were related to our goal. The goal we focused on was SDG 5 which is 'Gender Equality'.



Figure 1- SDG 5

(nor-shipping, 2016)

We looked at all the different targets under our SD goal and we decided to pick the target that aims at eliminating all violence against and exploration of women and girls.



Figure 3- Targets

(European Union External Action , 2016)



Figure 2- Forms of violence

(Open Development , 2017)

These problems are affecting the lives, rights and safety of women and girls in today's world. We wanted to help people like Uyinene Mrwetyana who was raped and murdered going to the post office in Claremont, Cape Town. We do not want this to happen to anyone else and we want women and girls to feel safe regardless of where they are. Thinking about how people can be at danger anywhere is a very scary thought that we want to change that. We wanted to address this problem because it is such a massive problem around us right now and there is so much that we can do to show our support and help eliminate this problem. We care about this problem because we all have mothers, sisters and girlfriends and we do not want them to feel and be unsafe at home, out and about, and in general. There is not enough awareness and support around this problem and we want to change that!

Our project took place at Bishops and specifically all our research and planning was done in our school library. The action part of our idea is aimed at working in Cape Town only. Our research was all done in Cape Town and our brainstorming was done at Bishops College. The people we were wanting to help were girls and ladies in our community. The reason we were targeting these specific people is because we can relate to them and one of our group members family members friend has been a victim of gender based violence. Our project

focuses on SDG 5 but there is also a connection with SDG 10- Ending Inequality. It is linked because when we help stop gender-based violence, women will feel more empowered and equal.

This document covers the background research we covered, the problems and changes we faced, our plan, and what we have executed!

Big Ideas Project

Background research

Our passion for this goal was ignited following Bishops' engagement with the movement against gender-based violence, when we all went outside of Bishops to stand along Campground Road to show our support and attention to violence against women. It was important for us because we connected and in those moments of silence watching the cars drive past, we felt empathy and wanted to do something. After doing deeper research about our main targets under our goal we decided to focus on gender-based violence and more specifically violence against women and girls. We took a look at a few articles to try help us spark ideas and give us more information about this problem. We read an article based on gender equality, titled, *Gender equality is not a 'women's issue' – it's good for men too.* (Gillard, 2019)

This was a starting point for us and gave us some basic insight.

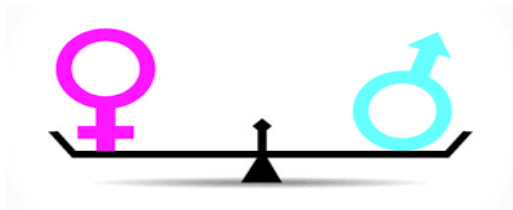


Figure 4- Gender Equality

(Give Me 5, 2019)

Men play big roles in the movement of women. There are many male and female feminists in today's world, according to (Gillard, 2019). We still have a long way to go to eliminate gender based violence, drawing men into the conversation is a big part of reaching this goal.

We have made a lot of progress over the years, but men still have dominant power, and as a few recent incidents in Cape Town have shown, gender-based violence has had a large impact on a lot of women's careers, mental state, and lives, says (Gillard, 2019). There has been a lot done to stop gender based violence by different people, but it has not been enough.

Gender stereotypes also need to change if there is going to be a knock-on effect on how women are ultimately treated. There needs to be more done to make people know that there

is nothing wrong with being a stay at home dad, and that not only moms stay at home. Companies should allow people to take hours off to be at home and get the correct work-life balance. Businesses should not worry says (Gillard, 2019)- “research links flexible working to increased productivity, as better work-life balance leads to happier, more effective workers”. Having flexible partners helps women too. (Gillard, 2019) noted that “A study of German couples found that having a partner who works flexibly boosted the wages of men and women, with the effect most pronounced for mothers.”
(Gillard, 2019)

We then followed up and read an article based on violence against women which we thought really stuck for us and sucked us in. The article is titled *Violence Against Women – A Problem in South Africa*. (Tears, 2019)



Figure 5- Violence Against Women

(SA NG net plus, 2019)

It has been proved that African countries have the highest levels of gender-based violence around the globe, according to (Tears, 2019). Statistics are not very accurate as it has been proved that not all incidents have been recorded. The low report and conviction rate of violence perpetrators is linked to the post-apartheid public perception of the police force. (Tears, 2019) report states that, “the attitudes and prejudices of the law enforcement agencies and other government officials and the inaccessibility of services that should be made available to the public, especially in rural areas, are also part of the problem”. Violence against women comes in many forms– physical, sexual, economic, psychological, emotional –

they are all violations against human rights and effects the lives of women and the communities they live in. There is also a massive problem in South Africa where females are raped to try convert them to heterosexuality, says (Tears, 2019).

Victims of violence are not supported by public services and this makes them hide what has happened instead of reporting it and also makes the problem more widespread. South Africa has the most progressive legislations out of all countries in Africa, but the problem does not decrease, (Tears, 2019) states. This indicates that violence against women in South Africa is a huge problem but does not look like it is decreasing anytime soon. Rather it is becoming very prevalent and 'normal' which is not helping anything.

(Tears, 2019)

The final article we read was on violence against women. It is titled, *South Africa is in a Crisis of Violence Against Women, says President*. (Franke, 2019)

After the third day of protesters taking the street, President Cyril Ramaphosa, publicly admitted that gender-based violence is a big concern in South Africa.

Ramaphosa publicly addressed the people of Cape Town and said that the law of gender based violence will be reviewed in parliament.

Many women have called for a state of emergency and want the death sentence to be brought in, according to (Franke, 2019).

"We are reviewing laws on domestic violence and sexual offences to prioritise the needs and interests of survivors," Ramaphosa said, according to (Franke, 2019)

"All gender-based violence cases that have been closed or that were not properly investigated must be reviewed. Ramaphosa continued, "A national plan to curb gender-based violence will also be implemented in school programmes, workplace policies and community initiatives." Says (Franke, 2019).

His statement might not bring comfort to protesters, with two murders happening within the week. A 31-year-old woman was shot, kidnapped and dumped in a nature reserve on Friday

Morning, and later died in hospital from her injuries. No arrests had been made, says (Franke, 2019).

"Circumstances surrounding a murder and an attempted murder are being investigated by police. This morning at around 2am, a 33-year-old man was shot and wounded at his residence by unknown suspects. His 31-year-old girlfriend was kidnapped from the residence by the suspects and dropped off at the Wolfgat Nature Reserve with extensive injuries," (Franke, 2019) said.

(Franke, 2019) also reported an incident where a woman was found murdered at a shopping centre with stabbing wounds to her body on Wednesday, while on Tuesday, a 21-year-old nursing student raped outside of a hospital.

Charlize Theron, a South African born Hollywood star, has responded to this problem saying the justice system had failed women.(Franke, 2019)

From these articles, we found that this is a huge problem in SA. What stuck out was how in previous years, there had been nothing done to prevent this problem. It was also very interesting that in most cases, victims of rape hide away and do not tell their story and how that it is almost a normal thing to them because of how they were brought up. After reading these articles, we were more motivated to help and it sparked ideas. It was good to see how there is stuff being done to decrease the levels of inequality.

There are a few organizations and projects that are tackling and raising awareness around this issue. There are Campaigns and organisations like:

‘#IAMNENE’, ‘#METOO’(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Me_Too_movement) and ‘The International Alliance of Women’ (<https://womenalliance.org/>)

A big gap in the research we did that stood out for us was the lack of long term awareness. Yes there are initiatives being developed and people showing support, but after a short period, support seems to disappear, and the spotlight is no longer on these important issues. When it disappears and nobody hears of it, the problem almost goes back to normal as if nothing has changed and this is a big problem. There needs to be more awareness to change the awareness and physical safety for women, the awareness has to be around us in a sustained way if we want to see a difference.

Our Journey

At the start of the Big Ideas journey as a group, we entered a phase called “sitting in the cloud” where we were left to research and brainstorm ideas in our school library. We started doing research and learned a bit more about our target.

After spending a bit of time in the cloud, we found an organisation that focused on educating groups of people on gender-based violence and training people to defend themselves against rape called Action breaks silence. We were interested in this organisation and we wanted to try do something with them.



Figure 6-Action Breaks Silence

We decided that we wanted to try implement this course at schools around Cape Town. We contacted the founder of the organisation and discussed the possibilities of us help implementing the course around Cape Town. However, we fell a bit behind and we could not arrange a meeting with the founder of the organisation. We also had a bit of trouble with planning everything and learning how to start our narrative because we did not see our initial coach very often because she was going through a tough time.

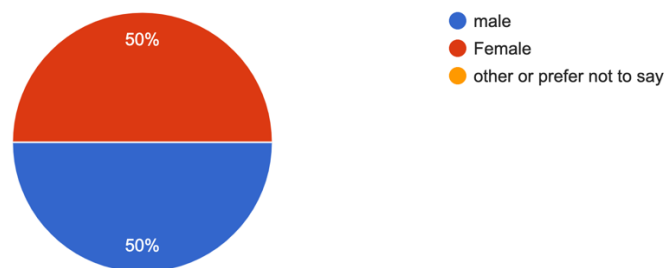
Survey Data

After doing background research, we created a Survey to help us compare various viewpoints with regards to gender-based violence. We gave the survey to a Bishops mom and dad, Herschel girl and Bishops boy (grade 9), and a man and woman that live in Dubai. Our survey was carefully monitored and we got permission, from the individuals that filled out the survey, to mention their identity for our project. All the questions were based around gender-based violence, they were all checked multiple times and we were satisfied the questions were appropriate and adjusted to make sure they did not cause any discomfort or sensitivity. Below you will find the results of our survey, and the full survey can be found in the Addendum at the end of this narrative.

Responses from gender-based violence survey

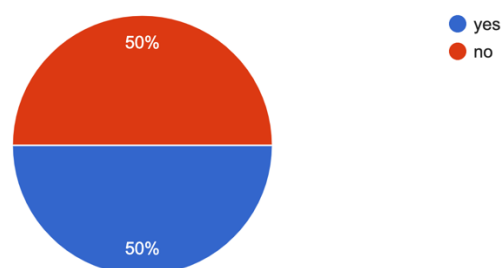
My Gender:

6 responses



Are you aware of any organisations trying to tackle this problem, in SA or Over seas?

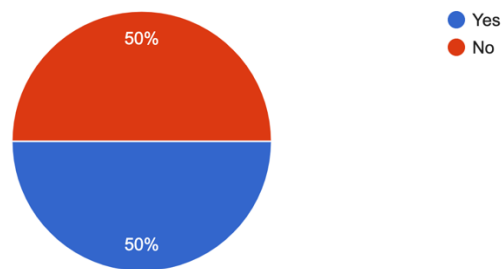
6 responses



Only 50% of the respondents are not aware of other organisations that are trying to tackle this problem, The organisations that the other 50% knew of were “#metoo”, “#IamNene”, and “International Alliance of Women”.

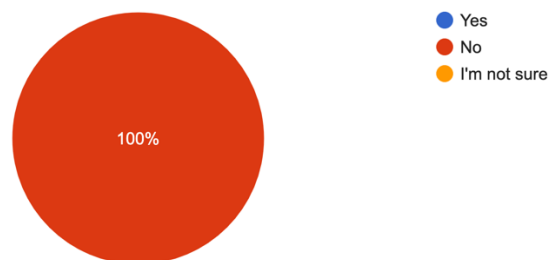
Do you ever feel unsafe in today's world?

6 responses



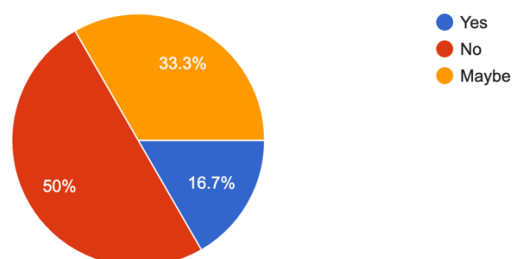
Do you agree with the statement “all men are trash” from the #Menaretrash movement?

6 responses



Do you think that gender-based violence will come to an end?

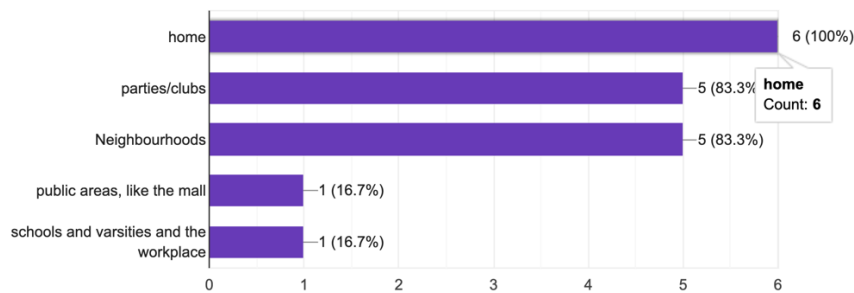
6 responses



We felt rather despondent about the results of this question, because there is not enough hope and positivity shown from the responses.

Where do you think gender-based violence mostly happens?

6 responses



Herschel Girl vs Bishops Boy

The data collected from these two individuals were very similar. Both participants knew what gender-based violence was and they both thought that imprisonment would be the best consequence for gender-based violence. They did not agree with the statement, “all men are trash” and they both feel unsafe in today’s world. Neither thinks that gender-based violence will come to an end and they think that it happens everywhere in South Africa. The Bishops boy knew about other organisations that are trying to tackle this problem whereas the Herschel girl did not know much. It was interesting to see that both young minds did not have a positive perception towards gender-based violence coming to an end and they both thought that the perpetrators should be sent to jail for life.

Most of the data collected here was expected. We did not think that both teenagers would say that life in prison is a good punishment. It was interesting to see how both teenagers think that gender-based violence will not come to an end, I think this is something we need to change because they are the future of our world and it is important for them to have hope. It was interesting to see that the Bishops boy knows more than the Herschel girl and we think this is because girls think they know what gender-based violence is and that they feel very angry about it, whereas the boy does not know as more and wants to find out more about gender-based violence.

Mother and Father

The data collected from these two individuals was very different. They both had the same ideas but they approached the questions very differently. The mom felt unsafe in today's world and did not think that gender-based violence will come to an end, but the father thought that it will come to an end and felt safe in today's world. We found that the mom had a lot more to say and believed that life in prison was the answer to a safer world. The dad approached the survey in a calmer way and thought that there needs to be more awareness and a better performing economy to reduce poverty which he think will reduce the levels of gender-based violence. It was interesting to see that the mom has more to say and you can see that she is more sensitive around this topic than the father. They both however mentioned that this problem is linked to poverty and drug and alcohol abuse in poorer areas and you could see the different insight between these adults and the school kids. We did expect this to be the outcome, however we thought that the dad would have more to say and know more about gender-based violence than he does.

Couple living in Dubai

The man and woman living in Dubai both felt safe in today's world. They both said that there is not enough long term awareness around this problem and the government are not doing enough to tackle the problem. They mentioned that alcohol abuse and poverty is a big problem in South Africa which is increasing gender based violence. It was interesting to see that both people feel safe where they are living and think that this problem can be fixed in South Africa.

We compared the results of the two adult women that live in South Africa and Dubai. We found that the woman living in Dubai feels safe in today's world and doesn't experience or hear about this problem often, whereas the woman living in Cape Town feels unsafe and scared and she hears about gender-based violence often in South Africa. It makes us feel sad because that is a pure example that our country is facing a huge problem of gender-based violence compared to other countries.

A big thing that stood out for us was that people identified that there is not enough awareness around gender-based violence and that there could be more done to help prevent it.

The Next Step

Following the analysis of our survey data, we felt that we had better insight into how various different groups were feeling about gender-based violence. We decided we wanted to explore our ideas a bit more because we had so much time and so much potential to expand our ideas. We considered that it would be very tough to implement a course at schools around Cape Town because it would be very hard to fit it in to their busy curricula's. We also wanted to come up with something bigger and better. We started to explore the possibilities of raising money that we could end up using to Action Break Silence to help them grow bigger and better. We thought about running a civvies day where we could collect donations that we would use to fund the organization, but we already knew that there were so many civvies days like this and that ours just would not help raise awareness and we did not find it unique.

We realized that the best places to raise awareness would be big events around the city and suddenly we had the idea of entering a team to cycle in the Argus. We got the idea from an organisation that does something similar that rides for skin cancer awareness. The team would wear a certain jersey that would raise awareness about what we were doing.



Figure 7- Argus Cycle Tour

(Cape Town Cycle Tour , 2018)

We decided to explore this idea a bit more so we contacted Ms Snyman to try have a chat with her. Mrs Snyman is involved with projects in Bishops concerning Gender-Based violence and gender equality around the school, and so we decided to pitch the idea to her to see what she thought. We eventually found a time to meet with her and we told her what we wanted to do and if she had any thoughts. She really like the idea but she thought we could do more. She told us about one of her projects which is giving out white ribbons that raise awareness around gender equality, and so we thought that we could do something like that on top of our main idea involving the Argus.

She liked our idea of running the course Action Breaks Silence at schools as well, and so she told us that we could possibly do something with that to.

Connor was talking to one of the student teachers in founders and he told him about what we were planning. He explained everything in detail and student teacher was very interested. He told Connor about one of his friends who created a team that takes part in events like the Argus and the Two Oceans Marathon. The student teacher was very interested and keen, he said he would be willing to help out when we implement our campaign. He also knows a lot of other people who could be interested, and he wants us to keep in touch with him if our campaign takes off.

Once we had put everything together and worked everything out, we were stuck on one thing, our name. We never thought something so small could make us think for hours. We started looking at using an acronym but we got stuck on certain words. We had come up with about four different names, but all of them are already existing organisations and campaigns. We wanted something short and punchy that would stick out and immediately tell people what we were doing. We found that there was no other organisations that used #NOW, and we thought it stuck out well. So we started looking at different acronyms but we just could not pull it together. So we decided to not use it as an acronym and just leave it how it is. We decided and stuck to the name,

#NOW: Join the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence

We then needed to create a logo that was punchy and creative. The goal that we were working with is gender-based violence, so we started putting our ideas on paper. We chose to have a fist in the logo because it really sticks out and has a connotation of strength and fight.



We also wanted to have the female symbol because it would show what we are working around at first look. We explored the possibilities and formed a basic idea.



Our 'Big Idea'

Our plan after we had come up with our name and logo.

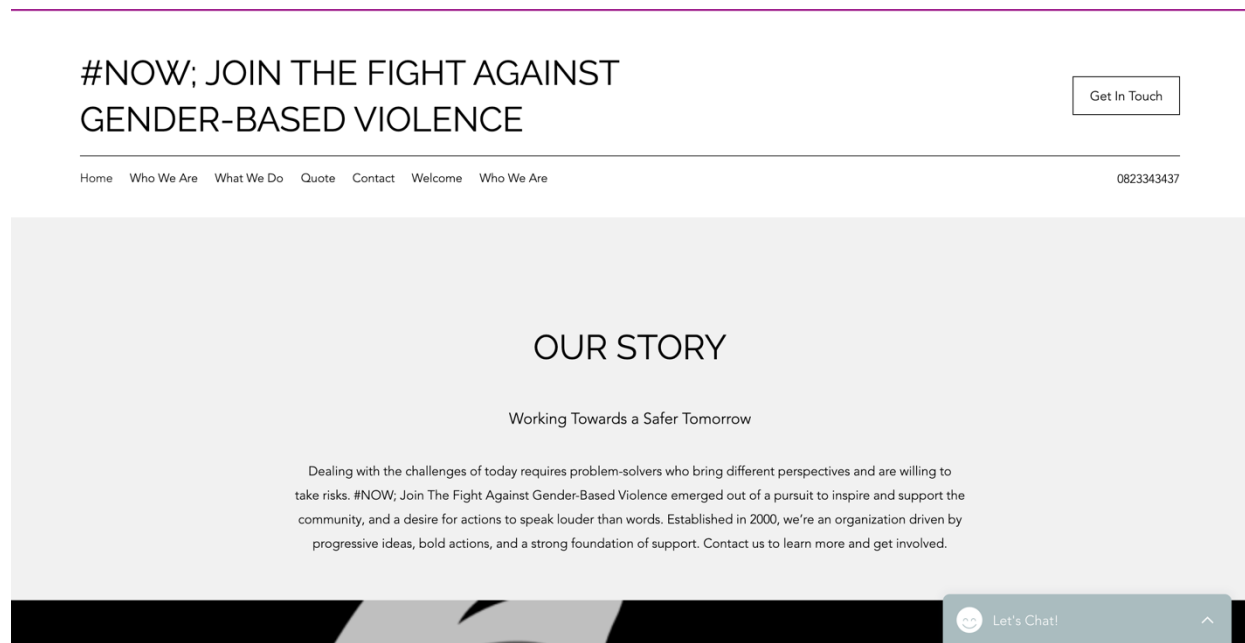


There are two parts that form part of our campaign, the first being stickers that we will make for cars with the goal of raising awareness and presenting our campaign name. The second is linked to the first which is creating cycling jerseys and entering a team into the Argus in the future. The sticker is linked to the jerseys because it spreads the word about our campaign. We are also making a website for people to learn more about what we are doing and who we are, and for them to contact us.

1. Creating stickers

The purpose of our stickers is to raise awareness for gender-based violence and for our campaign. The sticker consist of our logo and a brief description of what we are doing.

2. Website



<https://connortodd7.wixsite.com/website>

The theory behind our website is for it to be a platform for communication and for people to learn a bit more about what we are doing. The website has a platform for communication, our stickers, and our jersey design.

3. Creating cycling jerseys and team



Figure 8- The back of our jerseys



Figure 9- Front of jersey

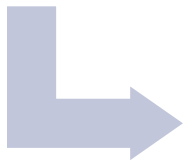
The idea of the jersey is to show people what we are riding for, so as to raise awareness for our campaign. There is a theory behind the colour, each colour represents something. The red represents violence and the pink represent women. The hidden message is that there is violence in our communities, hence the red dots within the pink base. The design will be carried out into other sporting wear if our campaign spreads to things like marathons. We designed the jersey on an American based website. <https://www.voler.com/>.

Action Going Forward

Action Chart going forward and our hopes.

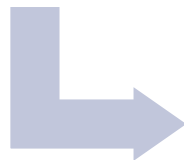
Stickers

- We want to have our stickers printed out and handed out by the 20th of November 2019



Website

- We want our website to grow bigger and expand so that we can attract more attention



Cycling Team

- We wish to have a team built and entered into the Argus by the end of December.

Another sustainable plan that we would like to implement in the future is introducing Self-Defence courses at different schools. Self-Defence course will help people prepare themselves if they get stuck in a situation that could involve gender-based violence.

We think our campaign will grow big in the future because it is easy to implement and the problem it is raising awareness around brings a lot of attention to many people.

Reflections

Trae Turner

The whole big ideas course has been a very wild ride. Overall it was a very useful experience to have. There were many points where I had no idea what I was doing but I figured something out and powered through. This second term has just been my team and I bouncing from one idea to another. Eventually we settled on one idea and committed to it. We have a lot of things planned down the line but those will have to wait. I feel that this course has given me the InSite into the problems of the world that I am going to need after I finish my schooling here. Right now my future is a little unclear and foggy but this is what I know about it. I am not going to become an incredible scientist that finds a cure for cancer, nor am I going to be the world's greatest activist that voices the problems and possible solutions of the world but I am going to be what I want to be and hopefully that makes a difference in the world.

Connor Todd

The big ideas course was very beneficial to me, I have learned many future skills that will help me throughout my time in school. During the big ideas course, there were many things I liked and didn't.

The journey from A to B ended up going from A to H. At the beginning of the course, our group was all organised and it seemed that we were in control. We wasted too much time with the first plan we had and it affected us. We didn't do enough brainstorming and so we had a very late change in plans. Our coach was going through a difficult time so we didn't get to see her often and so we fell a bit behind with our narrative and planning. When we got a new coach, things started flying. After our first meeting, we had already started to change ideas. I worried about our idea because it was not going to be implemented this year and only next. So we decided to do two things. We started forming our narrative and we had a lot of problems. We were feeling behind and so we needed to up our game. We realised that we weren't that far behind but the only problem is that we left our Action and implementing our course to a stage where it was too late. We rushed things a bit and had to leave out some parts. All in all, the skills that I learned are very valuable and I know they will help me in the future.

Aidan Lotter

I found the big ideas process really interesting and fun. When we started I didn't really know what idea I wanted to implement, but after all what happened in our community, I was interested on helping gender-based violence. I Felt that we didn't use our time very effectively in the library and I thought we could have done more. I have learned a lot of valuable lessons from this course that I know I will need in the future. I was happy with my group and I became much closer with them.

Our team members all have different strengths and interest which have made our team so constructive and special.

Trae Turner is the middle child in his family. He has a brother who has recently matriculated and a younger brother who is currently attending Bishops Prep. Trae is a very aggressive rugby player but also a very calm young man. He has an inherent passion for this project and the SDG that we are pursuing.

Trae is a very organised boy and loves being on top of things which is an amazing skill that has insured we are always ahead of things and never leave anything to the last minute.

Aidan Lotter is the only child in his family and also attended Bishops Prep. Aidan was born in Cape Town and has always loved being around people. One of his very useful qualities is his skills involving technology which has played a big role in supporting our team.

Connor Todd is also the middle child in his family with a younger brother in grade 8 and a sister entering her last year at Herschel. Connor was born in Singapore and moved to Cape Town in 2016. He attended Wet Pups and entered Bishops in grade 8 following his father's footsteps. Connor is the only border in our team which is clear to see by his leadership skills. Connor has made sure that we are always productive and are doing things correctly which is a very important skill that helped link our team.

Final Thoughts and Conclusion

Everyone is equal and have basic human rights, but when those rights are broken, lives are changed. Home should be a safe place, being out and about should be a safe place, schools and parties should be about learning and having fun. The problem we face is massive, violence is lurking and destroying lives and people are becoming scared. They are becoming scared of going to the post office, to work, and being at home. Nelson Mandela once said that we are stronger together, but now we have Actual action plans in the SDGs to create some change. It should never have gotten to that point.

There is only one way up from here, and we need to start climbing. We need to take a step back and strategies how to move forward. We as a team decided to focus on the Sustainable Development goal: Gender Equality. Africa has the worst rate of gender based violence, that includes our nation and community. We have heard and responded to problems involving gender based violence, but yet we still don't do enough. We need to start showing our awareness and concentration around the problem of gender based violence in our country. That is where our concentration has been as a group and what we are trying to plan steps in the SDGs to create some change – goals to try improve our world

When we examined this problem, we could see that people don't feel safe and that they don't think we can do anything to end this problem. We need to raise awareness of the effects on the victims, and empower change.

Throughout our journey, we learned a lot. We could clearly see that many know what is wrong with Gender-Based violence, but we still haven't seen change. We decided we needed to kick start something, and awareness is something that can expand and make a different. It was hard for us to get to our final plan, we kept changing and adding ideas because we could clearly see that there is so much to do. We focused on awareness and more specifically long term awareness. We needed to work around something that happens every day, and in our modern world, we knew that everyday there are cars on the road.

Putting a sticker on a car will spread awareness to other people on the road and the awareness can really expand. Having a team that rides in the Argus tour is a perfect example of long term awareness. Every year awareness will be spread through doing this. Riding for a cause like Gender-Based violence can really attract attention because it is something that is deeply involved with the problems we face in our country.

We need to have more organisations raising similar awareness and we need it now. We need things like courses that educate our youth, the future of our country, on the topic of Gender-Based violence. We need people to understand what it is and what the problems are. Self-defence courses will help people prepare themselves if they ever get stuck in a situation that could put them at risk of gender-based violence. If someone in a group of people is always stealing sweets, and everybody notices the problem and try find out who is doing it and realizes it is wrong, the person stealing the sweets will not continue doing it because they will realize that it is wrong and won't be the odd one out. The same concept applies for gender-based violence.

Our hope is that each year we can help raise awareness which can start to lead to change, and encourage people to join the fight to end gender-based violence. With regards to the sustainability of our project we think it is easily carried forward as the cycle tour happens each year and stickers on car can last a very long time. We were thinking of after the first cycle tour we could expand the cycle team and also have a stand at the finish to raise even more awareness and funds. There will also be people who can ride in the jersey on a daily basis and just that small action can be the start to something huge in ending gender-based violence. The self-defense classes are also a good way to carry the project going forward as every year there will be new students to teach. We need to take step back and plan how we begin to move forward together. It may seem hard, but as Nelson Mandela once said, 'It always seems impossible until done.'

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Addendum

Survey responses

My Gender:

male	3
Female	3
other or prefer not to say	0

What do you define gender-based violence as?

When a person thinks they have the authority to dominate or hurt another person because of their gender

Physical abuse of women by men

Violence directed at a specific gender defined group for no reason other than to exert power, violence of undue influence.

violence inflicted by men against women

What do you think the consequences of gender-based violence should be?

Death sentence/life sentence without probation (extreme cases)

It should be a criminal offence and the sanction linked to the extent of the violence

For violent gender based violence, like rape I would want castration. For wife beaters I would want imprisonment. For any act of violence towards a woman where there is a power powerless relationship - i would want severe sanction or imprisonment depending on the act.

jail-time, because this is an epidemic in SA and needs to be addressed with the utmost urgency

Are you aware of any organisations trying to tackle this problem, in SA or Overseas?

yes 3

no 3

If you answered yes above, please list those that come to mind?

International Alliance of woman

Me too

#metoo #IamNene

Do you ever feel unsafe in today's world?

Yes 3

No 3

Do you agree with the statement “all men are trash” from the #Menaretrash movement?

Yes 0

No 6

I'm not sure 0

Do you think that gender-based violence will come to an end?

Yes 1

No 3

Maybe 2

Where do you think gender-based violence mostly happens?

Value	Count
home	6
parties/clubs	5
Neighbourhoods	5
public areas, like the mall	1
schools and varsities and the workplace	1

Gender-based violence is on the increase in South Africa - why do you think this is the case?

prison sentences aren't harsh, and Poverty and stress caused by a poor economy along with an ineffective criminal justice system.

There is currently a systemic lack of leadership at all levels of society. Our President had to be forced to speak out against the onslaught of violence against and killing of mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, aunts across the age spectrum. Added to this we have extreme poverty and often alcohol abuse. Alcohol abuse can lead to violent behaviour against others. Poverty is not getting better, neither is alcohol abuse. In the latter two instances, we have to fix societal problems that can lead to lives where people don't place any value on one another, they have no hope for their own lives so they have no respect for others. At a school level and in the family respect for each other, and respect for woman needs to be discussed more fully. Open the conversation about what respect means. Does it mean laughing at people who don't conform to our norms? Is respect only to be one way? Must there be automatic respect for our elders? Is respect only always earned? Must leaders automatically be respected? Start with the conversation about respect for oneself and for one another. Because the economy is not growing, poverty is not being alleviated and women are the easy targets

What do you think will help decrease the rate of gender-based violence?

Harder prison sentences More effort from the police department Neighbourhoods watch Conferences to help people realize their actions and the problems around them

Education and greater awareness of the issue as well more effective criminal justice and a better performing economy to reduce levels of unemployment.

Much more severe penalties!

first we must address the underlying notion that women are inferior to men. (so education first) then we must stop the sexist jokes, then we address inequality into salaries, then we implement strict laws and impose very harsh penalties (jailtime, fines and community service) for transgressors