

BRAVE WOMEN

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE
IN THE 21ST CENTURY



EDITED BY
JULIA ZULVER & KIRAN STALLONE



Brave Women



A celebratory event at a girls' school in Daikundi Province, Afghanistan. Photo credit: Muzafar Ali, 2007

Julia Zulver • Kiran Stallone
Editors

Brave Women

Fighting for Justice in the 21st Century

palgrave
macmillan

Editors

Julia Zulver
Wallenberg Academy Fellow
Swedish Defence University
Stockholm, Sweden

Kiran Stallone
Independent Researcher
Bogotá, Colombia

ISBN 978-3-031-70701-8

ISBN 978-3-031-70702-5 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-70702-5>

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2025

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use. The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

If disposing of this product, please recycle the paper.

FOREWORD

Stories and solutions to violence, war, and oppression too frequently add women as an afterthought. If they are told at all, reports of women's experiences in these circumstances are usually those of suffering and silence, of pain and passivity. They focus on rape and abuse, on helplessness and victimhood. These stories are simultaneously important and inaccurate. They are important because acknowledging the crimes committed against us is not automatic. It was only 11 years ago when I stunned a room full of Libyan ministers and justices just by uttering the word rape. For them, rape was a crime committed by the victim, a burden to be carried in their silence and shame. We have fought and we will continue to fight for recognition of the violence committed against our bodies.

But the burden we bear goes beyond this violence. In the Liberian civil wars, it was women who had to keep the community alive: we hid our husbands and sons; we searched for food and water; we made sure life went on. When the time came, we also mobilized for peace. We sought peace despite the fact that we had one of the worst dictators in Africa who had created what could more or less be described as a police state. It was dangerous, but the worst that could have happened to us had already happened in war. So, we protested, we did sit ins, we organized sex strikes, we non-violently held peace negotiators hostage when talks were getting nowhere.

Accounts of violence and of war that omit these stories, or frame us as passive victims caught up in something we did not start and too

complicated for us to finish, are inaccurate and perpetuate the same marginalization that harms women both in peace and in war. This book is a platform for our truths and our actions in the pursuit of peace, equality, and rights, to be spoken and heard. A dozen stories line these pages, but there are millions globally. These are stories of our resilience, our resistance, our bravery.

It is important to remember that these are not new stories. While there is perhaps more recognition for historical women's activism in the West, such as the suffragette movement in the United Kingdom or the role of women in the civil rights movement in the United States, when people hear about women protesting in Africa, they seem to think that it is a new phenomenon. They do not remember the 1929 Aba Women's Riots in Nigeria, for example. Twenty-five thousand women protesting against increases in colonial taxes on the market, before the age of cell phones or social media. But it has been men who have written history, and so it is men who feature in it.

The twenty-first century is a crucial and turbulent moment for us, and we must not allow for our voices and our battles to be written out of it. There is conflict in the Middle East and in Europe, in Africa and in Asia. In Latin America, levels of violence make many places into zones of war. Women are mobilizing in all these locations to fight for our rights. In the United States and Europe, South Africa and Brazil, women continue to fight against domestic violence, for indigenous rights, and against racial injustice.

Our fight does not start and end in time with the gunfire. In Liberia, when we silenced the guns 20 years ago, we were expected to go back to housework. After the peace agreement was signed in 2003 a minister congratulated me, but said it was time for me to return home and take care of my children. I refused. An agreement is only the start of peace, and we had to make sure that every point was adhered to. Women's bravery and activism do not end with men signing a piece of paper, just like wars do not end with men signing a piece of paper. I still do not want to say that we have peace in Liberia because peace to me is not the absence of war, but the presence of dignifying conditions. We continue to fight to make the lives of women in Liberia better. The same can be said throughout the stories etched into this book, whether they hail from contexts of war, peace, or, frequently, the area in between.

What makes these chapters so important is that we have written them. We have written them in collaboration with our allies, but they tell our

stories, from our perspectives. It is often the case that women's activism flies under the radar, especially when the activists are also marginalized because of their poverty, race, sexuality, or ethnicity. Many of us do not have the tools or opportunities to share our stories beyond our immediate environment, but it is crucial that we do. Recognition of our struggles brings value, wider awareness, and legitimacy to what we do. Hopefully, it can also inspire women elsewhere to rise up and stand up for their rights. I remember going to Israel and Palestine to screen the documentary *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* about our movement in Liberia. It became part of the inspiration for Women Wage Peace, who have worked since 2014 to try to unify Israeli and Palestinian women to pursue peace together. Now, more than ever, inspiration and solidarity are needed in the Middle East.

We must be united in our battles. The relationships forged by Women Wage Peace between Jewish and Muslim women are the types of relationships required to progress our collective and contextual struggles. One of the main reasons for the success of our movement in Liberia—the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace—was the fact that it drew together Christian and Muslim women. We knew that all Liberian women were needed to find peace, no matter their religion, age, class, or tribe. And we know that all Liberian women now deserve better and equal lives. We used to say, “Does a bullet know a Christian from a Muslim?” It became one of our slogans. We appealed to our shared struggles and to our similarities, but we never went into communities to tell them how to carry out their activities. This is the kind of solidarity that we need in the twenty-first century, and this is the kind of solidarity represented in this book. Not only does each story reflect on how unity across difference was constructed in each context, but the chapters themselves, co-written by activists and academics, embody the solidarity we have forged with our allies from across the world, who support our activism and collaborate to find ways to further our objectives in intellectual, policy, and advocacy spheres.

Solidarity is a key component of our activism. Another is diversity. We must be united across difference, but we must also respect and be attuned to the difference. As women we share many similar struggles. But, as imparted in these chapters, many of us also experience marginalization because of our religion or race, our ethnicity or class. Think about Doña Ines, whose story is inscribed in Chap. 3 of this book. She faces discrimination on account of her indigeneity as well as her womanhood. Different contexts call for different strategies and different objectives. There are no one-size-fits-all solutions. Perhaps the most pivotal contribution of this

book lies in its attention to a wealth of contexts from the perspectives of those who live, unite, and advocate in each context. It celebrates diversity and solidarity, difference and shared struggle.

The lessons learned from this book should extend from the most local forms of women's activism to the highest reaches of policy-making. I have long criticized the copy-and-paste approach of UN peacebuilding. What this book shows is that contextual analysis is always required, but that women's activism and bravery is pervasive and holds incredible potential. Our job, as activists and academics, is to advocate for our rights, for gender justice, and for equality, and also to open spaces in which the potential of women and girls can be unlocked. There is no archetype for how this can be achieved. But the stories woven through these pages can inspire. In itself, this book creates a space, an opportunity to learn. By telling our stories, we can hope to motivate more brave women to fight for justice in the twenty-first century.

Leymah Gbowee

Founder of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa.

Co-Founder of the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace.

2011 Nobel Prize Laureate.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Over many years, we have found ourselves drawn to work with, write about, and support brave women. Where does this interest—this vocation—come from? Upon reflection, we are convinced that it comes from the exceptional examples of bravery—in its multiple and everyday forms—we were fortunate enough to learn from in our childhood homes. To our mothers Geraldine and Linda: we learned from you what it means to be brave women. Thank you for showing us every day what it means to confront and overcome adversity with grace, strength, and humor. And to our grandmothers—Margaret, Kathryn, Sally, and Eleanor—and all of the women in our families who came before them, creating a legacy of strength and inspiration.

We thank all the authors who contributed to this volume. First and foremost, we thank them for their patience; this project began during the pandemic and survived ongoing lockdowns, international moves, new jobs, new babies, the submission of PhDs, among many other important life changes. We extended the timeline many times, and we are grateful for the contributors' ongoing commitment to *Brave Women*. Beyond our own delays, we are aware that women activists, advocates, and academics have multiple responsibilities—to their communities, organizations, families, and jobs—that make demands on their time. Thank you for giving us some of this precious resource—we are certain that sharing your voices will inspire others around the world. A special thanks to Leymah Gbowee, who kindly agreed to participate, serving as a north star to set the tone of the volume.

We thank our editor Rebecca Longtin, who believed in this project and accepted our proposal—we are thrilled to have found a home with you at Palgrave. We are also grateful to the anonymous reviewers, whose generous words of support about our manuscript pushed the project forward.

Earlier iterations of this project included Hilary Matfess—thank you for your thought partnership, creativity, and honesty. During writing, we were lucky enough to have the support of amazing research assistants—Ila Zelmanovitz Axelrod and Angus Williams—who answered our late-night emails and never failed to provide exceptional inputs. Thank you to Cora Thomas for helping make connections with brave women.

Thank you to Leigh Payne, who has been an academic mentor, moral compass, and, importantly, friend, throughout our academic journeys. Our gratitude also extends to our colleagues at Ladysmith, where we know we can always go for feminist encouragement and friendship.

Importantly, thank you to our partners, Manuela Sáenz and Álvaro Garza Galván, for your love and support (and patience!) during our many academic and non-academic projects.

Finally, we are grateful for each other, as writing partners, academic co-conspirators, and best friends. In an industry that rewards competition and individualism, working together has become our secret weapon. Sharing work, credit, and responsibility is our small act of subversion, highlighting our belief that it's always best to find your academic coven (as Mirya Holman would say) and stick together. Thank you also to our third coven member—Samuel Ritholtz—for your friendship and for always standing by us.

Julia's work on this book was funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement No. 838513 and the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation.

CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
	Kiran Stallone and Julia Zulver	
2	Silences That Speak: Deciphering the Unsaid While Protecting Women in Colombia	11
	Yirley Velazco and Kiran Stallone	
3	Inés Fernández and the Me'phaa Ambassadors in Guerrero, Mexico: As Related to Julia Zulver by Inés Fernández and the Ambassadors	23
	Inés Fernández and Julia Zulver	
4	Ancestrality and the Fight for the Right to Self-Representation: The Political Struggle of Enslaved People's Great-Granddaughters in Brazil	37
	Ivone de Mattos Bernardo, Malu A. C. Gatto, and Debora Thome	
5	"My biggest achievement...was to be myself." Trans Activism in Peru	59
	Ana Flavia Chávez Pedraza and Janice Gallagher	

6	Practices of Love and Care in the Women's Advocacy Network, Northern Uganda	71
	Fatuma Abiya and Erin Baines	
7	Feminist Activism in Exile: Burundi's <i>Mouvement Inamahoro</i>	93
	Marie Louise Baricako and Miriam J. Anderson	
8	The Politics of Care in the Fight Against Domestic Violence: Community-Coordinated Safety and Collective Care in South Africa	109
	Tarisai Mchuchu-MacMillan and Emma Louise Backe	
9	Transformative Activism: Women's Peace Efforts Within Conflict-Affected Populations in Georgia	127
	Ekaterine Gamakharia and Magda Cárdenas	
10	"I'd rather create my own table than sit where I am not wanted." A Conversation Between Stella Naw and Jenny Hedström About Myanmar	143
	Stella Naw and Jenny Hedström	
11	Pretty Purposed: A Social Justice Partnership for Black Girls in Virginia, United States	163
	Nishaun T. Battle and Bianca Myrick	
12	Conclusion: Brave Women in Afghanistan and Beyond	177
	Farkhondeh Akbari, Kiran Stallone, and Julia Zulver	
	Index	187

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Fatuma Abiya holds a Bachelor's of Law from Ugandan Christian University and set to begin a graduate degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She is a women's rights advocate and member of the Youth Advocacy Network-Uganda who advocate for children born of sexual violence during wartime. She is an intern with the Transformative Memory International Network, youth volunteer for the Women's Advocacy Network, winner of the Research-Network for Women, Peace and Security's Women's Rights Activist award (2022), and survivor of the conflict in northern Uganda.

Farkhondeh Akbari is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Monash University where she researches inclusive peace, diplomacy of non-state armed actors, feminist foreign policy and the women, peace, and security agenda. She has recently written on diplomatic engagements and the Taliban's gender-apartheid regime in Afghanistan. Farkhondeh completed her PhD in diplomatic studies at the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. Her thesis examined the required characteristics for non-state armed actors to engage in meaningful diplomacy and looked at the cases of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. She has work experience at the Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and the Afghanistan Independent Directorate of Local Governance in Kabul. Farkhondeh leads a grassroots non-for-profit NGO in Afghanistan taking a bottom-up approach to development and peacebuilding in Afghanistan, focusing on

women's empowerment. She is also an activist, using her scholarly research to advocate for women's rights and the rights of marginalized ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

Miriam J. Anderson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Toronto Metropolitan University and Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Women, Peace and Security, LSE. She researches non-state actors and international security, specializing on women's participation in peace processes and in post-peace accord politics. Anderson has authored two books: *Windows of Opportunity: How Women Seize Peace Negotiations* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and *Transnational Actors in War and Peace: Militants, Activists, and Corporations in World Politics* (Georgetown University Press, 2017). Her work has also been published in *International Studies Review*, *Global Studies Quarterly*, *Politics & Gender*, and *International Negotiation* as well as in various edited volumes. From 1999 to 2002, she served as Human Rights Monitor for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to the Republic of Croatia. Dr. Anderson holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

Emma Louise Backe is a PhD candidate at the George Washington University (GW) in affiliation with the University of Cape Town. She also holds a Master's in Medical Anthropology and Global Gender Policy from GW and a BA in Anthropology from Vassar College. Emma's dissertation research focuses on the politics of crisis and care for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Cape Town, South Africa, in particular what dynamics of care, healing, and recovery look like through a survivor-centered, trauma-informed lens. Emma's work is informed by feminist, activist medical anthropology, with a focus on mental health, gender-based violence, and care assemblages. Her work has been published in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Feminist Anthropology*, *Violence Against Women*, and *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* and is supported by the Wenner Gren Foundation, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She's also served as a rape crisis advocate, community educator, and policy activist around gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and institutional accountability to and for survivors within Washington, DC, through her work with Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS), DC Rape Crisis Center and Peace Corps.

Erin Baines is an Associate Professor at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on the transformative possibilities of stories and storytelling in and after war, and the practices and politics of social repair. She is author of *Vulnerable Bodies: Gender, the UN, and the Global Refugee Crisis* (Ashgate, 2017) and *Buried in the Heart: Complex Victimhood and the war in northern Uganda* (Cambridge, 2017). Erin is a co-principal investigator of the Transformative Memory International Network, an interdisciplinary space for graduate students, scholars, activists, and artists to exchange, create, and challenge hegemonic, normative approaches to memory in the aftermaths of mass political violence.

Marie Louise Baricako is the President of the transnational Burundian feminist organization, Mouvement Inamahoro: Women and Girls for Peace and Security. She has held leadership roles in organizations and networks concerned with peace and security, human rights, women's rights, and leadership focused on Africa and on Burundi, in particular. These organizations include FEMWISE Africa (AU Women's Mediating Network), the African Women's Leaders Network (AWLN), the International Leadership Foundation (ILF), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), the Burundi Action Group (BAG), an initiative of Burundian, regional and international NGOs that advocate for peace, security, and human rights in Burundi. She played an active role in the African women engagement in Durban that was instrumental in the African Union's adoption of the Gender-parity principle in 2002 as well as the African Union Heads of State and Government Adoption of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa in 2004. She supported Burundian women peace activists to ensure they had a voice in the 1998–2000 Arusha peace negotiations. Marie Louise Baricako contributed to support actively, as Chair of the Board of FAS, the beginnings of the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MAROWPNET) in 2001 when the region of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinée was in turmoil. She also played a crucial role in the operationalization of the Women Situation Room during the Senegalese Elections in 2012, when electoral violence was threatening to break. Baricako holds a PhD in English literature and was Head of English Department at the University of Burundi.

Nishaun T. Battle is the author of *Black Girlhood, Punishment, and Resistance: Reimagining Justice for Black Girls in Virginia*, by Routledge

Publishing. She is an Associate Professor at Virginia State University. Nishaun is the Principal Investigator of the STOP School Violence grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. She has written extensively on Black Girlhood, with her most recent article published in 2021, entitled “Black Girls and the Beauty Salon: Fostering a Safe Space for Collective Self-Care” in the journal *Gender & Society*. Additional academic achievements include being accepted into the first cohort of the Mellon Fellow funded grant, “Democratizing Knowledge” and a participant of the Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods Institute at the University of Maryland-College Park, and currently a consultant for the Howard University Social Justice consortium funded by the Mellon Foundation. Dr. Battle is a Self-Care coach and Wellness consultant, who helps other academics create their own unique self-care routines and she also hosts self-care workshops. Additionally, Dr. Battle helps educators who have social justice and wellness-based research, gain clarity on their ideas by merging their research, wellness, and unique skillset, and experience to help others in their communities and society. Dr. Battle provides mentorship and mentorship training with organizations centering social justice, leadership development, and holistic wellness for Black girls and girls of color in the surrounding Richmond, and Petersburg, Virginia areas, is a board of Directors member for a youth-based non-profit organization for young girls, Pretty Purposed, and is a consultant for MENTOR Virginia, a nationwide mentoring program that provides free technical assistance to youth-based non-profit organizations based in Virginia.

Magda Cárdenas is an international consultant and researcher on women and peacebuilding. She holds a PhD in Political Science from Umeå University. Her research focuses on women’s role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in different conflict settings, including Georgia, Myanmar, and Colombia. Her works have been published in the *Journal of Peace Research*, *Women’s Studies International Forum*, *Civil Wars*, *European Journal of Politics and Gender*. Magda has also been consultant for UN Women on the themes of women’s participation in peace efforts, mediation, and women’s mobilization in non-violent movements. Cárdenas worked with the Colombian government for seven years as an advisor for justice and gender issues.

Ivone de Mattos Bernardo, a seasoned social worker, has dedicated her career to championing human rights, notably within Quilombola

communities. Serving on the board of ACQUILERJ (Association of Quilombola Communities of the State of Rio de Janeiro) and CEDINE (State Council for the Rights of Black People) from 2009 to 2021 and 2010 to 2020, respectively, she leads as Coordinator at CONAQ (National Coordination of Quilombola Articulation). Ivone's impactful journey includes a pivotal role as Coordinator of Municipal Policies for Racial Equality in Magé-RJ from 2012 to 2018. There, she crafted and implemented policies across various sectors, fostering partnerships with government bodies and civil society to drive affirmative action. In her current capacities, as CONAQ Coordinator, she continues to advocate for public policies, actively engaging with social movements to ensure the promotion and protection of rights.

Inés Fernández is an Indigenous Me'phaa woman from Guerrero, Mexico. Originally from a rural, mountainous community, she was attacked by Mexican soldiers in 2002. When she reported the case to local authorities, she was called a liar, and her case was not properly handled. With the support of a local human rights organization, she took her case to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, which eventually passed it to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In 2010, the Court ruled that the Mexican State was guilty of violating Inés' rights. In 2022, Inés and a group of other women from her community opened a community center where other Indigenous women suffering gender-based violence can access psychological and legal support in their own language.

Janice Gallagher is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Newark. Her research addresses how an active civil society affects the provision of justice and the rule of law. Departing from institutional explanations of judicial change, her work emphasizes the societal embeddedness of judicial actors. She examines the micro-processes of how organized citizens matter in determining judicial outcomes, bringing activists and advocates into the picture as agenda setters and incentivizers for judicial accountability and human rights compliance. Her first book, *Bootstrap Justice: The Search for Mexico's Disappeared* (2023, Oxford University Press), has won multiple prizes, including APSA's award for the best Human Rights-themed book (2024), and LASA's Mexico Section best social science book (2024). Prior to joining Rutgers, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in

Mexico and Colombia, and previously worked as a human rights accompanier in Colombia. She received her PhD from the Department of Government at Cornell, and an MA in Teaching from Brown University.

Ekaterine Gamakharia is the Head of Women Fund Sukhumi and has more than 20 years of experience working on gender equality, women, peace, and security in Georgia with non-governmental and international organizations. As an advocacy manager and researcher at her organization, she has led policy advocacy on gender-specific human security needs of the IDPs and conflict-affected women living close to the Administrative Boundary Line with Abkhazia and other regions of Western Georgia. She has authored several policy papers and analyses, which were further used as an evidence-based information for advocacy with government officials at the local, national, and international levels. Ekaterine has been actively involved in different dialogue and forums with conflict-divided societies from Abkhazia and South Ossetia and is dedicated to peace processes and conflict transformation in Georgia.

Malu A. C. Gatto is an Associate Professor of Latin American Politics at the Institute of the Americas at University College London (UCL). She was previously a Visiting Fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame, a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, and a post-doctoral researcher (Oberassistentin) at the Department of Political Science of the University of Zurich. Malu's work explores questions about political behavior, representation, policy-making, and gender and politics with a regional focus on Latin America, especially Brazil. Her work research has been published in *Comparative Political Studies*, the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Party Politics*, *Democratization*, and *Politics & Gender*, among others. She has completed her doctoral studies at the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford (DPhil, 2016). She also holds an MSc in Politics Research (2012) from Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford, and a BA (2011) from Barnard College, Columbia University.

Leymah Gbowee is a Liberian peace activist and the winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for her work on protecting the rights of women and girls in conflict and for ensuring that women are able to participate in peacebuilding processes. Gbowee led the non-violent Women of Liberia

Mass Action for Peace movement that was key in ending Liberia's civil war in 2003.

Jenny Hedström is an Associate Professor in War Studies at the Swedish Defence University. Her research concerns the relationship between households, gender, and warfare; gender, transitions, and peacebuilding; women's activism and resistance; and ethics and methods when researching war, with a focus on civil wars in Myanmar.

Tarisai Mchuchu-MacMillan is an African-feminist, advocate, and crime- and violence-prevention specialist focussed on violence against women and violence against children. Tarisai is the Executive Director of MOSAIC Training Services and Healing Centre for Women, an NPO that advocates for preventive laws and policies to be advanced to effectively reduce gender-based violence, in particular domestic, sexual, and intimate partner violence. Tarisai has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work such as her selection as a finalist in the 2011 Shoprite Checkers Women of the Year Good Neighbours Against Crime. She was listed as one of the Mail and Guardian 200 Young South Africans (you should have lunch with) and the Mail and Guardian Prominent Women in 2011. Tarisai was as a recipient of the 2012 Nedbank's Regional Business Women Achiever Award for Social Entrepreneurship. She also was the national delegate to the 2014 U.S. Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program on Youth and Community Conflict Resolution. In 2016, she was the Vital Voices South African Ambassador in the Global Freedom Exchange programme ensuring that women and children's rights are upheld and received extensive training on human trafficking, gender-based violence, and prevention programming. She received the Black Management Forum's 2019 award for 'Most Progressive Young Professional'. Tarisai is a Mandela Washington Fellow, 2022. Tarisai is now the Vital Voices Flag Bearer for Cape Town, a mentorship programme for women empowerment held annually on International Women's Day. She has also participated in public speaking events such as the TEDxUCT conference with her talk, "Strong Communities, Fewer Criminals." Tarisai designed the SAFE-PR programme currently being piloted by MOSAIC, which is the main subject of the chapter. The SAFE-PR project is focussed on ensuring that women's rights to safety in relationships, homes and communities is advanced by strengthening duty bearers and first responders who make up the security, justice, and psychosocial support services