

EmpowerHer: 8 849 Bras for Humanity Exhibition at Constitution Hill

The Impilo Collection Foundation made history as we officially opened its landmark *EmpowerHer: 8 849 Bras for Humanity Exhibition at Constitution Hill*, a powerful response to what President Cyril Ramaphosa had declared a national crisis – GBV national crisis.

The Cause and Effect

On 20 November 2025, the President stated that gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide were South Africa's "second pandemic", a national disaster demanding urgent and collective action.

The exhibition was launched on 26 November and ran daily until 10 December 2025 as part of 16 Days of Activism.



South Africa continues to face one of the highest rates of GBV globally. According to the South African Medical Research Council, one in three women will experience physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. Against this backdrop, the installation stood as a public declaration of resistance. Each of the 8 849 bras - one for every metre of Mount Everest - represents a life, a story and a stand against violence.

The movement began during a sanitary-pad distribution when a young girl whispered, "Please bring me a bra next time."

That moment stayed with Impilo Collection Foundation founder, Angela Yeung, who later carried a bra to the summit of Mount Everest, raising it as a flag of dignity for survivors who often go unheard.

“Every metre I climbed became a voice. This installation is those voices rising together,” Yeung said at the opening.



Anchored in Section 12(1)(c) of the Constitution: *“Everyone has the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources,”* the installation turns a site once used to silence people into a living monument for justice, healing and human dignity.

The exhibition launched with a powerful panel discussion moderated by Samm Marshall, Managing Editor of Social TV. The four panellists were Jogini Packery, Counselling Psychologist and Head of Campus at SACAP Johannesburg. Jenna Bayer, human rights defender and representative of LGBTQIA+. Dr Tumi Mashego, Clinical & sports psychologist, and Ricardo Enrico Vierra, Steel artist and GBV survivor.





2026 “Carriers of Courage” nationwide roadshow

Following its Johannesburg run, the exhibition will travel to all nine provinces in 2026 under the theme “Carriers of Courage.”

As the President has urged the nation to confront GBV with urgency and collective responsibility, the Impilo Collection Foundation is calling on corporate South Africa to play an active role in the next phase of this movement. In 2026, the installation will travel across all nine provinces as part of a nationwide roadshow, culminating in the distribution of bras and dignity packs to women and girls in communities where support is needed most.



The Foundation also released their official anthem “*We Climb Together*” on Spotify, and is also available on Apple Music:

https://open.spotify.com/album/4gXO2zzy1szugSfWFdqny?si=CxQgrK73Qb6Hcwgr_2N33Q

She climbs from silence into song,

The road was heavy, the nights were long.

But through the dark her spirit learns,

Every fall becomes a turn...

We climb together, hand in hand,
Across the sky, across the land.
Through every storm, through every pain,
We rise as one — again, again

Siyavuka, siyakhanya!

“We rise, we shine!”

Ubuntu buyaphila!

Impilo, impilo, impilo!

Siyavuka, siyakhanya!

Ubuntu buyaphila!

Impilo, impilo, impilo!

He knows that strength is more than might,
It's choosing peace, not choosing fight.
To stand in truth, to show you care,
To lift the world by how you share.

We climb together, hand in hand,
Across the sky, across the land.
Through every storm, through every pain,
We rise as one — again, again

Siyavuka, siyakhanya!

“We rise, we shine!”

Ubuntu buyaphila!

Impilo, impilo, impilo!

Siyavuka, siyakhanya!

“We rise, we shine!”

