

Saartjie Baartman Entrepreneurs Fundraiser

in partnership with Blocktober – October 2025

Join us in October 2025 to support victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV) through solidarity, exercise, donations and awareness raising

What is the Saartjie Baartman Centre?

- The **Saartjie Baartman Centre (SBC) for Women and Children**, located in Manenberg Cape Town since 1999, manages a 24-hour crisis response programme, residential shelter / housing for abused women and children, psycho-social support including children's counselling, a substance abuse programme, accredited job-skills training and access to entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Since 1999, SBC has supported over 270,000 women and child survivors of Gender Based Violence. The Centre reaches millions in its outreach and advocacy work aimed at fostering safer, more informed communities.
- One of the key challenges faced by women, when they return home, is to be financially independent.



The Saartjie Baartman Entrepreneurial Hub, supported by the Kolisi Foundation sows POWER2YOU safety bags, designs bespoke beaded bracelets, sold via Black Betty, a South African based jewellery and piercing studio, and provides diverse Skills Training. Other organisations that offer job placements include the retail stores Spar and Woolworths.

- Much more is needed.
- Saartjie Baartman will be able to scale up entrepreneurial opportunities for women by employing a full time Entrepreneur Manager.
- Click [here](#) for more information on the Saartjie Baartman Entrepreneurial Hub.



What is Blocktober?

- Blocktober is a humble but determined Cape Town-based movement of people against gender-based violence (GBV), started in 2020. We come together every October to walk, run or ride to the King's Blockhouse on the slopes of Table Mountain, or to swim, as an act of slow-burn solidarity with survivors of GBV.
- People living elsewhere in the world also join, wherever they are, by doing local, equivalent ascents (approximately 300m ascent over 7.5km or by swimming 31 minutes or laps). Over past Octobers the Blocktober founder cyclists rode 500m ascents over 20 km for 31 days!
- For more info on Blocktober, click [here](#).

Walk, run or ride to the King's Blockhouse

on the slopes of Table Mountain or do your local equivalent

- Join the **daily walk which will start each day in October** from the end of Chelmsford Road in Vredehoek to the Blockhouse – use this [Pin](#). Monday to Wednesday and Saturday we will start at 16.30pm returning by no later than 19.00pm. Thursday and Friday we will start at 6am returning no later than 8.30am. Sunday we start at 8am. Check on the WhatsApp group if any changes have been made.
- Please join the [Walkers' Roster](#) so that our daily walkers are supported. As you know, it is best to walk in a group on Table Mountain.
- Join the **Tuesday Blockhouse time trial runners and cyclists during October** (7th, 14th, 21st and 28th) who start at 5.40pm from the end of Chelmsford Road in Vredehoek to the Blockhouse and back. For more information contact Paul Jacobs on 0837083678 or Paul72jacobs@gmail.com.
- Join the special **Sunday Solidarity hikes with the survivors of GBV** which occur on the Sundays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th October. Details will be provided on the Blocktober WhatsApp group.
- Walk, run, or ride any day or each day in October at a time that suits you.



- Join the [WhatsApp Group](#) for information and sharing. Also post your pics there.
- **Local equivalent:** If you are unable to join us on walks, runs or cycles to the Blockhouse, do a local equivalent where it is convenient for you, or trying to match the equivalent of 300m ascent over 7.5km. Or swim 31 minutes or 31 laps (775m).



If you wish to report an incident of abuse in RSA, call the Saartjie Baartman's WhatsApp number 076 470 9314; or Rape Crisis: 021 4479762 or Lifeline: 0800 150 150 or Childline: 0800 05 55 55 (24h) or the National Shelter Movement Helpline: 0800 001 005

Donate to support the Saartjie Baartman Entrepreneurs Fundraiser

- [Donate towards the cause](#) of raising the salary for a Saartjie Baartman Entrepreneur Manager who will be employed by the Centre to drive the scaling up of their work to provide women with economic empowerment opportunities.
- Our target is R450 000 for an Entrepreneur Manager at the Saartjie Baartman Centre and to cover ancillary costs for the Blocktober CHIPS community gym project. To date, R167 000 has been raised (R97 000 via Back-a-Buddy; the balance donated directly to SBC). That means we need to raise R283 000 this year. Please help us reach it.
- If you are donating from a South African account you can ask for a **donations tax certificate** by

emailing Saartjie Baartman Centre at finance@womenscentre.co.za. **Ensure you use your name and surname on Back-a-Buddy** so the Centre can verify your donation.

- If you prefer to donate directly to the Saartjie Baartman Centre please (a) email finance@womenscentre.co.za for the account details; (b) use "Blocktober" and your surname in your payment reference; and (c) send proof of payment also to blocktober2025@gmail.com.
- Saartjie Baartman Centre Registered NPO: 014-121. Approved PBO: 930 001 815

Participate and be Informed

- Join the Blocktober [WhatsApp Group](#).
- Please [Donate](#).
- [Join walks any Oct day](#), and complete the roster (more people increase safety)
- Visit the [Saartjie Baartman website](#).
- Visit the [Blocktober website](#).
- If you want to talk to someone about Blocktober call: Jean du Plessis on +27 82 317 7148
- Subscribe to the [October Steps-for-Saartjie Blog](#).
- Get [Strava](#) to record your Blocktober activities.



Sunday Solidarity Walk

The Hard Truth

- One in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.
- An average of 146 sexual offence cases are reported daily in SA, most of these being rape.



- Only about 14% of reported cases go to trial and of these, 7% are successful.
- GBV in SA is 5 times higher than the global average.
- Saartjie Baartman (c. 1789 – 1815) was a [Khoekhoe](#) woman who was exhibited as a [freak show](#) attraction in 19th-century Europe under the name Hottentot Venus, a name that was later attributed to at least one other woman similarly exhibited. Saartjie's remains were repatriated to SA in 2002 for a proper burial. Today she is a symbol of resilience and many honour her memory - thus the Saartjie Baartman Centre adopted her name