
Anna Jaffe-Desnick

South African Women Unite: *Gender Rights Lobbying and Advocacy*

Project Goals

- ◆ Contribute to a reduction of domestic violence in South Africa by increasing women's understanding of their rights and empowering them to access social and political supports
- ◆ Inform women of strategies to address domestic violence and decry domestic abuse as a violation of women's human rights
- ◆ Target poor communities and groups to build the advocacy and lobbying capacity of their organizations

Personal Goals

- ◆ Exposure to and experiential learning around post-apartheid coexistence issues, specifically gender issues
- ◆ Constructive action and relationship-building on a personal level
- ◆ Commitment to an organization in the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector and to my assigned body of work

Activities

- ◆ Research and compile database details for GAP's Domestic Violence Project resources
- ◆ Evaluate the Domestic Violence Project's Training for Gender Advocacy and Lobbying
- ◆ Attend GAP project trainings

Key Dilemmas

- ◆ How can I maximize my exposure to the grassroots level in an office building workplace?
- ◆ How can South Africa's racial groups heal injustice and work toward reconciliation if the society fails to truly honor and compensate post-trauma realities? How can an atmosphere be created in which embittered and misunderstood groups might interact?
- ◆ How can I, informed and with the least harm to others, use my privilege and consumer capabilities?



Left: Anna's desk was an excellent location for meeting and talking with other GAP employees. GAP's secretary, Bukelwa, shared many things about her life as a black woman living in a Capetonian township. Above: One of many friends who visited Anna's home.

SOUTH AFRICA

Important Learning

- ◆ South Africa's phenomenal gender-sensitive policies are the product of committed and educated women as central players lobbying for advocacy and equality, and for reinforcing the potential of women to establish grassroots efforts to change society.
- ◆ The majority of South Africans remain unreconciled to the trauma of apartheid. Deprivation, trauma, and anger remain fueled by pervasive economic and emotional poverty.
- ◆ The people of South Africa and I, personally, are in the process of internal and external transformation in the sense of personal examination and continued commitment to political and social change.



Aliya, Yaser, and Anna traveled together to attend events and to visit friends in the townships. The mural behind them displayed an important message about community and AIDS: "My friend with AIDS is still my friend."



Above: Previous attendees of GAP's workshops provided a primary source for evaluating the training. The focus group session (above) provided one source of information. Right: GAP publishes a monthly newsletter detailing national and local development relevant to its work. These newsletters are a valuable resource for education and for ensuring the visibility of GAP's process.

GAP TALK
 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS AGAINST THE LAW

Putting women's health on the calendar

ikamva labantu
 THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION
 A Multiplication of Organisations
 Building the Southern Future

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES...