TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE LAW PROTECT WOMEN IN TRANSPORT

A Presentation by Bosa Sebele

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She served as the Chairperson of the SRHR Africa Trust (SAT) Youth Hub, working on advocacy around Child Marriages and Age of Consent laws. She now sits on the SRHR Africa Trust Country Advisory Committee for Botswana.

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Her area of work is on Gender Justice, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Peace and Security issues, as well as Human Migration and Governance.
We are from patriarchal societies that thrive on using power dynamics on women. We are often deemed as inferior while men are superior, and because of this notion that we are inferior men often believe that they have a say and control over our bodies and that is why we have seen campaigns all over the region such as #MyBodyMyChoice and our very own Hashtag in Botswana, #IWearWhatIWant that emanated from an incident in 2017 were a woman was stripped naked at the Bus Rank and insults were hauled at her. This was not the first incident, however, it is the incident that sparked the flame. People led by Civil Society Organisations took to the streets and went to the Bus Rank with placards and spoke against the Rape Culture in the country. At the grassroots and societal level, such a protest has had the power to inform right from wrong, that men and women have no say in what a woman wears, and therefore insulting, battering and stripping someone naked is stripping on of their bodily integrity and autonomy.

The State in response to this occurrence, condemned the actions of the individuals and they were taken in to police custody, however that was it.
SOLUTIONS

One of the challenges we face is that our laws do not speak to the protection of women in such instances. Our Constitution provides for the right to dignity and non-discrimination. However, one of the fundamental changes we need to see is the inclusion of second and third generation rights in our Constitutions’ that explicitly protect women from violence of this nature, because essentially, this is violence, therefore States cannot be complacent in not providing protection of women in Transport.

PROGRESSING AFRICA AND PROTECTING WOMEN. WHAT’S NEXT?

WHERE ARE THE GAPS IN PROTECTING WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL HARRASMENT?

WHAT CAN STATES DO? - STATE OBLIGATIONS.

NEED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEWS- 2ND AND 3RD GENERATIONAL RIGHTS.
WHAT WILL YOU DO TO MAKE A CHANGE?