

# SHE WRITERS

5TH  
ISSUE

MAGAZINE

A Full  
Circle  
Moment:

HER VOICE IN  
BLOOM

BEYOND THE  
HUSTLE

UNSUNG HEROES

**She**  
**Writers**

10/10/2025

**ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE**

[www.shewriters.com](http://www.shewriters.com)

## **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

SHAMISO PATIENCE

## **FOUNDERS**

SYMPATHY MANGWENYA

SHAMISO PATIENCE

## **EDITORIAL & DESIGN**

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SARAH MEMORY

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JEZ MUTEZO

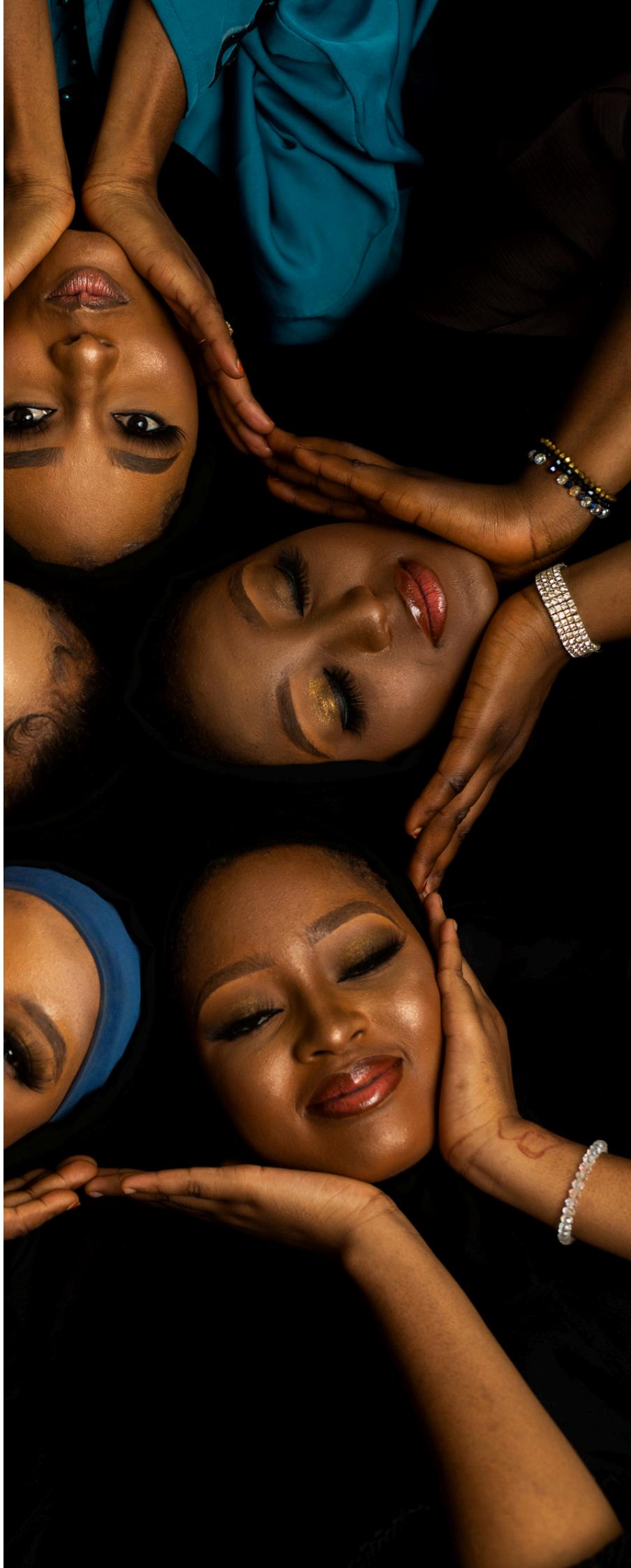
RUTENDO MUGADZA

ADELAIDE GANYANI

WAYNE CHIRIPANYANGA

SHARON MUNZARA

CRYSTABEL CHIKAYI



# EDITOR'S NOTE

What a full circle moment.

When She Writers Magazine was born a year ago, it sparked a movement. Today, we celebrate our first anniversary.

I am filled with gratitude for the support and encouragement we have received from our contributors, partners, and readers. Together, we have witnessed the remarkable growth of our magazine, a testament to the power of women's voices and storytelling.

What began as a simple brainstorming and catching-up session between the founder of Women Writers Support Network Africa and me soon grew into strategy sessions for a new magazine. Five issues in, we have built a haven of words.

In just one year, we have seen women grow from writing quietly in their diaries, carrying untold stories, to boldly sharing their voices with the world through She Writers Magazine. Each issue has reminded us of the power of what happens when women are given the chance to speak: their voices bloom.

Among our most significant accomplishments is the growth of She Writers Magazine into various chapters, including She Writers Magazine Zimbabwe and She Writers Magazine Malawi, with more to come. Each chapter carries its own heartbeat, yet together they form one movement: a diverse community of women everywhere stepping into courage and visibility.

It couldn't be more fitting that our September issue carries the theme Her Voice in Bloom. This is exactly what we are witnessing: voices once hidden now unfolding into strength, colour, and community.



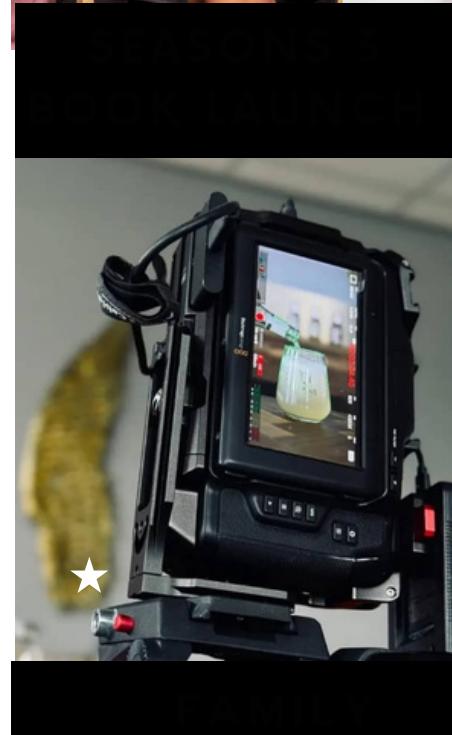
To every writer who has entrusted us with their words, every reader who carried those words further, and every supporter who believed in the power of women's voices, thank you. You are part of this full-circle moment.

*Shamigo Patience*  
Editor-in-Chief, She Writers Magazine

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# IN THIS ISSUE:

## YOU'LL FIND



# CONTRIBUTORS



SYMPATHY MANGWENYA

**TV Presenter | Ghostwriter | Entrepreneur | Founder of Women Writers Support Network – Africa**

**Sympathy Mangwenya** is a dynamic TV presenter, renowned ghostwriter, and entrepreneur passionate about human development, branding, and the arts. As the founder of the **Women Writers Support Network – Africa**, she has dedicated herself to helping others craft and share their authentic stories.

With extensive experience in the media industry, Sympathy is a sought-after speaker and moderator, having hosted global events as an MC and expert speaker in her areas of expertise. She is a published author and has worked with numerous individuals and organisations to bring their stories to life, including writing for **My Afrika Magazine**, **Daily News**, and **World Pulse**.

A multi-award-winning professional, Sympathy values hard work, honesty, and family, and believes in the power of collaboration to bring about lasting change. Through her organisation, she has helped many people write and share their own stories, making a lasting impact on both individuals and communities.

For inquiries or collaborations, Sympathy can be reached at:  
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**Instagram**  
**Facebook**



SHAMISO PATIENCE

**Creative Strategist | Virtual Assistant | Digital Creator | Founder - Reranai Consultancy | Editor in Chief- She Writers Magazine**

**Shamiso Patience** is a creative strategist, virtual assistant, and digital creator passionate about helping businesses and creatives amplify their presence through storytelling, strategy, and digital support. As the founder of **Reranai Consultancy**, she guides brands in finding their voice, establishing their digital presence, and gaining the visibility they deserve.

As Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief of **She Writers Magazine**, Shamiso is dedicated to amplifying women's voices and creating platforms where their stories can be shared and celebrated. She is also the brains behind **Forever Becoming**, a reflective space where she shares insights on growth, transformation, and creativity.

With a strong commitment to authenticity and impact, Shamiso blends creativity with strategy to help individuals and businesses connect, communicate, and grow in ways that feel true to who they are. She values hard work, honesty, and progress—believing that meaningful growth is always more important than perfection.

For inquiries and collaborations, Shamiso Patience can be reached at:  
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**Reranai Consultancy**  
**Shamiso Patience**



RUTENDO P. MUGADZA

A mother, writer & believer.

Rutendo is a published author and screenwriter. Her book, a poetry anthology "Love Life Light", is an award-winning first publication.

She has also written articles for magazines and over the years has had several of her poems published in various newspapers and journals.

Her first foray into writing publicly, was through the screen, as she wrote and co-produced a television drama series "Three Strands Cord".

Rutendo believes words are what create our realities, and she wants hers to create a beautiful world.

Instagram/ Facebook –  
@rutendompugadza



ADELIDE GANYANI

Adelaide Ganyani, aka Segan, is a talented Zimbabwean writer, poet, and filmmaker.

Enchanted by the arts from a young age, her love for writing and storytelling has only intensified with time.

Adelaide's diverse artistic background spans scripting, video editing, photography, and filmmaking. As Director and founder of Segen Cinema Studio, she's driven by a singular aspiration: producing films that resonate with global audiences.

Her unique perspective, shaped by Zimbabwean roots and global vision, promises to bring fresh voices and stories to Cinema.

Adelaide's journey is marked by dedication, creativity, and passion.

Connect with Adelaide:  
Facebook: Adelaide Ganyani  
Instagram: @Segan983



JEZ MUTEZO

Jesman Mutezo is a digital creator, content creator, writer, fashion enthusiast/stylist, Christian-based faith blogger, and photographer.

Passionate about storytelling, she explores fashion, art, faith, and creativity through her blog *Wander and Weave*, where she shares her journey and uplifts Zimbabwean creatives.

As the founder of *Tulip Image Consultancy*, Jez empowers women to embrace their confidence through style.

Her work blends faith, culture, and self-expression, inspiring others to pursue their dreams unapologetically.

### Connect with Jez:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Blog](#)

[Tiktok](#)



CRYSTABEL CHIKAYI

Crystabel Chikayi is a media practitioner and published author whose first short story, 'The Lamentations of a Wild Rose', was unveiled to the public in 2022 through an anthology, *A Cry of Hope and Freedom*, published by the Embassy of Palestine and Women Writers Support Network in Zimbabwe.

Her story focused on challenges faced by Palestinian women, exhibiting the author's storytelling and research abilities. Crystabel's second and third stories, 'Wrecked' and 'Against the Tide', made it to the Women Writers Support Network's Seasons 2 and 3.

Having encountered several wounded women, Crystabel vowed to share their narratives with the world as best she could. She also discusses controversial topics related to women on her blog, [cristandile.wordpress.com](http://cristandile.wordpress.com).

She aims to continue spreading hope to women in dire situations, letting them realize they are not alone.



SHARON MUNZARA

Sharon Munzara has a strong background in IT and education and is a highly motivated professional with proven expertise in system administration and content creation.

As a published author of a Computer Science textbook, she has a knack for combining technical knowledge with effective communication skills.

Sharon's experience includes administering digital learning systems for a UNHCR-funded project, providing IT support at Grassiaz Online Academy, and teaching Computer Science.

Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Commerce in Information Systems. She is adept at identifying and resolving complex issues while working effectively as part of a team.



WAYNE CHIRIPANYANGA

Wayne Chiripanyanga is a passionate Humanitarian by calling, a Mindset and Accountability Coach, Counsellor, and a logistics professional.

She is a multi-award-winning professional, having received the Top Social Entrepreneur award, Most Industrious TBD youth member 2024, and a gold medal as a Botle Buhle Brands Consultant (SA-ZIM chapter), among other achievement awards in the field of literary writing.

She is also a published author and poet. She is the founder of I Care You Care Trust, Overcomers Network, and Comfy Haven Pvt Ltd. She is a Project Officer at the Women Writers Support Network-Africa.

Committed to personal growth and development, Wayne continues to inspire and serve others.

# WRITERS SPEAK

YOUR EYEWEAR ISN'T JUST FOR SEEING — IT'S FOR BEING SEEN.

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*“She Writers magazine has created a beautiful sisterhood platform to amplify even the smallest voices and inspire writers like me who had long stopped dancing on paper to start writing again.”*

**Faith S. Sisito**

*“Reading She Writers Magazine over the past year has been incredibly inspiring. It's given me a sense of community, confidence, and a platform where women's voices truly matter. Being part of this space has reignited my passion for storytelling and empowered me as a writer.”*

**Nomsa Mtetwa**

*“Reading articles from other women of shared experiences, stories of strife and triumph has been very empowering. I had taken a some-what long hiatus from writing and the magazine has reminded me that my voice matters.” -*

**Moira Marangwanda**

*“The magazine makes a bold statement about bringing to light the lived realities of woman artistically presented. This is an opportunity that every woman who can should grab and use it to edify not only themselves but the various readers too.”*

**Kumbirayi Kundiona**

*“Reading the magazine has meant listening to a sister pour out their heart, a space where women's voices are amplified. It's like reading through a sister's heart and getting to walk with them through paper.”*

**Samantha Mudiriro**

*“For me, She Writers Magazine is a trusted companion offering insights and inspiration that help me navigate life's challenges and celebrate its joys.*

*“Reading women's stories this year has equipped me with a lot of encouragement and resilience to conquer the world despite life being spiritual and sometimes challenging.”*

**Wayne Chiripanyanga**

*“The poem I shared in this edition speaks to what WWSN has meant to me and to what I've seen in the other women. It has given us strength and, in a way, permission to reclaim all the spaces we feared before, and also allowed us to inhabit ourselves fully in the present and for the future.*

**Rutendo Mugadza**

BY SYMPATHY  
MANGWENYA

# FOUNDER'S NOTE

***Hey gorgeous queens,***

***Can you believe it's been a whole year already? A year of producing powerful stories, diving deep into our truths, celebrating our highs, and bravely unpacking our lows. We've journeyed through vulnerability, laughter, reflection and most importantly, sisterhood.***

A huge shoutout to our incredible editor, and massive congratulations to the visionary behind this movement, Shamiso Patience. Her tireless effort and love have been poured into every edition, bringing life to every single story we've published since 2024.

As we step into our second year, I want to keep encouraging every one of you to keep sharing. Your voice matters here. Nothing is off-limits whether it's your joy, your pain, your hustle, or those late-night thoughts you'd share with your girlies—we want it all. This platform is ours. Let's keep it real, raw, and beautiful.

This anniversary issue is extra special, and I can't wait for you to dive into what we've lovingly curated just for you.

Until next time,

Stay safe & kind.

*Sympathy Mangwenya*  
Founder, Women Writers Support Network-Africa



# UNSUNG HEROES: NESI MUKOTI



**CRYSTABEL  
CHIKAYI**  
CONTRIBUTOR

*Have you ever fallen pregnant while you are away from home? Believe you me, it's hectic. Where is home? You ask, home is where your support system is, people with the proper knowledge to help you every step of the way.*



I had my pregnancy when I was in South Africa, living with just my husband, and neither of us had any idea how to nurture a pregnancy. Thanks to Nesi Mukoti, a brand I got acquainted with through the Women Writers Support Network (WWSN). I learned that Nesi Mukoti is a group of midwives who came together to help women adjust to motherhood, understand babyhood, and assist them with general women's health issues. Nesi Mukoti are Shona words loosely translated to "Nurse-Midwife." There it was, my jackpot, a virtual hub of knowledge.

Who needs virtual consultations when all pregnant women are required to go for monthly checks at the nearest clinic, you say? The free checkups we had at the clinic were the worst; I still carry the trauma. The nurses were tribalistic and generally impolite. They shouted at us for anything and everything. I was intimidated, and I never brought myself to ask anything of them anyway, so yes, Nesi Mukoti came in handy.

During my second trimester, I was constantly constipated so I contacted Nesi Mukoti, who advised me to drink 8 to 10 cups of water daily. She examined my eating habits, and I was open about my appetite; it's no secret that, like most pregnant women, I resorted to eating a mountain of sadza, thinking I needed to eat for two. Nesi Mukoti encouraged me to have regular meals and snacks in small portions. She also urged me to follow a balanced diet, replacing fast foods with plenty of fruits.

Nesi Mukoti made online presentations, and I learnt a lot about antenatal care, primarily the dos and don'ts of pregnancy. I used to love lying on my back at night, until I was told it's not a good idea. I would lie idle all day, stuffing my face.

Like the professional midwives that they are, Nesi Mukoti did not just dismiss me right after I gave birth; they took me through postpartum care. They called the lecture on latches and stitches, and we were taught about proper latching, breastfeeding, and stitches care, whether from a c-section or perineal stitches.

Who knew getting to accept and work on your body after birth was a hustle? The insecurities, hormonal imbalances, and the way I remember it was hell, but Nesi Mukoti helped me through those teachings on body recovery and baby care for the first six weeks.

What inspired me the most was Nesi Mukoti's responsiveness. They never took too long to respond when you had an inquiry, and if your condition required a hospital visit, they never hesitated to advise you to consult your doctor. This made me curious. If not for business, why is she on it? I later learned that Nesi Mukoti is a brand started by a lady named Nyasha Marylyn Munetsi, who was driven by her passion for the profession of midwifery. Having fallen in love with midwifery right from the beginning of her enrolment in nursing school, where she loved how the midwives worked together with the women to bring about a new life.

Nyasha claims that working within the hospital confines, practising old school midwifery, was not enough for her. She found ways to utilise her knowledge to its full capacity, which is how Nesi Mukoti, The Midwife Initiative brand, was born. The initiative aims to make maternal and child health enjoyable and encourage more women to participate in health education talks, ultimately reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality rates.



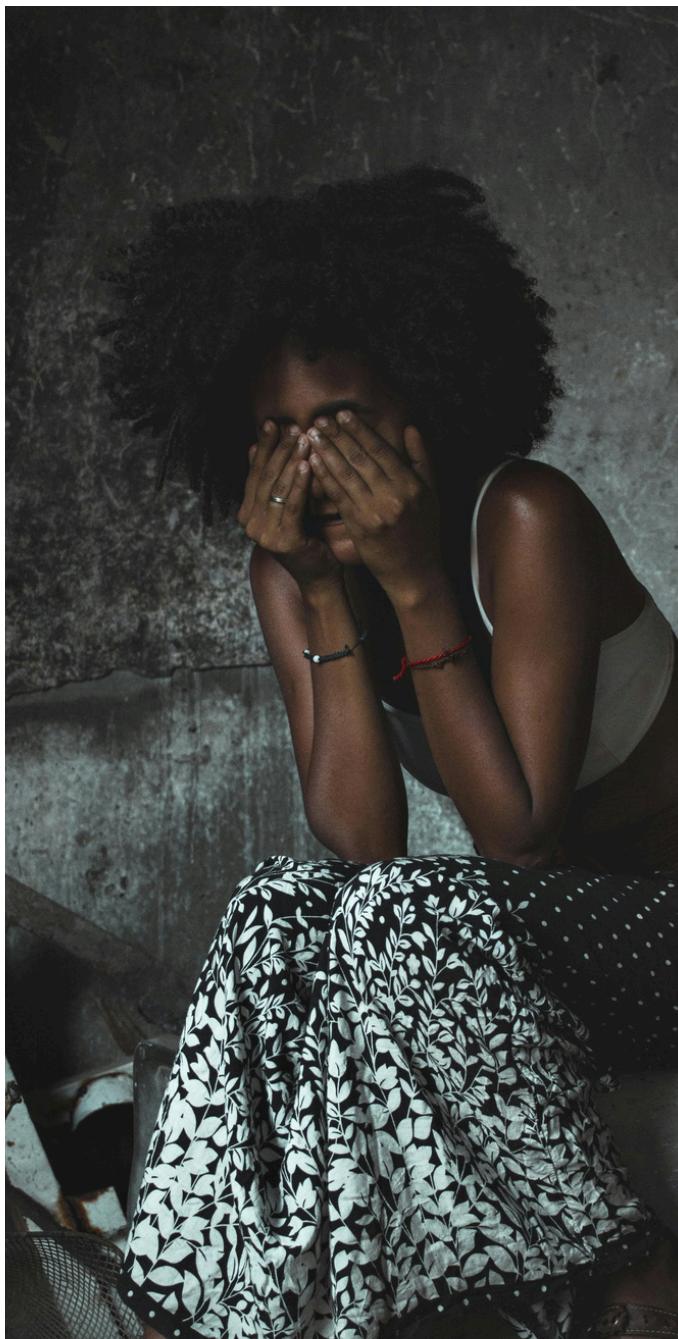
Such women are what our community needs: women supporting women in women's issues, pillars of our society. Because of this initiative, I had a safe pregnancy, and I did not fall apart after giving birth. It is through her that I learnt I can help the next woman with maternal knowledge or just a listening ear when they are having difficulties during their pregnancies.

# A STORY OF HOPE



WAYNE CHIRIPANYANGA

*Have you ever felt like life is conspiring against you, and every door you try to open is met with rejection and disappointment? You are not alone.*



Many of us have walked through the dark valleys of rejection, wondering if we will ever find our way out. But what if I told you that some of those rejections were actually protection in disguise, by the grace of the Lord? All the tossing and twisting, however, turn into blessings that no man can stop from showering onto you.

Let us take the story of a young lady named Namatai. She grew up in a loving family with her parents and siblings. But life had other plans. When Namatai was just a little girl, her father passed away, leaving her mother to care for the family alone. It felt like rejection. She never experienced fatherly love like many other children who could enjoy sitting on their father's lap. Though painful, the storm made her stronger as she stood firm and tall, facing it all. She became aware of her life's purpose, which is the best thing that happened to her, because beside her was Christ.



Namatai faced new challenges as she was later taken in by her stepbrother at the inheritance ceremony. He had eyed the properties and, to take over, he used Namatai as a decoy to avoid being questioned about his motives by taking care of her. Her siblings' hands were tied, and they could not fight for Namatai to return home and experience a deeper bond with them. More painfully, her mother was still mourning and could not fight for her child's custody; she denied the mother-daughter bond as per tradition, and relatives willing to help were accepted, taking up the responsibility of the deceased. It is now better in the modern world, where mothers can contest in court peacefully, represented by responsible organisations such as Musasa or by hiring lawyers. To her, it felt like rejection once more. However, what Namatai did not know was that this "rejection" was actually protecting her from becoming spoiled and later losing focus on her studies.

Besides, the childhood trauma she experienced nurtured her into a responsible and hardworking person. When her step-sister-in-law denied her food, she could spend her time at the library to escape the emotions raised by hunger from the skipped meals. Studying became a form of therapy, and finally, she crossed over.

Namatai's dream was always to secure a job after completing her professional studies, but fate still stood by her side.

At times, she could lose all her capital to clients who failed to pay for the services she would have provided. She secured a placement at a reputable company that paid well and allowed her to perform her job diligently.

One of her colleagues became jealous after hearing that she was to receive benefits and a promotion due to her diligence. Surprisingly, she framed her for something awful that led to her being sacked from work. With a broken heart, she lost all hope as she had experienced being broke for several years. However, as her name proclaims, she prayed without ceasing, and at the end, she received a referral from a pregnant woman she had just helped push a trolley on a sun-scotched day at a supermarket. She secured a job that offered her substantial benefits compared to her previous company, which never verified the authenticity of the accusations she faced. Ko ndiani aiziva kuti kwaakadzingwa kwanga kuri kuitwa zvemushonga, which had led to the loss of lives of everyone who got that post, she was about to be blessed with sekufunga kwake. What felt like a rejection was actually protection from the evil spirits that could have taken her life prematurely.

As if it wasn't enough, after Namatai thought she had found herself in a job that was her dream come true, the company downsized, and she was let go. It felt like rejection – rejection by her employer, rejection of her abilities. However, that "rejection" led her to explore new opportunities, and she eventually found a business that aligned with her values, bringing her life into full bloom.

When entering a relationship, a person sees marriage as a gift from God. Marriage is a blessing from above, and only God gives the best. Namatai entered into several relationships, which she thought were real deals, but all turned out to be toxic as she was pushed away. Kikikikikiki, kuseka nhamo serugare ndiani aiziva kuti varume vanotsvinya. She never saw this coming nekuti anga akapinda nemoyo wese. Ama 2K vanobva vati, "KUNYURA MURUDO". Chokwadi rugare tange nhamo. The first one, she was rejected because she was getting fat due to the medication she was taking after being diagnosed with a gastritis problem. Ko ndiani aiziva kuti fighting a chronic disease could end things unjustly?

To make matters worse, on another occasion, she was rejected because she had spoiled herself with a car. Ko anga ari kushanda zvinonwisa mvura kuti hupenyu huite zvakanaka. Painfully, she thought she had seen it all, only to be struck with paper two of the previous relationship. She was taken for granted by a player who promised her the world full of life, but out of it, only to get a simple, poverty-stricken village. She was held close, the guy pretending to love her while building a new world behind her back. She sensed it all when she was called funny names on the phone by the boyfriend, like "Vatete" (meaning an aunt), only to realize the relationship was a mere castle that was being built in the air. The guy just got married without breaking up with her; the evidence was pictures on the internet. Ko mazuvano vakomana vacho vakushandisa silence technique kutemera kuwodza chaiko.

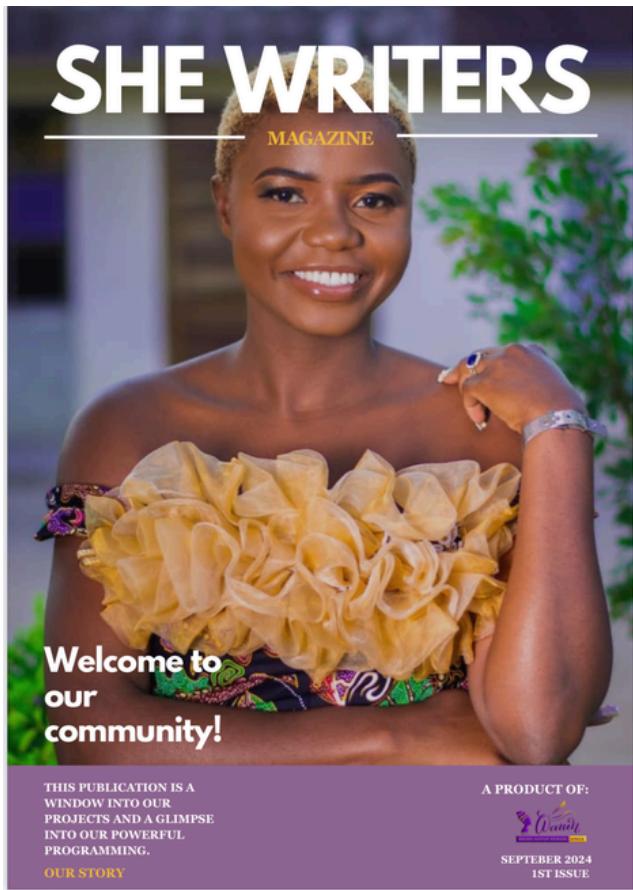


It felt like rejection – rejection by her partner, rejection of her worth. But in hindsight, that rejection protected her from further emotional damage as she got depressed, and it allowed her to focus on her own healing and growth, which finally landed her in the hands of a worthy man who matched her energy. It made her realize the red flags could turn into bigger red waves that could shake her mental health; hence, she escaped depression, which was slowly mounting. The end of the toxicity actually opened a new chapter, which was favourable and worthwhile, as the closed door brought in a new exciting dawn with a man of purpose. She lived happily ever after.

#### **A Message of Hope:**

Namatai's story is not unique and may be marked by painful experiences and heartbreak. Still, it is also a testament to the human spirit's capacity for resilience and HOPE. Although her journey was full of challenges, it serves as a poignant reminder that every setback can be a catalyst for the transformative power of perseverance and faith. Thus, she had the NEVER GIVE UP spirit. We have all faced rejection that felt like it was the end of the world. But often, those rejections were protection in disguise. They protected us from harm, from toxic relationships, from paths that were not meant for us.

To the women or men reading this, I want you to know that you are not alone. Your rejections might be a form of protection, guiding you towards a brighter future. Hold on to hope and trust that everything will work out for your good, for it happened to Namatai, defying all odds.



## A LOOK INTO THE PAST YEAR



BY SHAMISO PATIENCE

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# HER VOICE IN BLOOM.

***Every writer carries a seed of expression that, once planted, begins to grow and bloom. For Catherine Murombedzi, that seed was planted in the newsroom three decades ago and has since blossomed into a voice that has guided, healed, mentored, and transformed countless lives.***



SHAMISO  
PATIENCE  
CONTRIBUTOR

Catherine's professional journey began in 1993 at the Daily Gazette, where she entered the publishing world determined to "correct the English off track." A teacher by profession, she brought precision and discipline into editing, honing her voice through the technical work of shaping language behind the scenes.



Her early years in the newsroom were also a time of growth. By 1997, she was part of The Zimbabwe Independent's historic move to become the country's first fully digital newsroom. Later at The Herald, she started training others. Even in those early days, her voice was already extending outward, nurturing others.

In 2010, Catherine launched the column "HIV Walk." Until then, HIV reporting in Zimbabwe often spoke in numbers, policies, and detached narratives. Catherine then shifted the lens. She chose to write in the first person, embodying the fears, fatigue, and resilience of those living with HIV.



In doing so, she gave HIV a voice; human, empathetic, and unflinching. That column was not just journalism; it was advocacy. It led to her appointment to the National AIDS Council Board, invitations to speak on prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and recognition as a trusted community voice in national health conversations.

**“If only we could hold hands, we could walk far. A voice in bloom is a voice that multiplies.”**



Her voice shaped public discourse, building awareness and softening stigma with compassion and truth.

Over the years, Cathrine has lent her voice to newsletters, health bulletins, conferences, climate change reporting, and mentorship for young journalists. She describes herself as a freelance journalist with a heart for communities.



Her influence, she admits, is sometimes invisible until years later, when former students or colleagues reach out with gratitude. “In the small changes that are positive, the receivers come back to say thank you,” she reflects. That is how her voice blossoms.

As a contributor and supporter of She Writers Magazine, Catherine has watched this platform rise “brick by brick” into a home for diverse women’s voices. She celebrates it as a refreshing, all-female editorial space where every writer is invited to plant their seed and bloom.

She believes women's voices shape communities in ways that statistics and policies cannot. They humanize, inspire, and break glass ceilings.

Asked to describe her journey in one word, Catherine chose "Packed." Her path has been filled with milestones, fellowships, challenges, family, faith, and service. But what makes her story remarkable is how her voice has grown through each season. From the newsroom to the HIV response, from training editors to mentoring youth, from being a mother to becoming a grandmother, Catherine's voice continues to evolve, seeding inspiration for generations to come.

Her legacy reminds us: a voice in bloom speaks, serves, heals, and multiplies.

**"My voice is not my own; it carries the stories of communities whose whispers deserve to be heard."**

## **Her Milestones**

### **Career Highlights:**

- Worked for the Daily Gazette (1993), later contributing to The Zimbabwe Independent, The Herald, H-Metro, and more.
- Launched the landmark column HIV Walk in 2010, shifting HIV reporting from statistics to human-centred stories.
- Appointed to the National AIDS Council Board (2010–2014), shaping national HIV response and advocacy for prevention of mother-to-child transmission.
- Served as Coordinator of Positive Vibes, a network of women and girls living with HIV in Zimbabwe.

### **Leadership & Service:**

- Member, National AIDS Council's Gender Technical Working Group on HIV.
- Advisory Committee Member, Ministry of Health & Child Care, on Ending AIDS by 2030.
- Mighty Women of Hope (2014–2020).
- Trans Smart Secretary (2018–2024).
- Mentor and trainer to emerging journalists and writers.

### **Fellowships & Recognition:**

- Fellow, CNS Health (2016).
- Fellow, Merck Foundation (2020).
- Fellow, Mercury HIV Trust / Internews (2021).
- Fellow, Tabboom Media (2022).
- Award-winning journalist and rapporteur at numerous health and climate change conferences.

# BEYOND THE HUSTLE:

## THE EMOTIONAL COST OF STARTING A BUSINESS.



**SHARON MUNZARA**  
CONTRIBUTOR

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*My arrival time in Dar es Salaam was 8 p.m. I had made friends on the flight, my first trip to stock up for opening a shop in the heart of the CBD.*



I felt proud, triumphant, and inspired. I remember counting my savings, looking forward to the adventure that was going to be my life for the next 30 years —or so I thought.

I walked through Kariakoo Market until my feet were on fire, looking for high-quality items. I had ideas, thoughts, a dream, and a sense of style, but zero mentoring on what it truly means to be a small or medium enterprise (SME). It's every small business owner's dream to open a shop, and to me, this was the dream. I was employed, educated, a published author, and an entrepreneur. Little did I know that one of these many hats was going almost to kill me, literally. Nothing prepared me for the pain, heartbreak, and expectations of relationships, and the bills associated with starting a business. I was left speechless; inspiration died when the reality struck of what they meant when they said it's very hard to operate a business in a hyperinflationary economy.

I remember carrying sacks of clothes, eating Tanzanian meals in between, looking for transport to send my items to Zimbabwe, flying back, and anxiously waiting for the stock to arrive. I'd calculate profits only to realize it was a loss before I even opened it. I'd comfort myself with the thought that one day it would pay off, that Econet wasn't built in a day. You justify losses with "I have a dream" statements. Capital depletes daily as you pay off expenses and logistics costs. And it's even worse if you employ a relative with no business experience and give them sole responsibility for your venture. Then you might as well be prepared to have a tombstone erected with the words: "It could have been, but failed to be."

On social media, the most passionate, broken, and angry posts are from struggling entrepreneurs operating in the heart of the CBD. The ever-rising cost of living versus operational expenses requires you to be prepared to find additional capital, absorb losses, or start a new line of business on short notice.

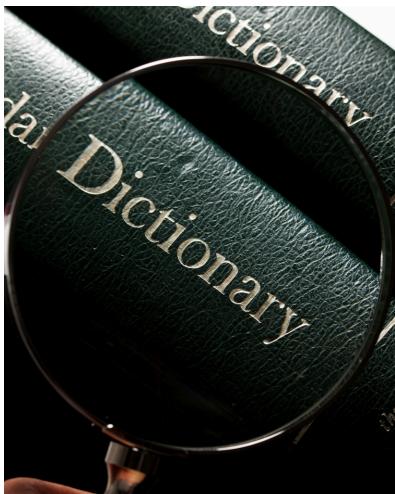
There is no cure for the pain you feel, no soft words or soft landings. There is nothing except a long line of debt collectors who need their money back. It became very easy to understand why businesspeople whose businesses failed were easily called Vakaromba [beggars], because a thriving business can go bankrupt overnight.

There are no explanations except to close down and save the few things that you can before you lose it all.

As soon as my business started showing signs of losses, I wanted to close. But we were raised to survive toxic and unbearable situations. I did not dare to stop paying rent and my employee. It would have been an admission of failure, so I tried. The hustle became harder. I cried out, spoke to others, borrowed, and the worst part is that there was no emotional support, no one to explain to me what the business meant to me. I was unable to take care of my mom, and she is a widow—my responsibility and a choice I made, even though she is still able to work for herself. I postponed sending my brother to college and had to watch him waste away, trying all he could to earn a living and find something to do.

Christmas came, and I could barely afford even foodstuffs because I was maintaining the business. The business became a baby, a baby that was being fed but remained malnourished and sick. A baby who looked like it was being abandoned despite the numerous attempts to give it a better life.

I survived the pain, the nausea, lightheadedness, migraines, and debts that come with starting a business in Zimbabwe. To me, all the SMEs that are still operating are unique, a rare species that genuinely deserves the term "survival of the fittest."



**What did the  
two dictionaries  
say to each  
other?  
You bring  
meaning to my  
life!**



What do you call a  
dinosaur that's good at  
grammar?  
A thesaurus!

**LOL**

Why did the detective bring a  
pencil to the crime scene?  
Because he wanted to draw  
some conclusions!



Why did the library book feel  
uncomfortable? Because it was  
being checked out too often!



## Grammar Corner



**Tip:** "It's" means it is or it has.  
"Its" shows possession.

**Example:** It's raining, but the cat stayed in  
its bed.

# REFLECTIONS ON MILESTONES, BIG OR SMALL



ADELAIDE GANYANI

## Reflections on Milestones and Triumphs: A Filmmaker's Journey.

As I reflect on the year 2025, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. This year has been a remarkable journey, marked by significant milestones in my filmmaking career. From conceiving my documentary debut to collaborating with renowned industry professionals, I have been fortunate to have had opportunities that have shaped my craft and broadened my horizons.



## *A Year Of Travel And Exploration.*

One of my resolutions for 2025 was to travel the world, explore new cultures, and capture them through my lens. This journey took me to Luxembourg, a country that stole my heart with its stunning landscapes and welcoming hospitality.

I fell in love with the country's fine wines, and I'm excited to share that I am in the process of being endorsed as a Brand Ambassador for a notable wine brand. Attending a family friend's wedding was a wonderful experience, and I was delighted to contribute my technical filmmaking skills to capture the special moments. I even developed a script inspired by the event, which strengthened my love for storytelling and filmmaking.

My travels also took me to Venice, where I had the opportunity to attend the Venice Film Festival. This experience was a dream come true, and I was thrilled to network with industry professionals, attend screenings, and indulge in the city's rich culture. The festival's grandeur and the opportunity to explore new film opportunities made this experience truly unforgettable. But what's really special is that I was recommended to watch "Once Upon a Time in Gaza" here at the festival, and it resonated deeply with me.



You see, back in 2022, I participated in a writing competition sponsored by the Women Writers Support Network, with the support of the Embassy of Palestine. I wrote a poem called "Risen Voice of Gaza," which was featured in the anthology A Cry of Hope, consisting of an ensemble of talented Zimbabwean Women Writers. The vision was to amplify the voices of the suffering Palestinian women. It's surreal to see a film that touches on similar themes and events.

I even got the chance to discuss potential collaborations with the directors for a future documentary or short film inspired by my poem. It's moments like these that make this festival truly unforgettable!

## **Documentary Project: The Legendary Malaikas of The Sea**

One of the most significant milestones of my filmmaking career was conceiving my documentary debut, "The Legendary Malaikas of The Sea." This project highlights the often underrepresented women in aquaculture, who not only care for their families but also promote local tourism and economic development. Through their stories, I aim to highlight the importance of women's contributions to the industry and the impact they have on their communities.

I'm also thrilled to have participated in the European Film Festival Master Class, where I had the chance to pitch my documentary project to industry experts and gain valuable feedback and insights.



## **Establishing Segan GloMedia**

I am proud to have founded Segan GloMedia, a film production company dedicated to amplifying African narratives at a global level. Through this platform, I aim to showcase the diversity and richness of African stories, promoting cultural exchange and understanding. Looking ahead, I'm excited to explore the outer worlds of space through collaborations with SpaceX, pushing the boundaries of storytelling and filmmaking.

## **Notable Collaborations and Appointments**

I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Entertainment Afrika and the renowned Film producer Marc T Mandisoul on the Netflix series "House of Stone." This project has been an incredible journey, and I'm excited to see it come to life on screen.

Additionally, I was honoured to be appointed as Assistant Director for a feature film shot in Africa, marking my first international feature director role. I'm also glad to have forged alliances with notable women in the art industry, including Sangeetha Menon, Mrs Glamorous UK Top Model, and former Miss Universe Netherlands, Ayse Top. These collaborations have enriched my journey and provided valuable growth opportunities.

## **Featured in Notable Publications and Awards**

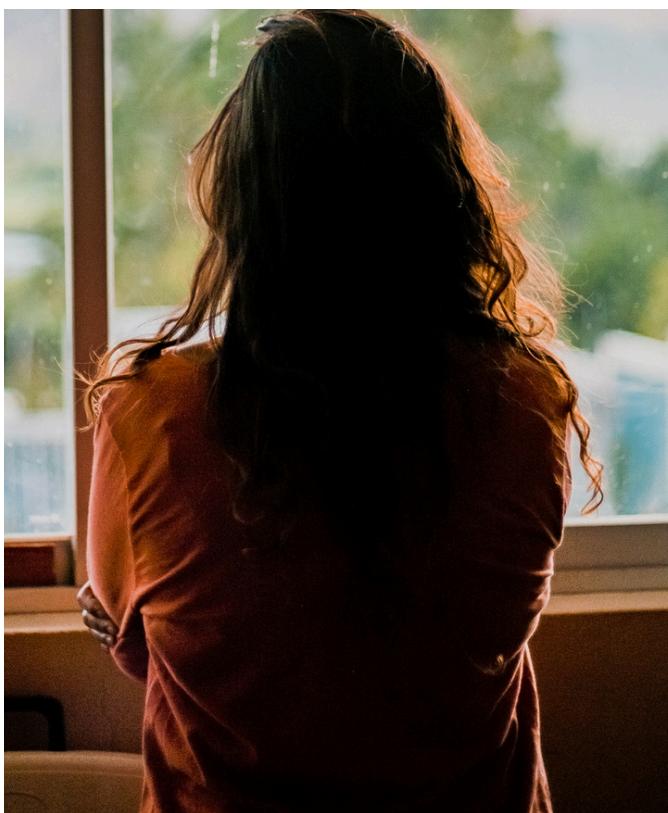
This year, I have been featured in notable publications, locally and internationally, including My Afrika Magazine, The Artist Magazine, Africa Press, Female TV, HStv, Dandaro Magazine, NewsDay, and The Standard. These features have showcased my rising filmmaking career and highlighted my passion for storytelling. Throughout the year, I have received several nominations for outstanding awards in recognition of my filmmaking career, a testament to the hard work and dedication I have put into my craft.

## **Brand Ambassador Roles.**

I am honoured to be appointed as a Brand Ambassador for the Artist Podcast, where I share my experiences and insights with a broader audience. Being on air has always been a dream of mine, and I'm grateful to have this platform to share my passion for filmmaking.

## **Upcoming Collaboration with National Geographic**

I am thrilled to be collaborating with National Geographic on future projects. Their commitment to showcasing timely, provocative, and globally relevant stories aligns with my passion for storytelling. I am excited to explore potential projects that highlight the beauty and importance of our oceans, as well as the people who depend on them.



## Looking Ahead

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and excitement for what the future holds. My journey as a filmmaker has been marked by significant milestones, and I am thrilled to continue pushing the boundaries of storytelling.

I look forward to collaborating with National Geographic on impactful projects, exploring new cultures, and capturing the world's beauty through my lens. The journey of a filmmaker is never easy, but moments like these make it all worthwhile.

# CONGRATULATIONS

***She Writers Magazine & the  
Women Writers Support  
Network!***

***Congratulations, She Writers Magazine, on one year of publication, one year of amplifying women's voices, and one year of impact worth celebrating. Your commitment to storytelling, community, and visibility continues to inspire us all.***

***It has been an honor to collaborate with you on this journey, and we are celebrating alongside you.***

## **EMPOWER YOUR BUSINESS WITH RERANAI CONSULTANCY**

**Your Partner in Growth, Visibility, and Success**

***Ready to Get Started?  
Contact Us: [info.reranai@gmail.com](mailto:info.reranai@gmail.com)  
Follow Us: [reranai.consultancy](http://reranai.consultancy)***



## **Reranai Consultancy**

Growing Businesses Through Collaboration and Mentorship.

### **In Honor of SheWriters' One-Year Celebration**

Join Reranai Consultancy Today and Get a Free 30-Minute Consultation! Discover how we can help you grow your business and achieve your goals.

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# ME'S

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*“With each new sunrise, a new opportunity to live the life you want presents itself. Receive it, nurture it, and bloom.”*

**RUTENDO PAULA MUGADZA,  
CONTRIBUTOR**



Outside of me are all the 'me's I  
wish I were!  
the ones all coiffed and well put  
together.  
the ones with the clever quips  
and sound advice.  
the ones who step forward and  
stand for something.  
the ones who know what to do  
and when to do it.  
the ones everyone likes and  
everyone loves.  
the ones with the smarts, the  
beauty and the brains.  
the ones with big hopes, grand  
dreams and fulfilled longings.  
outside of me, they stand and  
remain in spaces I failed to  
claim.  
They wait, because maybe, just  
maybe, one day I'll go back and  
fully inhabit all of me.

# IN BLOOM AND IN CELEBRATION



IN HONOUR OF SHE WRITERS MAGAZINE TURNING ONE, WE'RE TOASTING TO BLOOMING VOICES AND BUTTERY BITES WITH A ZIMBO KITCHEN CLASSIC **RED VELVET CAKE** TO BRING THE CELEBRATION HOME.

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup butter/margarine
- 2 cups old-fashioned brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 1/2 cups cake flour
- 250ml lacto/buttermilk
- 10ml vanilla essence
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp red food colouring
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar

\*Buttermilk is difficult to find in Zim So to make your own buttermilk, add a tablespoon of lemon juice to 250ml fresh milk and allow it to stand for 5-10minutes before using it. However, you can still use lacto in place of buttermilk

## QUICK INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 180 degrees Celsius/ 350 degrees Fahrenheit/ Gas Mark 4. Gather all the ingredients you'll need to use together, ensuring that everything's at room temperature. Put the sugar (2 cups) and butter/margarine (1 cup) in your mixing bowl and beat until light and creamy.
- Add eggs (2 large) one at a time, mixing well after each addition and set aside. Sift flour (2 1/2 cups cake flour) and salt into a separate bowl. Take set aside bowl with creamed margarine and eggs. Add about a third of the flour and mix.
- Add half of the buttermilk/ lacto (250 ml) and mix. Add another third again of the flour and mix. Add the last half of the buttermilk/lacto and mix again. Add the final third of the flour and mix. Add vanilla essence (10 ml), mix and set bowl aside.
- Take cocoa powder (1 tbsp), add it to the red food colouring (2 tbsp) and mix to make a paste using a fork which will break any lumps that may be in the cocoa powder. Take set aside cake batter, add the cocoa and colouring paste to the batter and mix until well combined.
- Put the bicarbonate of soda (1/2 tsp) in a jug/small bowl. Add the apple cider vinegar (1 tbsp). You will notice a chemical reaction taking place, immediately add it to the cake batter whilst it is still effervescent.





- Mix well but be careful not to over-beat the mixture. Get your cake tin ready and grease it. Pour the red velvet cake batter into the greased tin.



- Level the batter in the cake tin and bake for 40-45 minutes.



When it is done, place on cooling rack and allow to cool before icing it. Cut the cake into half and put some icing/fresh cream frosting in order to join the two halves.

## HOW TO MAKE FRESH CREAM FROSTING(WHIPPED CREAM)

Two 8 Servings ~ 10 minutes

- 500ml fresh cream
- 3 tbsp icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

Fresh cream frosting also known as whipped cream has in the past few years become the preferred icing on cakes and confectioneries over butter cream icing. Not that there is anything wrong with butter cream icing but fresh cream frosting gives a cake, cupcake or muffin a certain type of freshness and flavor which butter cream may not. This is an easy icing to make and the results will be fantastic all the time if you do it right. Use it on any of the baking goodies that you will make.

### Quick Instructions

- Put mixing bowl and whisk or electric hand-mixer attachments in the freezer for 10 min. Get your ingredients ready. After 10 min get bowl and equipment from freezer. Pour fresh cream (500ml) into chilled mixing bowl.
- Whisk until peaks begin to form.
- Slowly add icing sugar (3 tbsp) and continue to whisk until soft peaks form. Switch to using a hand held whisk
- Whisk by hand briefly and then add vanilla essence (1 tsp). Whisk briefly again and check for the frosting thickness. It should not be runny.

Your fresh cream frosting is ready!

Enjoy!



# ODE TO MANGWENYA

CHRISTABEL CHIKAYI

The door opens, and I enter with much hesitation and reluctance.

Who wouldn't waver, entering uncharted grounds?

A thousand embraces, first comes panic, then hesitation wears off, as love radiates from the embrace.

What if it's fake? I remain sceptical.

Women are usually mean.

I keep my guard up.

This hug could be a trap.

Who knows?

One minute, it could be a warm hug, and the next, a constraint.

Python style.

A month passes, then the next.

Another one passes after that.

Then comes the realisation.

This is truly home.

A group of women of all calibres, ages and social statuses.

Together for a cause.

Showing nothing but love.

Writing therapy is their style.

They write to grow.

They write to empower.

They write to heal.

Gratitude Friday is their tradition.

Celebrating a stranger's win.

The way you would treat a sister, be it a small or big win.





Advertising on Sunday mornings is mandatory.

Fostering not only support, but the business of being in business, sharing principles of hustling.

Healings on Sunday afternoons are the best.  
Ladies sharing struggles and hurdles.  
Ladies offering wisdom.  
Ladies building each other's character.

The masterclasses are underrated.  
A time to learn life skills.  
From authorship skills to business skills.

Don't forget the meet-ups.  
The book launches.  
The Palestine or Iran collaboration meetings.  
Oh, what unity and talent these women showcase.

The Women Writers Support Network was the title they gave to the group.  
Whoever thought virtual space could be this meaningful and impactful.  
To whom belongs the vision to create such a haven for women.  
I have met that blessing of a woman.  
They call her Sympathy Mangwenya.

If you see what she has done for the women,  
then meet her,  
you will be in awe.  
Such a big vision on a humble spirit.

She nurtures our fire.  
Standing in the shadows, with a vision that dances.  
Like light in our eyes.

A toast to the dreamer Mangwenya, who shapes with her heart.  
A true work of art.  
A leader, guide and friend.

# MEET SHAMISO PATIENCE:

## THE WOMAN LIGHTING THE WAY FOR DREAMERS.

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**JEZ MUTEZO**  
CONTRIBUTOR

*In a world that often demands perfection, Shamiso Patience chose something radically different—she chose the process.*

She chose the long road, the winding path, the becoming. And in doing so, she's become a light for countless women navigating their own storms.

It all started with a quiet realization—one that didn't come with fanfare or applause, but with grace. Shamiso looked at her life, her journey, and saw something many overlook: that even when we reach the mountaintop, our eyes are already drifting to the next. There's always something we're becoming. And from that truth, Forever Becoming was born.

It wasn't just a brand. It was a movement. A sanctuary for women who were tired of hiding their process, ashamed of their scars, or waiting to be "ready." Here, imperfection is welcome. Growth is celebrated. Progress is enough. Shamiso created a space where women could lay their burdens down and say, "I'm not there yet, but I'm on the way—and that's beautiful."

But she didn't stop there.



From the heart of her own setbacks and comebacks, she birthed Reranai Consultancy—a guiding light for writers, creators and brands who had shelved their dreams, paused their passions, or felt silenced by life's transitions. She had once been that woman—trapped in the in-between, unsure if the dream still fit. But instead of letting the flame die, she fanned it into something bigger than herself.

Reranai became a place where dreamers could not only dream again, but build again. Whether it's registering a business, finding collaborators, or reclaiming visibility, Shamiso made sure that every dreamer who walked through her doors felt seen, supported, and equipped.

Because to her, it's not just about business growth—it's about soul revival.

As if that wasn't enough, Shamiso stepped into yet another role—as Editor-in-Chief of She-Writers Magazine. A storyteller by experience rather than title, she knows the power of being heard. Her first book wasn't born from a desire to be famous—it was born from someone else believing in her voice. And now, she's returning that gift to women everywhere.

She-Writers is a living, breathing archive of hope. It amplifies voices that have known pain, but also healing. Stories of resilience, transformation, and joy.

Through the magazine, Shamiso gives women permission to take up space in a world that too often asks them to shrink.

Her days are full, her planner even fuller. But Shamiso moves with intention. She's not just juggling roles—she's nurturing legacies. Her life is a dance between family, faith, purpose, and passion. Morning devotionals, quiet reflection, movement, planning, dreaming. Every moment carved out with clarity and care.

Because she knows that when a woman is full, she pours better.

And for those standing in the shadows of doubt, wondering if their story matters, Shamiso has only one message: don't dim your light.

Looking ahead, she aspires to create a fully functional business ecosystem where everyone has the opportunity to grow. She also dreams of awards, magazine covers, thriving brands, and global impact—not for ego's sake, but for that girl who needs to see that dreams do come true when you stay rooted in purpose and planted in grace.



Shamiso Patience isn't just building businesses—she's building bridges. She's rewriting the narrative for dreamers who are tired of hiding behind the word "almost." Through her life, she whispers to us all:

"You don't have to be perfect. You just have to keep becoming."

And that, dear reader, is a journey worth celebrating.

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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We are excited to invite you to submit your work for the next issue of Women Writers Network Support Africa Magazine. Whether you're a seasoned writer or just starting, we want to hear your unique voice and perspective.

***Submission Guidelines:-***

We welcome short stories, poems, and any creative works that are original.

- Submissions can be in English or any African language (with a translation included).
- Word count should range from 500 to 1000 words.

***How to Submit:***

- Email your submission to [submissions.wwsn@gmail.com](mailto:submissions.wwsn@gmail.com) with the subject line: Submission for She Writers Magazine – [Your Name]
- Attach your work as a Word document.
- Include a brief bio (up to 100 words) and a photo of yourself in the body of the email.

The deadline for submissions is October 30th. We look forward to reading your work and featuring it in our next issue!

For any inquiries, don't hesitate to contact us at [info@womenwriters.co.zw](mailto:info@womenwriters.co.zw)

We are looking forward to reading and publishing your work!