

# Translation Mitteilungsblatt Oktober 2021

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## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER



That young people learn helpful things from other young people, happens every day and often in an uncomplicated and satisfying way. It is the same when a farmer's wife learns a promising cultivation method from another. "Peer learning" or "farmer to farmer training" is at first glance an unspectacular process. This is precisely why mutual learning between people in similar social situations and positions, e.g., between so-called "peers", can achieve particularly good learning effects.

In development cooperation, "peer education" is particularly widespread in health education for young people. It is rightly regarded as effective and efficient. "The key is not to have a fifty-year-old telling you what not to do, but rather someone who is in a similar phase of life as you," says Farai D Mhlanga, who already has been involved in several awareness-raising projects. The willingness to accept information and thus change one's own actions is much greater this way. The information is also more appropriate, because it is based on a best-case scenario and trustworthy interaction. The most educational message between peers is not always conveyed. It is usually the most

understood and accepted answer to questions that young people have, but do not always dare to ask. "Close and direct connection is the recipe for success in peer learning," says Farai D. Mhlanga. A similar history and common interests are a good basis on which trust and understanding for the questions of others can grow.

A common, regular meeting place promotes bonding: this is why fepa partners have created "clubs" for teenagers; or for people interested in permaculture; or "associations" for people living on farms; or "networks" for young leaders in youth organisations. It is about people everywhere seeking and providing help for each other. "It just makes me happy when I see how we can change and improve," says Mhlanga, describing his motivation then for setting up a club for students at university. Natural credibility is a prerequisite for someone like him, who has been a peer educator for many different people.

Peer education deliberately focuses on working with people who are as close as possible to the "target group" and can contribute fresh knowledge and skills. Especially in rural communities, such "near peers" must have a high insight into the social structures. Activism alone is not enough. Mhlanga warns against trying to be a role model on a completely different level. He strives to be part of the group and then together raise the whole group to a higher level.

Viele fepa Partner setzen - ohne viel Aufhebens - auf peer learning. Selbsthilfe beruht darauf, dass Mitglieder von Gemeinschaften sich auf der Basis ihrer eigenen Interessen und Ressourcen gegenseitig unterstützen. Sie sind darum oft sehr erfolgreich bei der Verbesserung der Lebensumstände. Dass sie dafür Wissen von Fachorganisationen ableiten oder besseren Zugang zu Dienstleistungen finden und schaffen, gehört zu diesem selbstbestimmten Prozess.

Selbsthilfeinitiativen sind Gefäße für Lernprozesse, die auf den Interessen und Fragen der Menschen basieren. Fast immer ist die Herangehensweise holistisch und flexibel. Der Projektansatz stößt dabei an seine Grenzen und manchmal ist erst im Nachhinein sichtbar, was alles erreicht wurde. Das benötigt Mut, Zuversicht, Vertrauen sowie Verständnis und Freude an Erkenntnis von beiden Seiten, welche diese Lernprozesse unterstützen wollen.

Many fepa partners – without much fuss – rely on peer learning. Self-help is based on the fact that members of communities support each other on the basis of their own interests and resources. They are therefore often very successful in improving living conditions. The fact that they collect knowledge from professional organisations or demand and create better access services is part of this self-determined process. Self-help initiatives are vessels for learning processes based on people's interests and questions. The approach is almost always holistic and flexible. The project approach reaches its limits and sometimes it is only in retrospect that one can see what has been achieved. This requires courage, confidence, trust as well as understanding and joy in what has been achieved on the part of those who want to support these learning processes.

## Editorial

### Editorial

Haben Sie sich kürzlich gesagt: Diese Person, die ist mein Vorbild? Nicht im Sinne einer unerreichbaren Heldin. Sondern, dass da jemand ist, die oder der etwas so tut, dass Sie sich dachten: «Das inspiriert mich. Wenn sie oder er das kann – ich kann das vielleicht auch!» Für mich gibt es fast in jedem Aspekt meines Lebens die eine oder andere Person, an deren Fähigkeiten und Lebensweise ich mich orientiere.

Gerade beim Heranwachsen sind solche Vorbilder besonders wichtig. Aber kennen wir die Vorbilder junger Menschen gut genug? Es lohnt sich hinzuhören: Die Diskussion darüber, an wem oder was wir unser eigenes Handeln orientieren, eröffnet ein riesiges Potential persönlicher und gesellschaftlicher Entwicklung. Und übrigens auch einige Abgründe. Auf jeden Fall öffnet die Frage nach den Vorbildern die Tür zum Gespräch. Und meist auf eine sehr erfreuliche Weise, denn Vorbilder erinnern uns daran, dass Probleme Lösungen haben und dass wir alle etwas erreichen und Positives schaffen wollen.

Marcel Dreier  
feпа-Geschäftsleiter



Have you recently said to yourself: This person is my role model? Not an unattainable heroine, but someone who does something in such a way, that you thought to yourself: "That inspires me. If he or she can do that - maybe I can too?" In almost every aspect of my life, there are people whose skills and way of life I look to for inspiration and guidance. Especially when growing up, such role models are particularly important. But do we know the role models of young people well enough? It is worth listening: The discussion about who or what we model our own actions on opens up a huge potential for personal and social development. And, by the way, also some abysses. However, the question of role models opens the door to conversation. And usually in a very pleasant way, because role models remind us that problems have solutions and that we can all achieve something positive.

Marcel Dreier, fepa Managing Director

## **MEN ENGAGE: A DEBATE IS NEEDED ON "POSITIVE MASCULINITIES"**



This summer we had an intensive intercultural debate on how young men can contribute to gender justice. This was prompted by the numerous indications from fepa partner organisations that successful work for gender justice must also involve men. So, we said to ourselves: let's find out how we can tackle this. And so, as men from Switzerland and Zimbabwe, we questioned existing "male myths" and male privileges. We analysed how socialisation entrenches patriarchal domination. We debated how to overcome binary role models and how to publicly address the taboo and discrimination of diverse gender identities. We saw that the conventional male roles also harm the men themselves and that it is precisely this insight that can motivate us to question gender roles. We discussed our findings with many women. This conversation must continue until equality and justice between all genders are the norm and fundamental.

## **Allan Murozvi, PYCD, 27 years, Gender activist, Chechen**

I see this in my daily life in the country, that the role models for male behaviour are imprinted at a very early age. The youngest in my family is a one-year-old. The gifts he receives to play with are spears and cars. Behind this is the expectation that he should learn to behave like a man at an early age. It is so with the more complex patriarchal structures here, which are anchored in our society. The boys thus become a pillar of the patriarchy at an early age. The young men we deal with are by no means blank slates. We accompany them on a difficult path; however, this does not stop me from campaigning for men to respect women and to work for a common and balanced development. In the last few months, we have done a lot to achieve this: there are now five of us from different locations who have formed clubs with young men in our area. Here, my comrades-in-arms and I can give our all, because we know that as fairly well-educated and progressive young men, we have an influence on other young men. I have to admit that it is much more difficult with the older men. But with the boys, the idea of the clubs and our informative outreach on social media goes down well. As soon as the Covid 19 situation allows, we will be able to attract a wider audience through sporting events. I am very much looking forward to this, because I am convinced that men with their commitment to equality, can support the work of women's rights organisations.

**Dingulwazi Kenneth Mudimu, 28 years, Basel**

Growing up in a predominantly patriarchal society, being a man means exercising one hundred percent dominance over all women. Even within the family, there comes a point in the life of a son when he undermines the authority of his grandmother and mother simply because he is a man. This also means that only the father or grandfather have more to say than he has. These relationships are the result of a male dominance that has existed for hundreds of years almost everywhere in the world. In my family, however, being a boy or a man has taken on a different dimension. This is mainly because I am the fifth of seven children, and only two of them are girls. My parents did not adhere to predefined gender roles. They saw us all as having equal rights. That's why, for example, all the household chores were shared equally. We children could even wear what we wanted and how we wanted. I experienced how my father and mother made decisions together, which is rare for people of their generation. This was a significant step in my upbringing, because it made me who I am today, as a husband and as a father: I am aware that I don't always have the right answers or know more than my wife. That's why my wife and I are always work together as a team.

However, it is clear to me that patriarchy is everywhere in our daily lives: In our places of worship, in politics and in all areas of our lives where men are superior to their female

colleagues, because of the existence of patriarchy as a social construct and a result of human interaction, in the majority of our lives.

We lag behind the world in achieving sustainable development because we do not pay attention to women, girls and people who identify as LGBTQIA+. We can only achieve sustainable development if men consciously contribute to equal development and create a more equal and freer environment that does not include "some people" but includes "all people". And this is also a task for women, because some women are equally responsible for maintaining patriarchy. That is why the struggle for equality is a task for all.

Singer Alanis Morissette once said, "In the face of patriarchy, it is a brave act for men and women to embrace the feminine instead of shaming it or trying to eradicate it." Both men and women need to be courageous in the fight for an equal society where all people have equal opportunities and the freedom to be who they are without fear of being humiliated or losing their friends or jobs. I see a society where women, girls and LGBTQIA+ are treated fairly and justly and have the same rights and privileges as men and boys.

**Niklas Lindenthal, 25 years old, Basel**

I contribute to gender equality by critically confronting sexist attitudes and questioning classic male roles. I think it is important not to think in a binary way, but in a plural way. There are not only two genders, but several

with more diverse forms. In the MenEngage project we reflect individually and socially on what it means to be a man and to what extent certain actions and role patterns of men lead to discrimination, violence, inequality and injustice.

I hope that a mutual learning experience as a result of the intercultural exchange, will contribute to a more just society on different levels in the respective contexts of the participants. As a white, young man, I am privileged and see myself as part of the existing patriarchy and the problems associated with it: Taking into account that certain people are oppressed and disadvantaged through discrimination and violence.

The approach of "taking responsibility" in relation to violence, discrimination and oppression of other people creates the possibility to contribute to the development of a more just and non-violent world. In order to change the social system, intrinsic motivation is needed, which we can promote with the right approaches. Our participatory and gender-reflective cooperation has created added value for me and the other participants.

## **REACTIONS**

### **Mickness Aeschlimann-Mshana, fepa board member**

I think Allan is going in the right direction and is doing great work that will, in time, motivate other men around him. The idea of

clubs for young men is very promising in the fight for women's rights. He also says that it is more difficult to reach older men. Reaching all men is essential - no man should be left out, old or young (#nomanshouldbeleftbehind). Older men exert a great influence on their grandchildren. That is why I see the need to sensitize such groups through men's clubs or other platforms.

### **Nora Julien, MA African Studies, interested in Issues around masculinities.**

It is good that you are actively addressing the issue of gender equality actively. I notice that the three personal and honest texts use terms and concepts in different ways. It is good to have a discussion about which terms best describe what you want to talk about. The question of "masculinities" is likely to be at the center of this and also to be called by its name more often. It is perhaps not primarily a question of "positive" masculinities, but of more conscious, diverse and even critical masculinities, which do not put a tight corset of roles and expectations around men, which then cause them to display unhealthy behaviors against themselves and others.

### **Where do we go from here?**

We have set out on our journey, because it's clear: we can talk to young men about their role models, the expectations they are confronted with and also about the so-called "toxic masculinity" that causes so much damage to men, women and children.

We have learned from established men's organizations how gender-transformative work with young men works and will now try it out ourselves, because it will bring more freedom and more justice. If you want to follow this or get involved, the best way is to follow us at #fepa\_men.

## FEPA-FRIENDSBOOK

Do you know the books in which children and young people introduce their friends? We started this with young people and printed some of the entries in this newsletter. The book is growing online under the hashtag #fepafriendsbook and on the website: [fepafrika.ch/fepa-friendsbook](http://fepafrika.ch/fepa-friendsbook).

## OUR VOICES ARE IN OUR HANDS



In conversation with Ropafadzo Ashley Tome and Kuda Mapeture Susanne Zurbuchen we learned how the self-help organisation Miss Deaf Pride Zimbabwe (MDPZ) promotes the cause of deaf women in Zimbabwe. MDPZ encourages the women to fight all discrimination and to promote deaf culture and sign language.

**fepa:** Sign language is recognised as one of the official languages of Zimbabwe.

Important institutions such as the police and hospitals lack translators. As a result, victims of sexual abuse cannot make themselves understood. Last year, MDPZ contacted these organisations and demanded that sign language translators be available. The question is, has the situation improved since then?

**MDPZ:** We had to realise that change takes time. Most of these important institutions are reluctant to learn sign language. This reluctance can also be attributed to the lack of resources. As MDPZ we need to make our advocacy campaigns broader and more decisive, so that we can be a force to be reckoned with, with the authorities.

**fepa:** This year, MDPZ is focusing on a comprehensive sex education campaign to prevent violence against deaf young women. What have you planned and what is your experience?

**MDPZ:** We want to reach both young women and men. In the past, we only addressed deaf women in our sexuality trainings, but then we realised that many deaf young men also find it difficult to access important information about sexual health. Our trainings had a positive impact on both men and women. The young people were very grateful for the educational workshops we held. The evaluation showed, that the deaf young people feel encouraged and valued.

**fepa:** What other role do men play in your place work?

**MPDZ:** In Zimbabwe, where the patriarchal system is strongly anchored, it is important that everyone has an insight into every area of life. This is the only way our training can have an impact. Women and men have almost the same roles, both have to fight to remove the obstacles that hinder and limit the potential and abilities of deaf people. They have to fight the same battles, but at the end of the day, it's always the deaf women who are more affected than their male counterparts.

**fepa:** In your communication you use the term "Deaf Culture". What is "Deaf Culture" and what role does it play in the deaf community?

**MPDZ:** Deaf culture is a culture of its own with its own language. People have to accept this. Most people think that people who are deaf or have some other impairment and need to be treated or cured. Deafness must be recognized as an equal form of human experience; it must not be seen as a deficiency. Deaf people do not count less than the rest of the people. They are people with their own identities, norms and behaviors. For example, most deaf people do not chew noiselessly and therefore meet with disapproval. The way we chew, the way we speak through our hands, is beautiful and it sets us apart from the rest of the world.

"Deaf Culture" needs to be accepted. In "Deaf Culture" we always need the capital letter for Deaf. We are proud of who we are and what we do. We love our world where the silence seems to dominate us. This

silence and stillness hold more than hearing people can imagine. For other people deafness seems to be annoying, but it is something for which we are grateful, which motivates us to feel happy and comfortable in our skin. In our hands lies our voice, in our silence lies our noise and our laughter.

fepa is supporting the work of "Miss Deaf Pride Zimbabwe" with CHF 5900 in 2021.

## A LOT REMAINS TO BE DONE



Jestina M. Mukoko is the national director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project. The ZPP was founded in 2000 by a group of church and human rights organizations with the aim of monitoring and documenting politically motivated violence and violations of human rights. Based on the records of its now 420 constituency-level and 50 district-level monitors. ZPP publishes monthly reports that are delivered to more than 2,000 key stakeholders. As part of its mandate, ZPP also follows the situation of people with disabilities.

**Jestina M. Mukoko, Director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project, on the situation of people with disabilities:**

**fepa:** Zimbabwe has adopted a new National Disability Policy (NDP). This is progress, but what will come next?

**Jestina Mukoko:** Many organizations and advocates for people with disabilities believe that the National Disability Policy is a good document, but they are concerned about the legal framework. The effective legal situation of people with disabilities is still determined by the Disabled Persons Act (DPA) of 1992, which is outdated in all respects. The new National Disability Policy is based on what is in force in other parts of the world, where there has been a shift from the medical and charitable model to the human rights approach and the social model. The outdated Disability Act must therefore be changed if it is to comply with the Constitution and the National Disability Policy. The Government deserves praise for the National Disability Policy, but so far it is only a piece of paper. Much needs to be done before the rights of people with disabilities are actually protected, respected and upheld.

**fepa:** Are there efforts to replace the outdated Disability Act?

**JM:** The civil society organisations that work with people with disabilities are campaigning for the repeal of this outdated law so that we can have a body of law that respects the rights of these people.

**fepa:** Education is a key issue for people with disabilities. In Zimbabwe, one out of every three children with disabilities does not attend school. Are there initiatives to

integrate these children, or are there special schools for them?

**JM:** There are schools for children with disabilities, but within the framework of the new human rights and social model that aims for social change, children in institutes should not be segregated, but should be in the same environment as children without disabilities. The segregation of these children perpetuates the model of charity that sees them as social cases. We must make a conscious effort to change the socialisation of children from the family level, especially amongst us black Zimbabweans. A child with a disability is hidden from everyone and seen as a curse. There are cases of women who have been divorced for bringing a disabled child into the world.

**fepa:** What else can be done to increase society's acceptance of people with disabilities?

**JM:** We have to remove all existing barriers. Take a school, for example, that has two floors and a staircase, but no ramp - that school cements the disability. When there are adequate facilities for children with impairments children don't see any differences. In a school with a ramp, they will not be surprised to see children in wheelchairs. They will be a part of their lives. We have to accept that for a long time our society has been the reason that disability persists. On public transport, for example, we import buses from Belarus, but these buses are not accessible for the disabled. They are not barrier-free. People

with impairments need help as it is difficult for them to lift their wheelchairs into the buses. With Covid-19 there is a risk that they will catch it from those who help them. We need to ensure that people with disabilities get their full rights.

**fepa:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**JM:** What I think is very important is that in less than 21 months elections will be held in Zimbabwe. We will be electing the president, members of parliament and all local authorities. We believe that all people have the right to participate in this process as voters and also as candidates for political office. We have encouraged the political parties to introduce a quota for persons with disabilities. If we take the human rights approach towards people with disabilities, we must not see them as social cases. We want them to represent their own interests and to be fully involved in the way they are governed. We want them to run for public office. Worldwide at least 10 percent of the population are people with disabilities and it is no different in Zimbabwe. Our children need to grow up knowing that they are fully integrated into society so that there are no more differences.

**fepa:** Thank you very much for this interview.

The interview was conducted by Susanne Zurbuchen.

## PROJECT NEWS

### DANGWE-PRESCHOOL BACK IN OPERATION

Projektnews

#### DANGWE-VORSCHULE WIEDER IN BETRIEB



Dangwe Arts hat während des Lockdowns die Hilfsprogramme für die Kinder der Vorschule und im Quartier weiterlaufen lassen: So kamen diese Kinder und zum Teil auch ihre Bezugspersonen weiterhin zu Nahrungsmitteln und einem sozialen Netz. Seit Anfang September ist die Vorschule wieder in Betrieb. Die 15 Plätze sind alle besetzt.

During the lockdown, Dangwe Arts continued its support programs for the children in the preschool and in the neighborhood: this meant that these children and some of their caregivers continued to have access to food and a social network. The preschool reopened at the beginning of September with all 15 places occupied.

## LOCKDOWN: KUWADZANA SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE AT THE LIMIT



Erfolge der früheren Jahre:  
KSTC-Absolventinnen fanden Arbeitsstellen  
auch während Corona

### LOCKDOWN: KUWADZANA SKILLS TRAINING CENTER AM LIMIT

Corona und der erneute Lockdown hat das Team und die 70 SchülerInnen des Berufsbildungszentrums stark getroffen. Der Koordinator und seine Familie erkrankten an Covid-19. Zum Glück war der physische

Corona and the renewed lockdown hit the team and the 70 students of the vocational training center very hard. The coordinator and his family fell ill with Covid-19. Fortunately, physical work in the school had already ceased by then. The good fortune came at a high price as the students are about to graduate. Extensive e-learning makes little sense at this point; after all, these are manual apprenticeships where hands-on work is paramount. Unfortunately, incomprehensible decisions by the authorities have also put obstacles in the way of decentralized learning in the five workshops: The dispute is not about health protection, but about the definition of "commercial use": the district authorities want to force the people who made their yards temporarily available to pay massive fees. All in all, it seems to us that the small team of the KSTC, which has so far shown a lot of commitment in overcoming the educational crisis, is somewhat exhausted. Fepa's visit in October is for the team a very welcome one.

## NEW PROJECTS IN THE PILOT PHASE



Im Zentrum der neuen Projekte:  
Frauenstimmen für Frauenrechte

One of the things we learned from last year's exchange visit with Rosewita Katsande of YETT and Cynthia Gwenzi of PYCD was that networking produces fresh ideas and promising activities: which is why we are now bringing together about a dozen grassroots initiatives into a "community of practitioners." In such a community, the energy flows into the learning processes and not into the establishing of cooperation. The common goal of engagement is women's rights and gender justice. All participants bring experiences from their activism: How can we address discrimination, initiate fruitful dialogues in rural communities, address sex education, engage men and influence policy? Our project visit in October offers us the opportunity to participate in a workshop with all participants. fepa can learn a lot from this community. We can also provide our input. Above all, our role is to bring in resources to promote networking opportunities and strengthen the self-organization of the community.

New projects have also come to us from grassroots organizations led by young women within this community. GWEN, the Girls and Women Empowerment Network is anchored in the rural district of Seke. GWEN's innovative toolbox includes "Laundry Cafés" and film nights for youth to problematize and discuss gender roles. WAP, the Women Advocacy Project Trust is involved in the residential areas of Harare where poverty rates are high. Young women are introduced to the production of cleaning products, marketing and management, so that they can generate income on a sustainable basis. A contribution to the fight against premature marriage. You can get to know Miss Deaf Pride Zimbabwe (MDPZ) better on page 4. Last but not least, MDPZ contributes to the community of practitioners its know-how on how to better integrate people with disabilities.

## FEPA STUDY TRIP 2022 TO ZIMBABWE



**FEPA-STUDIENREISE 2022  
NACH SIMBABWE**

Sind Sie an den Menschen Simbabwe, an ihrem Leben, ihren Fragen, ihren Träumen, ihren Problemen und Projekten interessiert? Dann könnte die Studienreise, die fepa im Mai 2022 anbietet, genau das Richtige für Sie sein. Aus der langjährigen Arbeit mit unseren ProjektpartnerInnen können wir Ihnen intime Einblicke in einige Bereiche dieses schönen Landes und seiner lebendigen Gesellschaft und interessanten Geschichte vermitteln.

Vorgesehen sind:

- Besuche und Führungen in den Grossstädten Harare und Bulawayo mit ihren zahlreichen Herausforderungen, ihrer lebendigen Theater- und Konzertkultur.
- Kennenlernen von innovativen Projekten im agrarökologischen Landbau, in der Schaffung von Gendergerechtigkeit, in der Jugend

Are you interested in the people of Zimbabwe, in their lives, their questions, their dreams, their problems and projects? Then the study trip offered by fepa in May 2022 could be just the thing for you. From many years of working with our project partners, we can give you intimate insights into some areas of this beautiful country and its vibrant society and interesting history.

### Planned are:

Visits and guided tours in the big cities of Harare and Bulawayo with their numerous challenges, their lively theater and concert culture. Getting to know innovative projects in agro-ecological farming, in the creation of gender justice, in youth development

Walking through the unique ruins of Great Zimbabwe, the Matopo Hills landscape steeped in history.

Possibly insights into the important mining industry, into the church situation and again

the confrontation with the difficult political situation of Zimbabwe.

Depending on the interests of the trip participants, other focal points are possible.

When:

If the Corona situation allows the trip will take place May 7-22, 2022. An informational and get-to-know meeting is schedule for end of March 2022. English language skills are an advantage. The exact costs have not yet been determined. The 2019 trip cost around CHF 3800 (excl. flight).

### **If you are interested, please contact:**

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## **PORET - THE LAST WILL BE THE BE THE FIRST: YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE**

Our project partner PORET conducts "Permaculture Design" courses several times a year. In these intensive, two-week training courses, participants learn how to create positive ecological connections. This understanding is fundamental to the transition to a comprehensive

agroecological practice. The Chasesyama Permaculture Club CPC invites interested farmers to attend the course, which is free of charge for local participants thanks to PORET. Unfortunately, until now almost no young people from the region participated. But why not invite those who have not shown any interest so far? That is exactly what the CPC did. It invited (via the community elders) young people from four villages to the course. And lo and behold: 63 young people took part in the last course. The theoretical knowledge was immediately applied in the villages with the support of the course instructors: Ditches were dug, compost was mixed, trees were planted and even a fowl run was built. According to Kumbirai Dube, who led this course together with others, in the past three years never has there been such direct implementation as was with this course. What a success! It looks as if the youth sometimes have to be forced to find joy.

## **ADVOCACY: VOICES FROM SOUTH AFRICA**



"Our government responded firmly to the Covid 19 pandemic. It said it was concerned with protecting basic rights, especially the right to health. But in the face of widespread reports of police and army

brutality, in the face of 450,000 arrests, starvation, and the collapse of the education and health systems, did it really protect our rights?

South Africans were hit by the Covid 19 pandemic in the worst economic conditions imaginable. We had no time to mourn our loved ones, so many of whom we lost to the pandemic. We are also traumatized by hunger, poverty and unemployment.

We will probably be hit by more waves of this virus until at least all adults are immune. Our only hope of controlling the pandemic is for as many people as possible to get vaccinated against the virus as soon as possible.

## DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

It has been two months since our country was rocked by violence and looting in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Gauteng. These events show that the living conditions of South Africans have been deteriorating steadily. We have been dropped from great heights by a government and a ruling party paralyzed by former President Zuma's kleptocracy, feigned nationalism and factional infighting. However, the past few weeks have also shown that there is solidarity and community in the face of a total breakdown of law and order. During this time, we have seen extraordinary acts of civic engagement by individuals and businesses. To addressing the current crisis requires that we engage as citizens to protect and defend our democracy.

Many South Africans have joined the discussion about a universal basic income. It is time for the government to listen. There is no lack of intellectual capital to set things right - if only those in power would listen. After all, there are all those South Africans who mustered the strength during the first hard lockdown to feed the hungry during a hard, cold winter. There are all those South Africans who filled potholes, repaired the infrastructure, grew food, provided children with meager incomes and scholarships. The Central Karoo Farm Community Association has been a long-time partner of fepa. During the pandemic, it contributed significantly to the solidarity-based aid to the people in the Central Karoo

## TAMARY KUDITA: ROLEMODELS FROM YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW



For this issue of the newsletter, we invited the Zimbabwean photo artist Tamary Kudita to contribute images. In 2021, the 27-year-old became the first female photographer from Africa to win a Sony World Award. "The success still feels surreal, but it also

brings responsibility with it," Kudita told us. The winning image is from her series "African Victorian" a series, in which she explores her mixed heritage. Asked about her role model, Kudita names African American entrepreneur, philanthropist, activist and first black millionaire Madame CJ Walker (1867-1919). Walker had motivated her employees to give back to the black community by demonstrating it herself. Tamary herself would like to encourage others to challenge themselves, try new things and go their own way: "Because if they see it, they can be it". She herself would like to make it to the Venice Biennale with her artistic work. Kudita says of her work as an artist: "I put bodies at the centre. I focus on bodies that have been overlooked until now. Her visual language plays with dualities and is concerned with the question of how we see ourselves and how others see us. "Through portrait photography, I want to show what a future society could look like based on a critical understanding of our past."

### **Mzukisi "Ta Pops" Mooi, 24.12.1961-12.09.2021**

After many weeks in intensive care, Mzukisi Mooi lost his battle against the COVID-19 disease. Mooi was a leader who never put himself in the center: always on the side of the oppressed, exploited and disadvantaged. He gave these people the courage to stand up for their rights and to work towards fair solutions. In recent years, Mooi has been particularly active in the area of labor rights in the wine-growing regions of the Western Cape and the living conditions of farming communities in central Karoo. Mzukisi Mooi enjoyed enormous respect and trust, because he always offered his advice without prejudice or patronage. In Mooi, we have also lost an important voice who consistently resisted the appropriation of social movements by parties and by donors from the north. We are very sad.