

Women in Education

Nyameka is a Former Cape Town ANC Youth League member, where she served on the Dullah Omar ANCYL regional task team until she resigned. She was also on the provincial young women’s desk for the ANC Women’s League in Cape Town. Nyameka then moved to Agang where she was elected as the national convener for Agang SA Youth Forum during the party’s manifesto launch, she also served on the party’s national executive. Nyameka joined LEAP Central team as the Fundraising and Alumni Officer. For more than ten years LEAP has worked with marginalised children through the only network of independent, no-fee schools in South Africa. 79% of LEAP students have degrees or diplomas or are continuing with higher education. LEAP is trying to prove the impossible: that no matter how deprived, any child in South Africa can graduate from high school, obtain a tertiary qualification and look forward to a fulfilling future.



Nyameka Mguzulo

How did your own education influence your involvement in education currently?

I had the opportunity to attend a high school which provided its learners an opportunity to get high quality education that not only put emphasis on academics but a development of the person as a whole. I come from Langa a marginalised community in Cape Town and in my community not everyone gets access to pursue tertiary education because of the type of education in the local community schools. When I go back to my community and look at my peers, I feel angry because of the evident disparities between us. Many are drop outs, unemployed and still trapped in the unending cycle of poverty. This reality has influenced my involvement in education. I want to be a young leader which will change this present reality; I want a new story for education. A new narrative that does not prejudice young people because of where they come from but an environment which allows all young people to unleash and reach their full potential!

In your opinion, what role do women play in driving education improvement in SA?

Women play a pivotal role in education, we are nurturers and hard workers and I believe that once you empower a woman with education you empower a nation. You allow women to break the patriarchal nature of our society. You allow mothers to inspire and empower their children to be better citizens of the world.

What one way could you, or would you, contribute to a better future for South Africa?

I have a vision for South Africa in particular education; I want to create a social movement that will transform education in our marginalised communities. I want to mobilise activists, policy makers, teachers and Corporate South Africa to a new narrative in education. A model of education that empowers all!!!!

