

Tell Your Mother's Story Volume Eight

THEME: THREE DECADES OF DEMOCRACY, BEFORE AND BEYOND...

Dear Colleague, this is a call for submissions of women's stories for the OHASA DSAC Coffee Table Publication Series "Tell Your Mother's Story" – Volume Eight. If you are a woman you may submit your life's journey...your story. Kindly follow the guidelines provided under the Options on Page 2. You may be as creative as possible. Other writers are encouraged to also submit women's stories by following the guidelines on the interviewing process and adhering to general ethics in writing as outlined below.

Ethical considerations when interviewing

Before selecting respondents for the interviews, it is important for the interviewing author to understand and apply ethical principles. A brief explanation of the interview goal must be explained to the respondents. Details of the interview process must be shared. The respondents must agree to be a part of the interview in order to write up the story that will be submitted to the Coffee Table Publication Tell Your Mother's Story series. All submissions must be accompanied by authentication granting permission to print the story. Submissions will go through a rigorous editing and proof reading process with a final signoff by the submitting author.

Suggested questions / guidelines when conducting the interview

1. Could you start by telling me more about yourself? Name, age, birth order, occupation, parents' origin. Follow-up questions: Where did your parents grow up, etc. Share details of your siblings, your school days and friends from childhood.
2. How do you identify yourself? Follow-up questions: Using markers in terms of culture, ancestral heritage, workplace persona, a family person, immediate or nuclear family, friends, society. Provide a background as to who you are.
3. What general or unique negative experiences did / do you have as a woman in the South African society or of the African Diaspora? Follow-up question: Did / do you face difficulties in your everyday life? If so, what kind? How did you overcome these?
Have you experienced hate, gender based violence, racism or exotification in your daily-life? (Answer is optional)
4. What about the positive experiences in your life? How did you ensure that you became successful?
5. What are your most joyous life's encounters or incidents? Describe them by sharing when, where and with whom.
6. Religion, Sports, Hobbies?
7. Your motto in life?
8. What advice would you give to our young women today? Why?
9. How has your life changed post 1994?
10. Any final comments?

OPTION 1

Brief biography: This should cover birth, early childhood, schooling and life after schooling. A memorable moment in your life or your mother's life under apartheid. It is almost given that when you request people to write about their lives under apartheid they would focus on the hardships and their resistance to apartheid, i.e. political activism. This is true for many people, and women in particular, who regrettably histories still remain 'hidden'. Contributors are urged to write about this. Colleagues are strongly urged to begin to document about other aspects of their lives that remain dormant. Contributors are also encouraged to write about any aspect of their life or their mothers' life that they feel is pertinent and deserves to be documented. These could range from challenges unmarried women, especially black women, faced in acquiring accommodation in the urban areas; how they managed to survive and raise children, sometimes single-handedly through what the then government perceived as illegal means (e.g. beer brewing or street hawking); entertainment careers (Contributors must write about their memories or that of their mothers who were aspiring musicians, artists, sport enthusiasts, etc., in their communities); community developers, but due to apartheid laws, which restricted the advancement of black people, they struggled to achieve their dreams. Views about post-apartheid South Africa: Hope/Dream for the future, Sadness, Achievements, etc.



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OPTION 2

Writers are also encouraged to tell community stories. These stories could revolve around the women that played the pivotal role during the formative years.

OPTION 3

These are the questions that you should consider when submitting your own story:

	Stages in life	Experiences	Content
1	Birth to two years	Where were you born, and year?	Parents: Explain family background. Nuclear or extended family, etc.
2	Early life	School, friends, family, life in general under apartheid.	What was your life like while growing up? Who were the important role players in your life? What did you enjoy most while growing up, etc.?
3	Teenage years	Difficulties / cultural disputes / moral challenges / gender based violence	Did you face peer pressure? What influence did your culture / belief system have on you? Any memory of superstition / old wives' tales / folk tales / storytelling that shaped you, etc.?
4	Young adult life under apartheid	Trials / struggles / successes, hopelessness / violence.	To include family, children, spouse, etc. Influence of adult friends / civic groups, etc.
5	Marriage / children / extended family life	What experiences can you share? Economic difficulties? Social issues? Political strife? The environment?	Did you work? Were you protected at the workplace? Remuneration? Uniforms? Travelling, etc.?
6	Mature adult, and life as a professional person	Changes in the country? Your contribution. Professional Life? What were your challenges and successes at work? Male dominated work environment? What are your retirement plans?	Were you active in movements that led to change? Other experiences that you may have had. Etc. Share experiences from your professional life. Where did you first work?, When did you start working?
7	At present	Share your thoughts and hope for the future? Sadness? Achievements, etc.	If you could change anything, what would it be and why?

In Conclusion, remember to be creative. You can write as a family or as a group. We are looking for stories that cover the length and breadth of our country, the continent, and the African Diaspora. We are looking for women's tales from all provinces, the plaas, the plush neighbourhoods, townships and the international space as Women of Africa impact and are impacted globally. Join me in telling women's stories. This is a great initiative. Should you require any further information, please email: ohasafundraising@gmail.com or WhatsApp Kogie Archary on **072 856 1988**

Formatting Requirements

Text: Write in paragraphs

Use Sub-headings

Author's Name Bold - Size 12

Include 3 relevant photos with captions

1.15 Spacing

Arial Size 14

No of Words: 900 words

Provide a head shot and +/-40 words Bio of the author

Arial Font Size 12

Title Bold - Size 12

Provide a title (<12 words)

SUBMISSION DATE: 27 APRIL 2025

Regards,

Dr Kogielam Archary (Series Editor: Coffee Table Publication Series Tell Your Mother's Story)

Prof Christina Landman (Head of Publications: OHASA)



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