

## WALL OF REMEMBRANCE



This wall honours a small selection of women who played a key role in South African history; it does not include or mention all the role players. For more profiles visit [www.sahistory.org.za](http://www.sahistory.org.za)

### OLIVE SCHREINER

1855 – 1920

Early South African feminist, anti-war campaigner, author and intellectual

### CHARLOTTE MAXEKE

1874 - 1939

Political activist, religious leader, South Africa's first black women graduate and one of the first black South Africans to fight for women's rights

### CECILIA MAKIWANE

1880 - 1919

The first registered professional black nurse in South Africa, early activist in the struggle for women's rights and protestor in the first anti-women's pass campaign in 1912.

### BERTHA MKHIZE

1889 - 1981

Political activist, trade unionist, President of ANC Women's League (1956)

### CISSIE GOOL

1897 - 1963

Political activist, civil rights leader, founder of the National Liberation League and the Non-European United Front, member of the Cape Town City Council (1938-1951)

### FRANCES BAARD

1901-1997

Teacher, trade unionist, National Executive Committee member of the ANCWL and FEDSAW and patron of the UDF

### JOSIE PALMER

1903 - 1979

Political activist and leading figure in the SACP and FEDSAW

### IDA MNTWANA

1903-1960

Political activist, first president of the ANCWL and first National President of FEDSAW (1954-1956)

### HELEN JOSEPH

1905 - 1992

Teacher, political activist, trade unionist and founding member of the South African Congress of Democrats and FEDSAW

### ANNIE SILINGA

1910-1984

Political activist, member of the National Executive Committee of FEDSAW and president of the Cape Town branch of the ANCWL

### FLORENCE MATOMELA

1910-1969

Teacher and ANCWL organiser and vice-president of FEDSAW in the mid-1950s

### LILIAN MASEDIBA NGOYI

1911 -1980

Teacher, political activist, trade unionist, founding member of FEDSAW, president of the ANCWL and first woman to be elected onto the National Executive Committee of the ANC

### HILDA BERNSTEIN

1915 - 2006

Author, artist, political activist and founding member of FEDSAW



FEDSAW poster. Source: Unknown

**HELEN SUZMAN**

1917- 2009

One of South Africa's most famous white parliamentarians and fighters for human rights

**ALBERTINA SISULU**

1918-2011

Nurse, political activist, member of the ANCWL and executive committee of FEDSAW

**MARY BENSON**

1919 - 2000

Author and anti-Apartheid campaigner

**FATIMA SEEDAT**

1922 - 2003

Political activist, member of the ANC and SACP and participant in the 1952 Defiance Campaign and 1956 Women's Anti-Pass March

**SONIA BLINTING**

1922- 2001

Member of the SACP, founder member of the Cape Town Friends of Cuba Society and organizer of the World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners

**LIZZY ADRIAN  
(NANNA) ABRAHAM**

1925 - 2008

Political activist, trade unionist, general secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union, Western Cape secretary of SACTU, member of FEDSAW

**LILIAN DIEDERICKS**

1925 -

Political Activist, involved in the 1956 Women's Anti-Pass March



Helen Suzman, Johannesburg, 1990. Photograph by Gisele Wulfsohn.

**RUTH FIRST**

1925 - 1982

Political activist, founding member of the Federation of Progressive Students at Wits University, Treason Trialist and killed by a parcel bomb while in exile in Mozambique

**ADELAIDE FRANCES (TSHUKUDU)  
TAMBO**

1929 - 2007

Political activist, wife of Oliver Tambo and Member of Parliament (1994-1996)

**FATIMA MEER**

1928 - 2010

Political activist, writer, academic, screenwriter, human rights and gender activist

**DR KESAVELOO  
GOONAM**

1906 – 1999

Medical doctor, Natal Indian Congress Activist, passive resistance and Indian women's rights campaigner

**VICTORIA MXENGE**

1942-1985

Nurse and lawyer, UDF and NOW activist, she was assassinated by the apartheid government

**BERTHA (MASHABA) GXOWA**

1934 - 2010

Member of the ANCWL, a defendant in the Treason Trial and founder member of FEDSAW and one of the key organisers of the 1956 Women's Anti-Pass March

**SHEILA WEINBERG**

1945-2004

ANC activist and supporter of the Black Sash and UDF

**SOPHIA WILLIAMS DE BRIJYN**

1938 -

Political activist, trade unionist and founder member of SACTU, leader of the 1956 Women's Anti-Pass March and member of the ANCWL National Executive Committee

**FLORENCE MKHIZE**

1932-1999

SACP and ANCWL activist, founding member of FEDSAW and the UDF

**DOROTHY NYEMBE**

1931-1998

Political activist, organiser for the ANCWL, FEDSAW member and led the Natal contingent at the 1956 Women's Anti-Pass March

**MOLLY BLACKBURN**

1930-1985

Political activist and civil rights campaigner, politician and Black Sash member



**CLASSROOM ACTIVITY**

**Write a biography**

Choose any woman that was politically active in the 1990s. Do some research using a library or the internet, and write a life story about the woman you have chosen. You should write about one page.

**Content outline:**

**THE CONTEXT:**

- Begin with an overview of the organisation the woman was involved in.
- Explain briefly the political climate in South Africa in the 1990s.

**THE LIFE STORY OF THE WOMAN YOU HAVE CHOSEN:**

- Give an account of her life, character and ideas.
- Explain why this woman can be regarded as a good leader.

- Your concluding paragraph should state what impression the woman you have chosen has made on you.

**TIPS FOR WRITING:**

- Your work must read easily, be in plain language, and should be textured, so that is not just a list of 'one thing after another'. Anecdotes and personal idiosyncrasies about will make it more interesting to read.
- Don't shy away from negative aspects of the person's character. All human beings have flaws in their characters!
- You should write a draft before you write your final piece of work.
- Use your own words and do not plagiarise other people's work!