



## Welcome

Welcome to the Shukumisa Coalition (Shukumisa). This document is a short guide to the history of Shukumisa. Between the late 1990s and 2017, Shukumisa has taken the form of a working group, a campaign and a coalition, with a growing number of members representing all nine provinces in South Africa joining Shukumisa. Throughout our history several things have remained constant – a focus on the Sexual Offences Act, training on various topics for all members, a willingness to collaborate with one another, the use of multiple strategies to achieve goals, a focus on gathering evidence and an unwavering commitment to promoting the rights and needs of survivors of sexual violence.

### Early days – The National Working Group on Sexual Offences

In 1998 the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) began an investigation into sexual offences against children. Between 1998 and 2004, activists and civil society organisations (CSOs) worked together to ensure that these investigations were well-informed and would promote the needs of all sexual offences survivors including adults.

In 2004 Lisa Vetten of the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre (TLAC) brought the organisations that had been working together informally together officially and they decided to form the National Working Group on Sexual Offences, with the purpose of ensuring that the outdated Sexual Offences Act of 1957 was reformed and that the Sexual Offences Bill was more responsive to the needs of survivors of sexual violence. At the time, the National Working Group consisted of urban organisations based primarily in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

This Working Group was instrumental in making submissions on sexual offences, and in ensuring that the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007 included considerations related to the needs of survivors, including a much broader and less conservative legal definition of rape and a more survivors centred way of managing sexual offences within the criminal justice system. In addition to legal strategies, the Working Group also ran advocacy campaigns to increase public awareness of the need for the law to be passed.

### The Shukumisa Campaign

After the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act (Act 32 of 2007) was passed, the members of the Working Group knew that the process from law reform to real changes would take time, and so in 2008, the members turned their focus towards the implementation of the new law.

This change required a new name and branding. In October 2008 a meeting was held in Braamfontein to discuss the need to develop a campaign on the implementation of the new Sexual Offences Act, and the drafting of the National Policy Framework. The meeting established that the aims of the campaign would be (1) to increase the public's awareness of the changes to the law, (2) to hold government accountable for putting in place the infrastructure implied by the law in terms of police stations, health facilities and courts and (3) to ensure that the new policies and regulatory frameworks associated with the amended law were applicable to the needs of sexual offences.

In this meeting the name “The Shukumisa Campaign” was chosen, to represent the desire of member organisations to shake up public and political will to develop and implement laws and policies related to sexual offences in South Africa.

Although the Shukumisa Campaign continued to use some of the same strategies of the Working Group, it also adapted its tactics to make sure that the law, and the government departments responsible for implementing it, was well monitored. Key actions of the Shukumisa Campaign were (1) training field workers from member organisation to (2) monitor police stations, health facilities and courts for their compliance with the infrastructure needed to implement the new law and policies, (3) continuing to make submissions on the legislative and policy process to parliament, (4) making sure that members had opportunities to meet and share their work with one another and (5) building the capacity and knowledge of all the organisations involved in the campaign to do individual as well as joint advocacy.

In 2010 Shukumisa produced its first action plan, detailing the work that had been undertaken since 2008, the vision and mission of the ongoing campaign, its aims and planned activities. After 2010 action planning became a regular part of Shukumisa’s annual calendar, a steering committee was established to ensure that formal terms of reference for campaign membership were drawn up and that campaign activities were followed up on, and well-directed.

In 2012 at a strategic planning workshop Shukumisa formalised its strategy and attracted significant funding. The steering committee recognised that this would require greater coordination, administration, planning and reporting to donors. In 2012, a formal steering committee was established to support the secretariat, recruit new members, offer financial oversight and to supervise the coordinator. In 2013 the first coordinator was appointed, and housed by a steering committee member organisation. The first Shukumisa Coordinator was Vivienne Lalu, and she was followed by Aniela Batschari in 2014. Between 2014 and 2017 Shukumisa’s structure was stable, with a new steering committee elected each year, an annual members meetings and all commitments to donors honoured.

In 2015 members approved the terms of reference (TOR) for the Shukumisa Campaign. The TOR serves as a guideline for members and the steering committee and as a working document that gets amended as the need arises. Changes are discussed by the steering committee and approved by members at the annual members meeting.

### **The Shukumisa Coalition**

This work of the Campaign had continued for nearly ten years, when in 2016 it was decided to redefine the Campaign as a Coalition, to reflect the strong network that had been built amongst organisations and the diversity of Shukumisa’s work with a common focus on the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act.

The steering committee also decided that the secretariat function was no longer needed since there is a coordinator and funding conduits according to funding agreements, which manage the money on behalf of Shukumisa.

### **The Coordinator**

For any questions or queries you may have you can contact the Shukumisa coordinator, Aniela Batschari, via [shukumisacampaign@gmail.com](mailto:shukumisacampaign@gmail.com) or read more via (new website address).