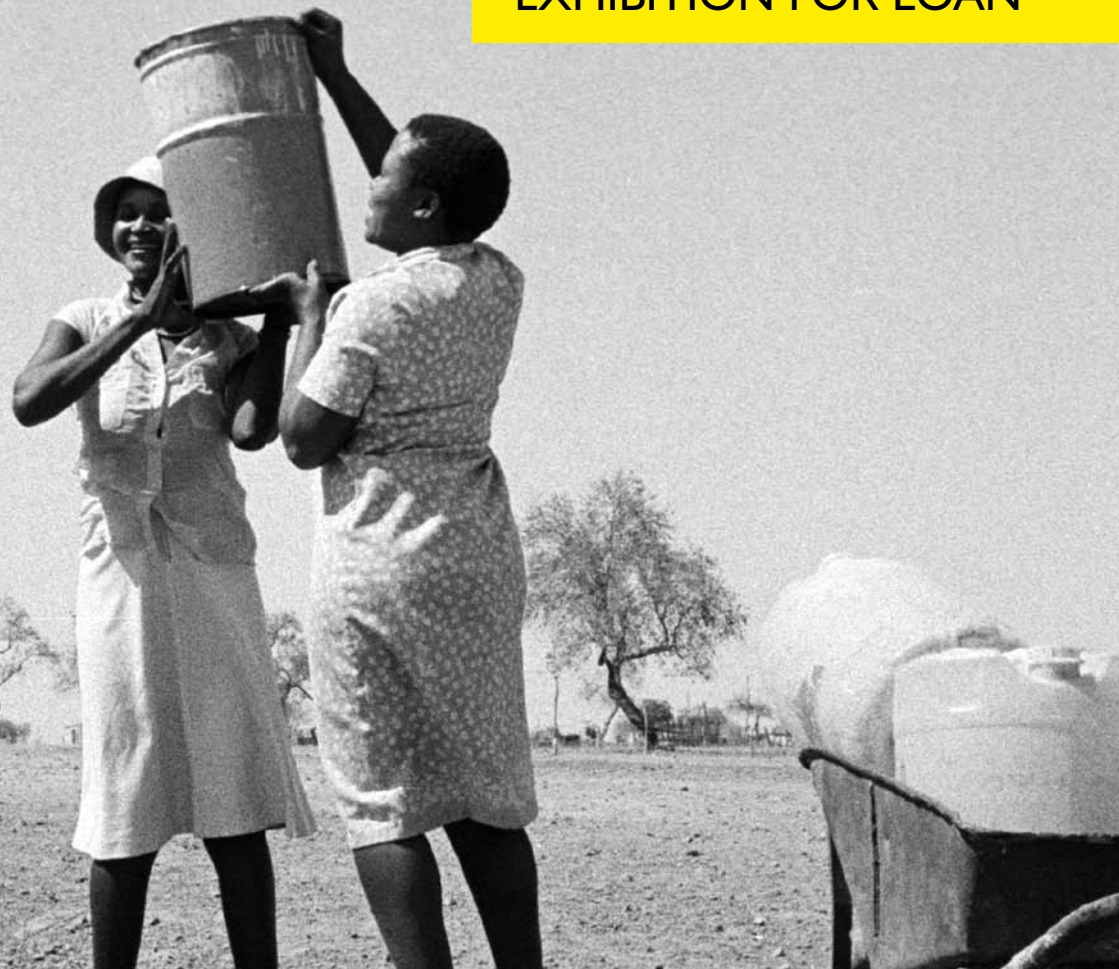


Women Hold Up Half the Sky

Commemorating Women in the Struggle

EXHIBITION FOR LOAN



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in a series of SAHA exhibition kits available for loan to heritage, educational and community organisations interested in hosting commemorative events and celebrations.

The South African History Archive (SAHA) has developed an exhibition kit entitled **Women Hold Up Half the Sky: Commemorating Women in the Struggle**, in which artefacts from the archives provide a lens into decades of women's resistance to apartheid.

Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokotho

(You have struck the women, you have struck the rock)

This famous song of the courage and resistance of South African women was first sung on August 9, 1956. The leaders of Fedasaw were banned, exiled, imprisoned and charged; effectively silencing the organisation.

Three decades later, women's organisations have taken a new form and have survived despite the detention of the officials and members and constant state harassment. Women have organised in the community to resist unjust rents, rising living costs, transport issues, removals, unemployment, the Koornhof Bills, police and army in the townships, unfair work conditions, and the detention of children. In fact, it is often the women in the community who must organise resistance, as they are the most affected during the prolonged absences of men.

Despite the detentions and repression, women are continuing to struggle and to fight back. The detentions of women and their families have shown that women have the strength to survive, to resist, and to organise. The continuing repression has politicised women as never before.

In the 1980's, women's organisations all over the country began uniting in regions. The membership democratically determined the objectives based on regional conditions and issues. Women were adamant that women's issues be seen as integral to the political issues in the country. The launch of the UDF Women's Congress and the revival of FEDSAW both occurred during 1987. These major national federations are committed to the basic principles of non-racism, non-sexism, and democracy and to the development of women's participation in grassroots organisations.

Reproduction of "Women's History report" (1988) (Copyright) John M. K. M. M. M.



Comprising 16 panels (1m wide x 2m high) which can be configured in various ways, and displayed indoors or in the open air, the exhibition kit is made up of reproductions of posters, photographs, and other archival materials, along with supporting background information, focusing on the contributions of women to the liberation struggle in South Africa.

Because no irreplaceable items are used in this exhibition kit and historical narrative is provided in exhibition-ready form, expenses typically associated with organizing an exhibition, such as insurance and curatorial costs, are substantially reduced.

The exhibition kit is suitable for use at short-term events (for example, conferences and civil society workshops), or for longer exhibitions at community halls and memorials sites. It can fit into a car so can be transported easily.

Easy-to-follow instructions on how to set up and dismantle the exhibition panels are included with the kit, as are templates of posters / flyers to promote the exhibition.

How to borrow the exhibition kit

If your organisation would like to apply to borrow this exhibition kit, please submit a written and signed request (on the letterhead of your organisation) to SAHA, including the following information:

- Name of organization:
- Type of organization:
- Proposed dates for loan;
- Proposed venue/s for the display of the exhibition kit:
- Details of measures to be taken to ensure the security of the exhibition kit while on display:
- Details of any educational or community event/s planned in conjunction with exhibition:
- Contact person responsible for the exhibition kit while on loan:
 - Name
 - Tel
 - Cell
 - Email

SAHA does not charge for the loan of any of its exhibition kits, but the organisation borrowing the kit will be responsible for the collection, safeguarding and return of the exhibition kit, and any costs associated therewith. In addition, the borrowing organisation will be expected to cover costs in the case of loss or damage.

SAHA also requests that the organisation borrowing the kit to provide feedback on the use of the exhibition kit, ideally with photographs of the exhibition kit in situ.

For more information about SAHA exhibition kits, please contact:

The South African History Archive (SAHA)
Box 31719
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South Africa

Tel: 011 717 1941

Fax: 011 717 1964

Email: info@saha.org.za



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