



Panashe Chigumadzi (b.1992)

Author, editor and journalist. Founder and editor of Vanguard Magazine. Chigumadzi has written widely on racial identity and provided platforms for young black women in South Africa.



Nokugcina Elsie Mhlophe (b.1958)

Activist, actor, storyteller, poet, playwright, director and author. Mhlophe is a much celebrated literary figure in South Africa.



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (b.1949)

Chairperson of the African Union Commission. An active member of the ANC, Dlamini-Zuma went on to serve as Minister of Health. She has been central to both political and health reform in South Africa.



Natalie Du Toit (b.1984)

International athlete. Having broken two world records at the age of 18, Du Toit became the first disabled swimmer in history to compete in the Open Commonwealth Games final.



Brenda Fassie (b.1964 — 2004)

Singer and activist. Fassie was South Africa's first black afro pop star with hit singles including *Vulindlela* and *Black President*. She is known as the 'Madonna of the Townships'.



Ferial Haffajee (b.1968)

Journalist and editor. Ferial became the first woman editor of the Mail and Guardian in 2004, and later became Editorin-Chief at City Press Newspaper. She is known for her bold and uncensored coverage of political and racial issues.



Helen Joseph (b.1905 – 1992)

Political activist. UK born Helen Joseph fought the cause of the 'forgotten people', the political activists exiled to rural areas during apartheid. In 1952 Joseph, together with four other women, led 20,000 women in protest against apartheid oppression.



Nompendulo Mkhatshwa (b.1993)

Undergraduate, SRC President at Wits University and education activist. A key figure in the *Fees Must Fall* student uprisings in October 2015. Mkhatshwa is becoming a major spokesperson for the free education campaign in South Africa.



Ruth Mompati (b.1925 – 2015)

Teacher, activist and member of ANC and South African Parliament. Mompati was a founding member of the Federation of South African Women in 1954, and campaigned for South African women's rights on an international stage.



Naadiya Moosajee (b.1984)

Entrepreneur and civil engineer. Moosajee with Hema Vallabh co-founded WomEng, an international organisation supporting the development of the next generation of female engineers in Africa.



Dr Patience Mthunzi (b.1976)

Scientist, lecturer and researcher. Dr Mthunzi pioneered the use of biophotonics in science and technology, particularly in the treatment of HIV. She received the Order of Mapungubwe the country's highest honour in 2014 for her groundbreaking research.



Zanele Muholi (b.1972)

Photographer and LGBT activist and artist. Muholi explores black LGBT identity and politics through her black and white portraiture. She has become an important figure in the campaign for gay rights in South Africa.



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela (b.1936)

Social welfare worker, ANC and parliament member and political activist. Ex-wife of the late Nelson Mandela. She was an essential figure in the anti-apartheid movement and campaign for black women's rights.



Thuli Madonsela (b.1962)

Human rights lawyer and Public Protector. Known for her anti-apartheid activity for the ANC and United Democratic Front, she had a key role in drafting South Africa's postapartheid constitution.



Lilian Ngoyi (b.1911 – 1980)

Textile worker, anti-apartheid activist and feminist. Ngoyi was the first elected woman to the executive committee of the ANC. She led protests in the 1956 march against the pass laws and campaigned tirelessly for women's rights until her death.



Thembi Ngubane (b.1984 – 2009)

AIDS activist and video diarist. Diagnosed with HIV, Ngubane campaigned in South Africa and internationally to destigmatize the disease. She maintained a video diary of her journey and has inspired a film to be made of her life.



Miriam Makeba (b.1932 – 2008)

World famous singer and civil rights activist. Credited with introducing African music to global audiences. She sang in aid of human rights and political causes.



Caster Semenya (b.1991)

International athlete. Semenya's gender was questioned following her victory at the 2009 World Championships. Her response to the controversy earned her a place in the New Statesman's *50 People That Matter* for her contribution to race and gender politics.



Ntsiki Mazwai (b.1980)

Singer, poet and social media activist. Mazwai is an outspoken voice for black rights and feminist issues in South African. She famously criticised the ANC for failing to elect women into leadership positions.



DJ Zinhle (b.1983)

DJ and Co-founder of FUSE, an academy for aspiring female DJs in Johannesberg. DJ Zinhle works with young black women to provide training in the entertainment industry.