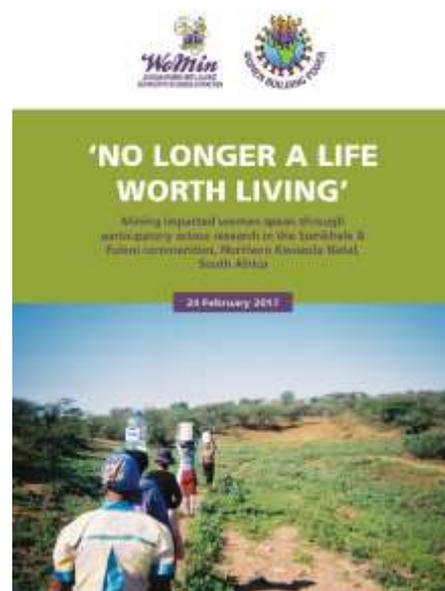


The Launch of *No Longer a Life Worth Living* Report

Mining-impacted women speak through participatory action research in the Somkhele and Fuleni communities, northern KwaZulu–Natal, South Africa

Tuesday, 28 March 11:00am – 14:00pm
Venue: Marche Hotel, Kwambonambi

Mining-impacted women from the towns of Somkhele and Fuleni are proud to launch a report, *No Longer a Life Worth Living* on **Tuesday 28 March 2017**. This report is a product of eight months (April – November 2016) of participatory action research (PAR) conducted by women in their communities to identify the issues that women and their families face in relation to water provision in the area and the impacts of Tendele Mine's activities on water access. A research team of ten women activists (five from each community) led the PAR project. Their work identified several problems their communities are facing related to the mine's water grabs, the drought and accompanying water scarcity as well as water pollution in the area. The research also addresses the outright failure of the municipality and the national Department of Water Affairs to regulate water licensing, and meet constitutional, legal and policy commitments concerning the water rights of all citizens.



This important report will launch just after **South Africa Water Week**, a weeklong awareness raising campaign that celebrates the value of water for human life, run by the Department of Water and Sanitation (13 – 19 March 2017).

JOIN US on 28 March at 11:00am to hear women researchers and community activists share stories of coal mining's abuse of the human right to water, including privatisation, deprivation, and contamination.

About the *No Longer a Life Worth Living* Report

"Yes, we have a drought currently, but it is not the first time that we have had a drought in the area. We still survived previous droughts and we could farm and keep our livestock. We had springs that we could go to, little streams that never dried and kept us going. The problem is that because of mining, the river has dried up even more than usual during droughts because of the water being used to wash the coal by the mine, we suspect that has affected these water sources that never [used to dry] up [like this]."

Water is a fundamental human right and guaranteed in the South African Constitution (section 21(1) of the Bill of Rights), echoing similar provisions in international frameworks such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Yet nearly 5-million people across South Africa do not have access to piped water and source their drinking water from rivers, streams and dams. Women bear high costs in order to access water to meet their domestic and other needs, some spending hours walking long distances in search of water or they are forced to buy water, waiting in long queues for the waterkan.

No Longer a Life Worth Living highlights the scope of women's everyday struggles around water, underscoring how Tendele's coal mining activities have exacerbated water shortages due to a severe drought and the failure of the local municipality to ensure the people's constitutional right to water. The mine's activities have also caused high levels of pollution e.g. air pollution from mine dust that contaminates drinking water, deterioration of the water quality and availability, and soil pollution that has destroyed crops. The women of Somkhele and Fuleni are determined to fight for their rights to water, health, land and livelihoods, and urgently demand that the municipality fulfils its constitutional mandate to address the water challenges confronting the community.

Event Speakers:

- **Nyonde Ntswana**, a researcher
- **Francinah Nkosi**, from Women Advocacy Forum and a member of the National Steering committee of Energy and Climate Justice Campaign
- **Smangele Nkosi**, a representative of the Somkhele local community
- **Lebo Ngubeni**, a representative of Fuleni local community
- **Facilitator: Caroline Ntaopane**, National campaigner of Energy and Climate for WoMin

Copies of the report will be available in Zulu and English.

This participatory action research and launch of this report have been supported by **WoMin – African Women United Against Destructive Resource Extraction** (www.womin.org.za) and the Centre for Environmental Rights.

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