

DATE: 2014-6-12

PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAMES: MRS. ALET BEYL & MS. LOUISE BICK

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA (INTRODUCTION)	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA (GUEST SYNOPSIS)	Today's discussion concerns Women's' Legal Rights, in relation to social, employment, property ownership, marriage as well as evolving legislation and our studio guests are Mrs.Alet Beyl and Louise Bick. I will introduce them briefly to you. Mrs. Alet Beyl has a B.Proc and LLM in Private Law. She was admitted as an Attorney in 1995 and practised for her own account before joining the University of Johannesburg's Law Clinic in 2007 as a Clinic Attorney, primarily at the Alexandra Law Clinic then at Doornfontein Law Clinic and eventually she started the Law Clinic in Soweto in 2011 where she assists people who cannot afford private attorneys. Louise Bick is a Director at Werksmans Attorneys and head of Pro Bono Law. She specialises in Consumer Rights, Disability Rights, Children's Rights, Property Rights and Corporate Governance for Non-profit Organisations. Additionally, she established the free Werksmans Protection Law Clinic in Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg. Welcome to the show.
MRS. BEYL	Thank you so much. Thank you for having me.
DR. MALKA	Legislation promotes and protects peoples' constitutional rights. However, gender equality and the elements that women confront when they're dealing with issues pertaining to law is still a major concern and because of this issue we've got numerous policies and frameworks in place for women ranging from both international as well as regional and national instruments and some of those include the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action 2005 to 2015 which is the basis for Gender Justice conferences, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa 2004 and the Southern African Development Countries Declaration on Gender and Development. In terms of legislation, milestones and developments that have been established in the last few years concerning women, what areas have you experienced specifically in the work that you've encountered, whether that comes from violence and harassment, family law, inheritance succession, socio-economic rights, property ownership and consumer protection?
MRS. BEYL	What I've seen, there is not that many new Acts and regulations that came into operation. There is a Draft Bill out and I think that's been out since 2010 or 2011 for the Empowerment of Women but if we go back and we look at the Constitution ...
DR. MALKA	Is this going on for the likes of the Women Empowerment and Gender

	Equality Bill?
MRS. BEYL	<p>Yes, it is that Bill but currently it is just the Bill so it means it's not Legislation yet and we cannot really enforce anything written in the Bill. I think the basis of the Bill lies in the Constitution where the Constitution, what you just said, the Constitution says we all need to be gender equal etcetera and there should not be any distinction made amongst people because of race, gender etcetera and that is what the Bill actually looks like it's trying to do. It is to enforce what's written in the Constitution. But unfortunately, the Bill has not been passed yet and I don't know of any other specific legislation related to women per se. Some of the legislation would contain stuff that would cover both men and women but not women per se.</p>
MS. BICK	<p>I think in commenting on the new Bill with respect to women empowerment, what is interesting is that there hasn't been a fantastic reception to this Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill from the Women's Rights Sector. There's been comments from many different Human Rights based organisations on the Bill that criticize the Bill and its contents in that it is just policy. It's not practical enough, it's not looking at actual issues that people like us are dealing with in Law Clinics, in Legal Aid environment in actually empowering women to experience that level of legal protection and rights. To give you some examples, the Legal Resources Centre has criticised the content of the Bill. There is a group of the people dealing with sex workers education, Sonke Gender Justice, the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre. They've all made comments on this Bill, to say, hold on a second, are we just creating another policy, are we just creating another hoop for companies and employers to have to jump through. That's not actually empowering massive groups of women within this country including rural women, you know, they use a very simple definition of gender in this Bill. They talk about women and men, girls and boys and a lot of the criticism is what about a group that doesn't fall into that. What about lesbian, gay, trans gender, bisexual rights that does cross the gender line. So as much as this Bill is one of the new developments, I wouldn't necessarily classify it as leaps and bounds of positive development in that there are major concerns as to the content of that Bill.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I have been quite surprised at the degree of criticism that the Bill has faced. I think that the Bill is quite open in terms of the content that it does in order to try to cover as much ground as possible and let's face it most Bills will never be one hundred percent inclusive of every stakeholder or every population group. But I think that what the Bill is trying to do is really make steps forwards and legislative steps for women to try to get to a point where they have that fifty-fifty equal representation be it in the workspace, be it in decision making, positions of power. I had a guest from the Women's department with children, people and disabilities which has now fallen away and we've now got a new Ministry devoted entirely to women but that seemed to be the gist of what their commentary was and about establishing the Bill and it started in from about 2010 to start building on it and to promote equal opportunities and there's various segments. There's obviously from a social aspect, there's an educational aspect, there's training and development, looking at how to uphold things on rural women and where it stands at the moment, I believe is with the National Council of Provinces. So it's waiting for assent by</p>

	the President.
MRS. BEYL	And I think even though there is criticism against the Bill it's a good starting point, one needs a basis and the basis would normally be the Bill. If we just look at the Children's Act, how long that took to come into operation, of the Laurie Frazer case where he fought for his child who stood to be adopted with by strangers, literal strangers, not by the mother, the mother didn't want the child, didn't want to keep the child. He wanted to adopt his child. He didn't have parental responsibilities or rights or anything and if you just look at where that started from and how long it took for the actual Bill to become legislation. That was the starting point. So in order to get to the end you need to start and maybe this is what this Bill is going to give us regardless of criticism.
DR. MALKA	And in your experience you've mentioned this case with the Children's Act coming through. How long typically does it take for legislation to become enacted?
MRS. BEYL	Well, I think that's a very controversial question and how long is a piece of string and it will get a very controversial reply. It depends on, obviously all the stakeholders because once the Bill is written it gets published for commentary and for people to give criticism against it and then it would go back with certain suggestions and it might be published again after that. So that process in itself can take a few years because then it will go back to a working committee. The Law Commission will have a look at it again and then again another Draft might be coming up so that's, that's where the hold-up sometimes is, or mostly is.
MS. BICK	But what is interesting, is that in that process it creates a lot of debate and as you said the benefit of a Bill of this nature is that its putting the issue on the gender and its saying, let's start a discussion. Let's think about how should the issue of Women Empowerment and Gender be dealt with in society and the fact that the participation of societal organisations has been so strong is very positive in that people are really talking about, people are really starting to think, well how can we make this work? What are the practical ramifications? So from that perspective, the fact that it does take long also means that there's a lot of time to really go through the issues and iron out what is going to be the practical application.
DR. MALKA	So this is piece of legislation that is still to come.
	AD BREAK
DR. MALKA	Let's look at some of the legislation that we already have in place that is specific to women. So one aspect that comes to mind is about customary law and customary marriages and if you could give some examples of some of the work that you've encountered in the clinics that you run.
MRS. BEYL	The Clinic situation, I think I have divorced half of Soweto, at this stage, but the divorces were done, in terms of our Western law, South African civil laws, not, and those are people who did not just register a civil union. Those are people who actually got married, married in terms of our Acts and they've got to get divorced in terms of the Divorce Act.
DR. MALKA	So they've married under Western Law and in order to have the marriage annulled or divorced they again have to go through on Western Law?

MRS. BEYL	Yes.
DR. MALKA	So that creates a conflict with what happens on a customary level? Is that right?
MRS. BEYL	It does and it sometimes looks as if people choose between the two sides of the laws of which one they want to use but because it's a properly registered marriage, they've got to use the Western laws. But then you also get it where the women divorce the man but in terms of her culture her children belongs to her family or the children belong to the husband's family. And then you look at it again and say, well which laws to we apply and then they often choose to go the customary way, where the children would remain the husband's family's children and they would need to deal with their homestead, the property, regardless of what the divorce law says, in terms of that they need to deal with something else in a different way, in a customary way. So it looks as if there's a tendency to swing things by choice, which law do we want to be applicable.
DR MALKA	And when you talk on a customary level to have a marriage and be divorced in the marriage is one area but then we have got aspects which come into play in terms of property rights and inheritance and ownership. What are some of the scenarios that you've encountered in that regard?
MS. BICK	I think we both have encountered quite a few problems regarding property.
DR. MALKA	Oh please share your examples.
MRS. BEYL	The normal rule, as I said the customary one would be that it belongs to the homesteads, to the husband's side, if the woman gets married and when he dies that would go back to the family. But for instance, the woman would get along very well with her in-laws and they would say, okay, it's fine you choose what you want to do. We won't choose for you. We won't arrange a step in, in the place of your deceased husband. We will let you choose what you want to do. Do you want to keep the property? What are you going to do with the children? But normally when there's, not ... people not sitting around the same fire, and they say okay, now we going to enforce customary law. We don't want to have this house. Even though you married in community of property, in terms of Western laws, we don't like you so get out of the house and that's what often happens with the conflict between the Western law and the customary law as well. I don't know if it is the same experience with Louise.
MS. BICK	Yes, the experience for us, Werksmans runs Pro Bona Law Clinics based in Diepsloot and in Braamfontein. So the people that were seeing at our pro bona clinics often live quite a hybrid of values. So they will come with a customary law background and I even found that with my colleagues. I mean, you now, we often hear of some of them having a white church wedding and their traditional wedding. I think our society is unique in that there is a hybrid of values. But when you apply it in a legal context what Alet mentioned about conflict of interpretation becomes quite severe as far as the legal consequences. So in our practice at our Werksmans clinics we see customary law as a secondary issue in property and largely property and inheritance disputes because under the South African laws

	<p>of intestate succession your status changes whether or not you're a spouse and if your customary marriage was perhaps not properly registered under the Recognition of Customary Marriage's Act or you were in the process of paying lobola but it hadn't yet been recognized by the family, there is a murky area where that status of being a spouse is not clear and that causes a lot of dispute as Alet said, between families but also between the practical understanding of this is my possession and I have been living in this house and the legal understanding of this is my possession and I'll be living in the house and I will give you a very quick example. You'll have a couple that have been living together in a house as if they married, and in terms of custom, they probably haven't fulfilled all the requirements of their traditions but they are seen as a couple. The house may possibly only have been, it might have been registered to the two of them together but when one of the spouse's die and the other isn't recognized as a spouse that property goes to his last remaining relatives under intestate succession and not necessarily to her. So it gets to our Law Clinic in the space of an eviction, in that the woman who considers herself to now be the full owner of the house because her husband has died wants to evict the people living in the house. Who are the people living in the house? Her late partner's relatives. Now what do you do you do? You've got the property law aspects of what legislation says and you've got the customary practical situation where this woman has been living in this home for her whole married, or what she believes to be he practically married life and that's where you have a disjuncture, that is where you have this sort of grey area, of well, you now there is the letter of the law but then there is also the practical reality of this hybrid value system that we live.</p>	
DR. MALKA	<p>So spousal recognition is obviously a very important component and it's clearing up these murky areas when people decide to formulize a union. Who are they supposed to approach? Do they register marriages or do they register a customary component or register that they are recognized as having a spouse or relationship, so that come down the line when you're facing these types of issues that the law is in the person's favour and it's not a hindsight point of view or a taken for granted or an assumption that somebody had, 'I am the spouse so these are my rights.</p>	
MRS. BEYL	<p>My advice normally to the people is to register the customary union then you've got something on paper because very often the lobola letter gets missing. The lobola letter is something that the people, the families write their agreement down but very often it's really a piece of paper that got torn off like a diary or from a book or something and that's the lobola letter and I mean some of them I've seen like, the ink started fading.</p>	
DR. MALKA	<p>Eventually disintegrated.</p>	
MRS. BEYL	<p>Yes and the paper is disintegrating. The paper is so soft it feels like toilet paper. So my advice is, would be to those people that registered, not to be recognized as a spouse but in order to have some standing so she can lay claims to things that would have been difficult to prove otherwise. And I think the problem there is, or the answer to the problem is to educate the people because the problem's very often of educating them because the people don't know the consequences of things and I've heard it where the people tell me as well, but I trust it and I'm not going to write this in paper because of the trust relationship. And that's why many rural and</p>	

	<p>customary marriage even though they do the white wedding thing they don't think about the fact of what they actually doing would be estate planning. And then there is no such thing as trust when estate planning you're just making life easy for the people who remain behind to have a look at your estate because these people often don't have much but they have a house and it's family and extended family who lives in those houses and it becomes, they call it family houses and that's where the problem comes in when the people start fighting. The one puts a shack at the back. The deceased husband's son, he says, 'but this is my property' and he kicks his stepmother out of her bedroom because he wants to put a tuck shop in there or something like that. And the question is eventually, even though this property might have been jointly registered in the husband and the wife's names, he is the eldest son and he says, 'I've got the right to this property'. Now you've got to weigh up the question, which rights are the strongest? Are we sitting with property rights which is a very strong right or are we sitting with a custom's, and I think education might be key there?</p>	
<p>MS. BICK</p>	<p>I think just to add, this issue of trust has been the basis of interaction in society versus law being the basis of interaction in society. And one of the things that I often struggle to explain to the applicants for legal aid that come to our clinics is that the proof that the law requires is a very different standard to the trust that is done in practice. So to elaborate on that, you know. one of the things about gender rights is that there's often issues of intersectionality with other areas or grounds of discrimination. So one of the times where this is a huge hurdle to overcome as an attorney is where the woman that you're dealing with is very old. So you've got the ground of age and you've got the ground of gender coming together to create a far more vulnerable situation. If the person got married by customary law fifty years ago she is going to tell me that her witnesses to her marriage have passed away. She is going to tell me, as you say, that scrunpled piece of exam paper or a piece of a diary has been lost because they were evicted from their house ten years before and their property went missing. So the longer after the fact of having to prove it and because of that stringent requirement of proof rather than just trust, we see this secondary gender discrimination where women are older as well and you know, unfortunately it's quite difficult to get around because now you've got to explain to a court that every person from the leadership of the community have passed away. The partner or husband has passed away and the woman now stands to lose her home so it's quite a ... as has been said, it's quite a difficult situation.</p>	
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>It sounds as though education is a critical element which is lacking and I think you know for most people when they unionise and they decide to get married or have a relationship, it's also always blue skies and butterflies and people don't think about the consequences. They don't think about what could happen, what the end result is and as you mentioned there is big difference between trust in relationships and trust in the law.</p>	
<p>AD BREAK</p>		
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>What are your thoughts in terms of how to improve education, how people can become more aware of their rights and knowledge's and Mrs. Beyl, we spoke</p>	

	briefly, you've mentioned that for instance, in Soweto which is a population well in excess of one million people that there's only two legal clinics available so resources is a significant issue.
MRS. BEYL	Absolutely, because we often litigate against each other. They will be the plaintiffs or the applicants, we will be the respondents for the defence on the other side and the next day you will turn it around. But the problem is many attorneys, we're litigators, we're bulldogs so you see there's a case, you start fighting the case. We forget sometimes that especially rural areas that there is a community. They often form a community forum and who helps them to address certain issues, to address certain disputes. I think we have a duty as attorneys to deal with cases like this, to educate the people and not just simply give them advice or just tell them you can or you can't and off you go.
DR. MALKA	So almost like, in terms of, it's more of a relationship approach as opposed to a transactional approach so you deal with extenuating circumstances surrounding the case and looking at more holistic solutions as opposed to just looking at the diagnosis.
MRS. BEYL	Louise has got something to say. But I just want to add quickly that we should maybe make it a ripple effect instead of starting small and let the ripples go outside, maybe start with a bigger ripple, like a broad education and then narrow it down and then to the elders of the people that you're dealing with, then to the community and that will eventually spill over to the individuals. So it's not just legal advice, it's just advice then in general, if this is the situation this is what you can do. Look at your wills, look at the way you get married, look at the way you have paper work because as Louise mentioned the evidentiary burden which is often very difficult if you need to litigate in the court because they need to understand that if something ends up in a court of law, the court might decide to apply customary law or the Western laws and that's the way, by taking a judiciary notice of the customary law but applying the Western laws. So it's a very fine play but I think the education with a ripple effect. We all need to take it upon us especially the pro bono people because we don't work and we don't earn fees per hour like normal attorneys do.
DR. MALKA	Since driving it, also from having leadership within the community and utilising community leadership to filter down to the rest of the people in the society.
MS. BICK	I do agree with that approach but I also think that we need to be far more creative in the way that we are disseminating information, particularly to women and as I have said particularly to older women. I can't tell you how many of my older female clients are illiterate or can barely read and you know, that's the undoing of a long legacy of you know gender inequality in itself and I mean the ideas that there are out there, you know, you've got an enormous amount of people receiving social grants. There's this huge data base of people who fall within the means test of pro bono legal services. This is the exact market that we're speaking to. There must be some kind of a way to get legal education out there using perhaps the back of your social grant slip or on bread packaging or on milk packaging on something that are essential things that people are purchasing that people are in any event being exposed to and having that information available in some way. You know, it's almost, and I'm really not being patronising in

	any way. I can really speak from experience. I'm getting married in two weeks' time. You're so worried ...
DR. MALKA	Congratulations.
MS. BICK	Thank you. You're so worried when you're going through that change about all of the unimportant stuff, the fluff and you know, the traditions but you're not thinking about the status change. You're not thinking about, legally you becoming a whole new entity entering into this relationship. You're not thinking about a will, you not thinking about, or we better make a will together or whatever that needs to be done and I think maybe the service providers in those industries could be a point of access for that information so perhaps the women in the community who are known to make the traditional dress for that wedding could have a poster up or fliers to say, register your customary union and I know that I sound very idealistic but I do think we need to think of other ways to get information out because right now I'm not completely convinced, that people have very much awareness of what their rights are and because it's such a sensitive issue and because it is so gender based we've got look at a way of getting the information out, in particular to the women who are being affected by the issues.
DR. MALKA	I think that's a very important message especially from a communication point of view.
AD BREAK	
DR. MALKA	In our previous discussion we were talking along the lines of the need for education for women to start being aware of unionising their marriages whether that be on a customary level or in a Westernised level. We also spoke about the differences between the trust relationships both from a personal perspective as well as within the law and the implications and the consequences thereof. Mrs. Beyl, you run a clinic within Soweto and you also do a lot of teaching within the clinic in terms of educating University of Johannesburg students and you' mentioned that this is from a perspective of being able to empower young women where they're faced with real life examples and situations. Can you please elaborate on that?
MRS. BEYL	Ja, I'm going to take it one step back. I've had a look at our statistics for the law student profile and there's more women currently than what there used to be studying law. So in the Law Clinic we're sitting with final year law students doing their practical of the subject, Applied Legal Studies. They need to consult with the clients themselves. I oversee the process but I'm not part of the consultation. I'm also not in the consultation.
DR. MALKA	So this is their practical application?
MRS. BEYL	Yes and we're sitting with quite a few women who's studying law and who ends up within my clinic. What then happens is we often consult with the elderly community or with older members of the community at the Law Clinic with regards to law problems and sometimes it's not really a law problem but because of customs the younger girl is supposed to keep quiet and listen while the client, which is normally the older man is talking. The problem then comes in that you sit consulting for hours at end, two, three hours for a simple possibly divorce consultation and the younger girl does not know how to interact without sounding or thinking she's sounding

	rude.
DR. MALKA	So is she having a conflict between her cultural upbringing and her professional work?
MRS. BEYL	Absolutely, absolutely, they do and because I actually started questioning the people who's having long consultations. I ask them, why are you taking so long and she says to me, Ma'am I've got to keep quiet, I've got to listen because if I don't I'm rude and I'm not allowed to interrupt.
MS. BICK	I think, just to get some context, you know, when you are consulting, you know clients and too little time so you're always sitting with a roomful at your Law Clinic of clients waiting to see you which is why being productive and being effective with your time is so important and I often, you know people often think that attorneys who are attracted to the pro bono space or the Human Rights sector are very soft, that they, you know, they care about their work, they're lawyers that aren't sharks, you know, with the exception to the rule. But the truth is you actually need to be very tough in pro bono, you need to be very hard because often people are coming to you with issues that, as you say, they're not necessarily legal issues, they might be social issues, cultural issues, emotional issues and often by the time the client comes to you, they've been to five or six other places that have referred them on, who hadn't had the toughness to say to them, I'm sorry, you don't have merits, you don't have a case, your matter's prescribed, it's the end of the road for you. So, you know, to be effective with your time when you're consulting in the pro bono space is absolutely essential and I can understand why you would have had a concern that your law students are taking so long.
DR. MALKA	And taking so long and out of interest, on average, how many people, how many clients do you see on a daily basis or weekly basis?
MS. BICK	Sure, I can tell you I was at the offices of probono.org which is another organisation that provides legal services this morning and they had sixteen clients booked for a session from nine until twelve in the area of the CCMA and Labour Law and that's just your average sort of, you know Tuesday conflict mediating in the labour arena.
DR. MALKA	Conflict mediating.
MS. BICK	Ja, ja so especially areas for us in particular that are very busy are the housing law clinics, the Master's office assistant's desk, you know where people need help with deceased estates, maintenance, domestic violence. All of those areas there is a massive need and of course our Consumer Protection Law Clinics are very busy.
DR. MALKA	You've got a huge volume of work, I don't think you will be out of business.
MRS. BEYL	No, I don't think so because ...
MS. BICK	Well, we work for free
MRS. BEYL	... so I don't think we will be out of business.
AD BREAK	
DR. MALKA	Ms. Bick, you'd mentioned that some of the work that you do in terms of the research areas, so for instance with domestic violence and also with regards to

	contraceptive and reproductivity rights that you've encountered some work across the continent with various NGO's, can you tell us about that?
MS. BICK	So at Werksmans a great opportunity for our younger lawyers is to get involved with comparative law research studies which we do not only you know, to assist on a pro bono basis across the board but also to allow and I find very often it's the young female lawyers who come forward with an interest in areas that may not necessarily fall into our corporate commercial services like contraceptive rights, like domestic violence so we did a really interesting study ...
DR. MALKA	Those are social issues that she's experienced that's probably her motivation for pushing that agenda.
MS. BICK	You couldn't be more correct, so usually and obviously very much in confidence but I have had situations where the attorney who might spend her day in Banking and Finance or in Business Rescue and Recovery is really impassioned by domestic violence because of a friend's experience or a family member's experience and on that basis you know they like to get involved in these projects because they're learning, they're doing something valuable but they're also applying their phenomenal research skills that you know that we got incredible resources and they really get to the bottom of these issues. So in so far as the domestic violence work, we've done a recent comparative law study which spanned basically across the world where we looked at the South African policy and legislation around domestic violence for a Chinese based NGO that are lobbying to the Chinese government to implement something like a Domestic Violence Act and what is very interesting, when I look at the South African structures, you know we really do have amazing policy but it's often in the implementation of it that things become unstuck which is, I suppose coming back to the beginning of our conversation why a Bill like the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill must be so, you know it must be controversial. It must be debated. It must have comments and have people thinking about how it's going to work in practice and then recently we did a study for the Centre of Reproductive Rights. And we looked at the South African Policy Rights around contraception information and access to contraception and reproductive rights. Again, you know for me, working in a corporate commercial law firm, even though I am in the pro bono space I don't often have a case come to me where there've been a denial of access to contraceptives or a case of forced sterilisation, you know you don't often, probably because of lack, again, lack of education around those issues but you don't often have cases like that come to the people who can help, you know to access those rights. So looking at it again from a research perspective is very interesting because you also open yourself up to a whole new area of need for education and empowerment as well.
DR. MALKA	Education seems to be the underlying area of this conversation that people are not fully aware of their rights and what they're entitlements are and where to take issues to if they face a circumstance or situation. In closing today's discussion, I'd like you to tell us about or provide some words of wisdom or hope to women listening on the continent to the show.
MRS. BEYL	Well, I think if we just have a look at the Bill that's been in the draft for quite a while, I think there's a good starting point for us to develop more

	<p>skills, for instance, I think and we need to empower ourselves by not sitting back but we need to be the women we are and with that we are strong people if we just think how we're juggling households, a profession, children, manage your husband's business often. We can do this. It's not impossible. Empower yourselves, get knowledge and do what you can with who you are.</p>
<p>MS. BICK</p>	<p>I think, you know, for listeners of the show, people in an information age there is just so much that you can access and at the same time as a woman, at the same time as we love to follow people like Kim Kardashian on things like Twitter and social media I think, don't be shy to extend your reach, don't be shy to look at organisations, like Sonke Gender Justice. the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre, the Women's Legal Centre, you know, they're putting information out there and it really is about saying, I have a special status as a woman. It's something that we must embrace and empower ourselves through and say, unfortunately most men already feel empowered and for women we've got to take that step forward and say, I'm going to actively empower myself, I'm going to actively know, you know, find out, have a number on your phone in case of emergency of sexual violence, this is the number that you call, be able to disseminate that information, in a way, that is, you know, it's personal that you can say to someone, I'm sorry to have heard what happened to you but look, I've done some research, here's a number, here's someone that you can call, follow them on Twitter and see what they say about your options available. I think empowerment is about taking basic practical steps to be out of the dark, on subjects that affect you, particularly, because of your gender.</p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>Thank you. I think those are very apt words to end the show. So thank you to Mrs. Alet Beyl from University of Johannesburg's Soweto's Law Clinic and to Ms. Louise Bick from Werksmans Attorneys.</p>
<p>MS. BICK</p>	<p>Thank you very much.</p>
<p>MRS. BEYL</p>	<p>Thank you very much.</p>
<p>END OF PROGRAM</p>	