

Women Surviving Apartheid's Prisons

Shanthini Naidoo • Foreword by Donna Bryson

In 1969, South Africa's apartheid government arrested anti-apartheid leaders and activists nationwide for a key planned show trial. Among them were seven women, three of whom (including Winnie Madikizela-Mandela) have since died. This book by South African journalist Shanthini Naidoo uses rich interview material to share the previously unknown stories of the four imprisoned women who are still living: Joyce Sikhakhane-Rankin, Rita Ndzanga, Shanthie Naidoo, and Nondwe Mankahla.

These four freedom fighters were held in solitary confinement for more than a year and subjected to brutal torture in a bid to force them to testify against their comrades. But they refused to do so, which forced the whole trial effort to collapse.

Women Surviving Apartheid's Prisons explores how women from different oppressed communities in South Africa defied traditional gender expectations and played a key role in the overthrow of Apartheid.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Shanthini Naidoo is a former *Sunday Times* journalist who works in content marketing. She has also worked for *The Times* newspaper and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. Naidoo lives in Johannesburg with her husband and two daughters.

Donna Bryson is a journalist and author of *It's a Black-White Thing*.

ACCOLADES

"A compelling, heart-breaking, and inspiring work about a largely ignored side to the anti-apartheid/national democratic revolution in South Africa... *Women Surviving Apartheid's Prison* examines the South African revolution from the point of view of women, and in this case, women with whom many of us outside of South Africa's borders are unfamiliar. That makes this a must-read!"

—Bill Fletcher, Jr., former president of TransAfrica Forum

"This book jerks the conscience. It reminds us of how easily we have forgotten the price of freedom and our inadequacies in valuing and celebrating the efforts that have gone into the struggle for a just, united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa... All those who wish to have a richer understanding of history, including the wide scope of uses of sexual violence as a weapon of war in apartheid South Africa, and an understanding of the impact of generational trauma today, simply must get a copy."

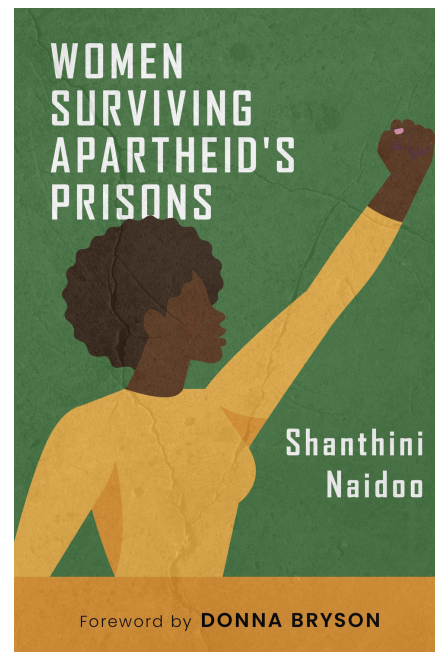
—Reneva Fourie, Joe Slovo Foundation

"Recounting herstories would be on time, anytime, but it is especially so as we also mark the 100th Anniversary of the suffragette movement in the US and update the efforts of Black women who, like the imprisoned women freedom fighters in apartheid South Africa, were initially not included. It is my fervent hope that these stories of their sacrifice, while painful, will—like strong medicine—help heal the wounds of division and bring us all closer to the promise these women believed in and, yes, are a prime example of that South African saying, 'Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo', that is, 'When you strike the women, you strike the rock.' These women lived it. Teach, Shanthini Naidoo, Teach!"

—Charlayne Hunter-Gault, civil rights activist, journalist, and former foreign correspondent

"A vital slice of South African history. Naidoo beckons these forgotten women back to center-stage to remind us, achingly, of what true courage and sacrifice mean."

—Michele Magwood, former books editor at the *Sunday Times* (South Africa)



SUBJECT CATEGORY

History: South Africa / Biography

PRICE

\$22.95

ISBN

9781682570975

PAGE COUNT

240

SIZE

6 x 9

FORMAT

Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE

02/01/2021

US DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group West
1-866-400-5351

www.pgw.com • ips@ingramcontent.com

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Publishers Group Canada
1-800-663-5714

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