

Meeting Women on our Virtual Tour of sub-Saharan Africa – August 22, 2021

We ended Week 1 and will start Week 2 in the country of Namibia. **Monica Geingos** (née **Kalondo**; born in 1977) is a [Namibian entrepreneur](#), lawyer and [First Lady of Namibia](#) since 2015. She has been a board member and director within many of the country's large companies. She has also chaired the Presidential Economic Advisory Council. In 2012, she was voted one of the 12 most influential people of Namibia, and in 2020 she was in the list of 100 most influential African women. Geingos is a graduate of the [University of Namibia](#), and spent the early part of her career working for the [Namibia Stock Exchange](#) (NSX) in [Windhoek](#). She holds two legal degrees B. Juris and an LLB.



Geingos showcased a flagship program of the Office of the First Lady to the UNAIDS Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima, during Ms Byanyima's spring 2021 visit to Namibia. Launched in February 2018, the #BreakFree anti-violence campaign aims to contribute towards preventing violence through awareness-raising around various forms of violence in Namibia and finding pragmatic solutions for prevention. As part of the campaign, Ms Geingos hosted a women leaders' dialogue to engage Ms Byanyima and women leaders in Namibia on critical discussions about gender inequality and gender-based violence as critical structural drivers of the HIV epidemic.

The Government of Namibia has recently launched a mass media campaign, Nationhood and National Pride, against gender-based violence. "Even though progress has been made in policy development, women's representation and other areas, girls are still born in an unequal world and violence against women still remains a challenge," said Ms Byanyima.

Information taken from: Wikipedia and <https://www.unaids.org/en>.

And a recent article about women leaders dealing with Covid-19 in Botswana (*an additional contest entry if you read this article for VG4A Winter Wanderings*): <https://blogs.worldbank.org/youth-transforming-africa/five-african-women-leading-way-covid-19-recovery-botswana>