

### Some Ingredients for building working class power from below

- Working class power lies in building strong mass democratic organization
- Building unity from the ground up
- It is Participatory
- Its about crafting a vision for the class
- Its about knowing what we fighting for and what we fighting against
- Building class power is recognizing and celebrating our victories

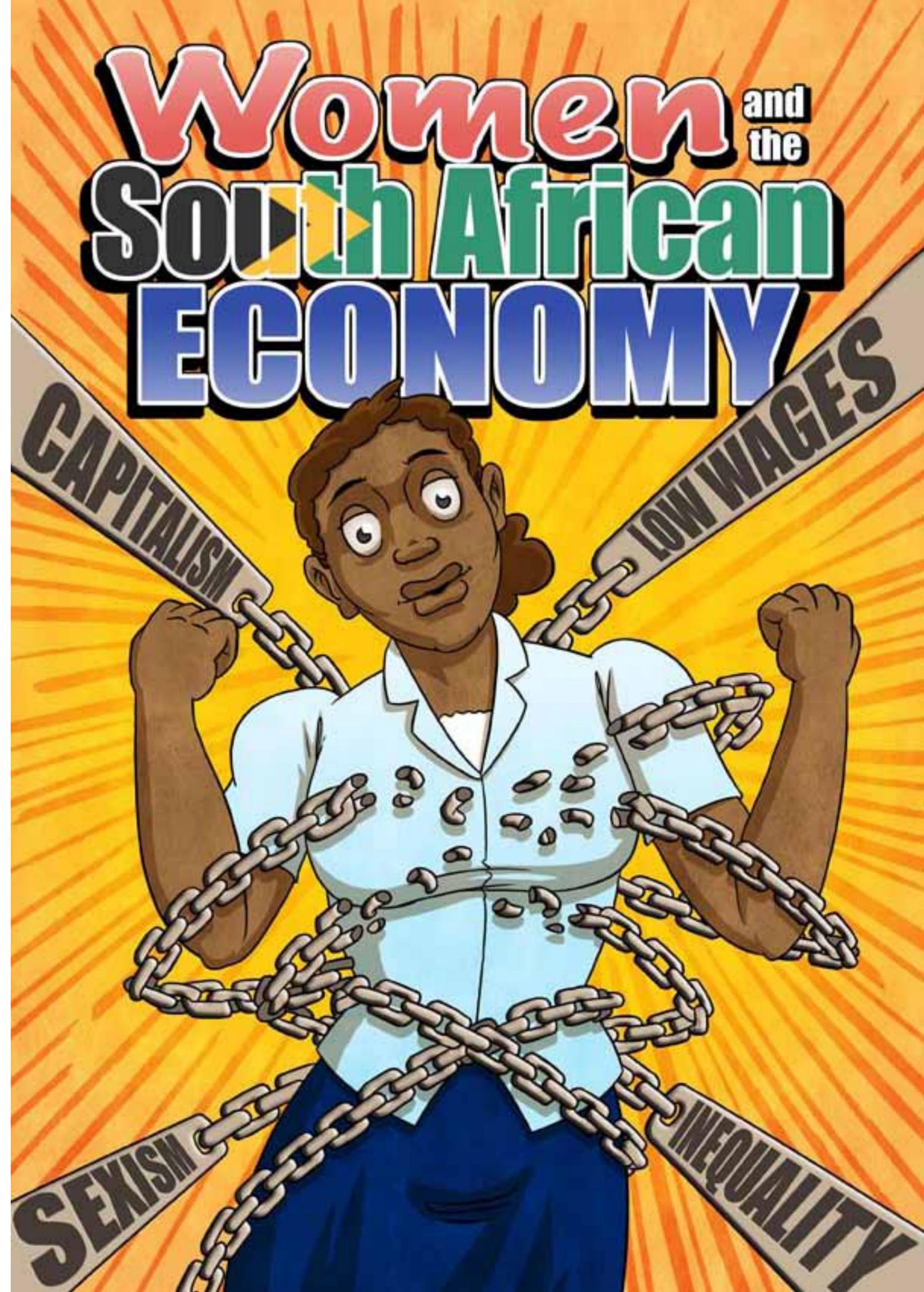
### How do we build?

- We build working class power through mass struggles
- Mass struggles allow the class to find collective solutions to the problems we face
- Mass struggles builds the confidence of the working class to stand up against powerful forces
- These struggles allows us, to mobilize and get as many sectors as we can involved in finding the solutions
- It allows us to experiment with different methods of struggle and to produce appropriate organizational forms
- Campaigns are critical in building this new movement
- It has to attract broader and other sections of the working class

### Principles and values

- Transparency –it is important for us to be transparent, so that, as many community members as possible know what is happening every step of the way in order to influence the process
- Mandate – getting a mandate from the organisation is of critical importance. This ensures that we represent the interest of the organisation, but also gives us the power to speak on behalf of the organisation.
- Engagement –We also believe that as much as we engage with our community on issues affecting all of us we must engage challenge and hold to account those who are in authority.
- Participation – Participation is key, the more people we involve the more consciousness we create around the issue, the more others feel they can own the process
- Everyone an organiser – Each one teach one
- No Party politics – Recognizing that the issues we fighting about are political issues, the issues are bigger than party politics. You don't need to belong to a political party to be politically active and politics are broader that party politics. The personal is political.

**It is only the working class that can free itself. Now it's about building and strengthening the organisations where we come from. It's about building real authentic working class unity in our areas. Its about doing introspection both as a comrade but also the organisation about how we main stream gender issues. It's about trying to practice what we preach**



# WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMY

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First Published 2016

ISBN 0-620-

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**Printed and bound by:** Busara Printing (a project of Khanya College)

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Thanks for financial support for this booklet from Oxfam

**Markets:** markets existed before colonialism and capitalism; people have traded, bartered and exchanged goods with each other for a long time. Under capitalism markets are different because they include the sale of our labour. Under capitalism, markets generally mean big business. For example, business people and some politicians say that privatization will make service delivery more efficient because markets (businesses) can do a better job than government.

**Neoliberalism:** is the ideology which says that the profits of business are the key driving force in any economy. Neoliberals believe the state should not try to regulate or threaten the profits of business. Instead, the state should take help business make more profit. Policies which go along with neoliberalism include cuts to social grants, privatisation, and weakened labour legislation – in other words reducing or eliminating social policies which limit business flexibility.

**Patriarchy:** is the system of male authority, which makes the oppression of women seem snatural and eternal. Because this system seems natural, it is almost invisible but patriarchy functions through political, economic, legal, cultural and religious institutions and through violence. To challenge patriarchy you have to challenge Capitalism because the oppression of women is part of Capitalisms systems of oppression and exploitation, like class oppression and racism.

**Privatisation:** can refer to the transfer of ownership of a property, business or resource(s) from the government to a private person or corporation (for example waste collection was previously done in Johannesburg by municipal workers. The municipality privatised waste collection and outsourced the service to a company called Pikitup).

**Profit:** is the reason capitalists do business. Profit is all the money a business makes after all expenses, costs and taxes are paid. For bosses to make profit they must pay workers less than the value they create. For the bosses, the less the worker earns and the harder they work the better, because this creates more value and therefore more profits.

The **Public Sector:** is the sector of the economy that provides goods and services intended to benefit society as a whole. Services can be provided by government or government pays can pay companies like Pikitup to do. The public sector covers infrastructure (roads, bridges, tunnels, sewers, streetlights etc.), police and military, public education, and public healthcare. Goods and services that were formerly part of the public sector can sometimes become part of the private sector through the process of privatisation.

**Social Reproduction:** is the care and nurturing of people. In all societies' people need to be cared for especially children, sick people and old people. Women, especially Black women, have historically and continue to be responsible for the labour of social reproduction, whether in their own homes as mothers and housewives, in the homes of rich families as domestic workers, or in other institutions dominated by women workers – creches, nursing homes, and schools. The devaluation and lack of recognition for this work is linked to the sexist idea that the skills required come naturally for women, and so it's only natural they would be responsible for it.

**Subsidise:** when the state subsidises, it pays part of the costs of delivering a service, making the price lower to consumers. For example, at present the South African state subsidises primary school education in order to keep fees low.