

**CHANGEMAKER JURY AWARD and international recognition for  
Namibian MARTHA MUULYAU who INSPIRES WOMEN TO TAKE  
THEIR FUTURE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.**



Martha Muulyau, co-founder of Penduka Trust Namibia internationally recognized as a Changemaker for her work. (photo: Niels Schreyers)

On the Day of the 4th Pillar the Belgian jury awarded Martha Muulyau and her organization Penduka for their work as 'Changemaker' in Namibia.

Penduka means Wake Up and stands for taking control of your own future and believing in your own strength. And that is also what Martha stands for. Inspired by her own physical limitations and motivated to improve the lives of women in Namibia, Martha co-founded Penduka. She started an organisation that improves the well-being of women with a physical disability or social disadvantage.

They focus on education, entrepreneurship and sustainable relationships. The lack of education provides many women with few rosy prospects. The absence of education is a common fate for women with a physical disability or for those who have to take on other caring tasks. And this is where Penduka brings change.

Meanwhile, Penduka Trust has grown into a world on its own. It is a **100% Namibian organization** that can take full responsibility for the payment of salaries and even reserves part of the proceeds for training the team. In this way over 300 families currently have a better income through working for Penduka. More than 1000 women already followed training at Penduka and were able to move on to better work.

Martha is still very much involved in Penduka Trust but also dedicates herself to children and the elderly in the North of Namibia. She provided a school with capacity for several hundred children, motivates parents to let their child go to school and helps where she can to make this possible and she is committed to bring the elderly in the village together.



During the ceremony in the Flemish Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. Penduka was represented by the Belgian volunteers for Penduka.

JURY PRIZE WINNER

The Belgian volunteers and friends of Penduka brought the profile of Martha Muulyau to the Changemakers platform where organisations from all over the world are represented.

The jury, which consisted of Maarten Goethals (Eight vzw), Marina Van Huffel (Finado vzw) and Kris Vanslambroeck (Zuidexpert 11.11.11) motivated his choice as follows:

It was not an easy choice. We were confronted with 36 inspiring Changemakers, each in their own way doing fantastic and extremely valuable work. Not big things often, but small initiatives that are groundbreaking because they inspire others and set them in motion.

In the end our choice was for an initiative where taking control of your own future and believing in your own strength is central. That is what Martha Muulyau stands for. Her own limitation is precisely the power from which she departs to show entrepreneurship in a difficult context and thus inspire hundreds of other women in Namibia to work together for a better life through Penduka, the organization she founded.

We also found it strong that it is a story that is entirely in the hands of the women in Namibia itself. From Flanders, the help of a 4th pillar initiative can be a supporting force in this, but the 'change' lies with the women of Penduka themselves. They do not need to be 'saved' by us. Martha Muulyau and the women of Penduka do take their fate and their future into their hands. A real Changemaker...

This text is a translation of the original: <https://4depijler.be/changemaker-juryprijs-martha-muulyau-inspireert-namibische-vrouwen-om-hun-toekomst-in-eigen-handen-te-nemen/>

Press release Penduka

10.03.2020

MORE INFO about Changemakers:

<https://changemakers.11.be/>

MORE INFO about Penduka:

Penduka has a shop and a workshop in Windhoek, Goreangab Dam Road, Katutura.

Webshop on the website: [www.penduka.com](http://www.penduka.com)

You can follow the activities at Penduka on Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pendukaNAMIBIA/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/penduka\\_namibia/](https://www.instagram.com/penduka_namibia/)



Martha Muulyau, co-founder of Penduka Trust Namibia (photo: Niels Schreyers)





Christien Roos and Martha Muulyau founded Penduka together in 1992. A relationship based on equality and respect for everyone's individuality, also now that Christien and Martha have left the daily management into other hands, this is still one of the pillars of the organisation. (photo during a visit in 1997: Niels Schreyers).



Martha Muulyau, (with Eames Demetrios en Zacharia Demetrios) and the women of the Otjiwarongo embroidery group.





Penduka believes in international collaborations and every year two women can go to Europe to meet with friends of the organisation and have a unique learning journey.

Martha Muulyau with Tineke Foblets (Belgian Volunteer) and Eames Demetrios (American Artist) during a visit to the Netherlands.



Through the Penduka network a school was funded and set up in Omishe near Epembe in the north of Namibia.



Namibian stories are told through the embroidery work of the women of Penduka and can be found in houses all over the world.

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