

SPOTLIGHT ON

ZANELE MUHOLI

Stonewall

Who are Stonewall?

This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people. At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full. Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter. To find out more about our work, visit us at www.stonewall.org.uk.

Registered Charity No 1101255 (England and Wales) and SC039681 (Scotland)

Zanele Muholi (they/them)

Zanele was born in South Africa in 1972.

They're the youngest of 8 children.



Apartheid

Zanele grew up during a time we call South African Apartheid.

This was a time where People of Colour in South Africa were treated very unfairly.

They couldn't even use the same part of the beach as white people.



Family

Zanele's mother worked for a white family and did their housework.

In 1991 Zanele told their family that they fall in love with women.



What else happened in early 90s South Africa?

South African Apartheid ended in 1991.

This meant that life got fairer for People of Colour in South Africa.



Change for LGBTQ+ people

It used to be against the law to be LGBTQ+ in South Africa.

This changed after Apartheid, but LGBTQ+ people in South Africa are still often treated unfairly.



Becoming a visual activist

In 2002 Zanele moved to Johannesburg.

At around this time, Zanele started doing more work as a photographer.



Zanele's work

Zanele's photos have always celebrated Black LGBTQ+ South African people.

Their work shows the good parts and the bad parts of people's lives.



Ongoing growth

In 2009 Zanele graduated from university.

In the same year, they founded Inkanyiso, an organisation for LGBTQ+ visual artists in South Africa.



International success

Zanele has found international success and their work has been shown in galleries around the world.

Their most famous work is a series of self-portraits.

