

# Standard Bank Top Women Awards calls for entries

By [Asanda Munyu](#), issued by [Topco Media](#)

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Few initiatives showcase, encourage and reward the positive impact successful women have on their communities in the same wide-reaching, yet inclusive style of the Standard Bank Top Women Awards.



*2017 Standard Bank Top Women Award Winners*

To be held on 23 August at Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg, the Top Women Awards will celebrate the women and organisations leading women's empowerment through success. Nominations are now open.

Going back to 2003, Top Women has researched, showcased and awarded gender-empowered companies, encouraging others to push for workplace equality - not only for so-called "PC" reasons, but in the interest of greater socio-economic success. "Research shows that an increase in female entrepreneurs and career women could have far-reaching positive impacts," says Karla Fletcher, Director of Top Women. "Women in business are better borrowers and financial managers than men generally, and women tend to share their success with their communities."

With Standard Bank as a core partner since 2014, Top Women is dedicated to uplifting the career and financial prospects of women throughout South Africa. Initiatives in this regard include widely popular regional conferences at which attendees network with and are inspired by their peers in the business and entrepreneurial space, as well as given access to financial resources and services; the Standard Bank Top Women online community, which empowers ambitious women through nationwide support; and, of course, the annual awards.

"Our partnership with Top Women enables us to effectively contribute towards the 2030 gender parity and developing South African women entrepreneurs, a main driver of economic transformation," says Fletcher. "This is a major part of what we mean when we say, Africa is our home, we drive Her growth."

According to Fletcher, Top Women Director, the 2018 Standard Bank Top Women Awards is known throughout South Africa and industries: "The awards cover both the private and public sector, and have reached thousands of key decision-makers in previous years. To date, we have celebrated nearly 20 000 organisations and individuals, including Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Adv Thuli Madonsela and Sophia Williams-de Bruyn."

Ever since it first employed women more than 100 years ago, Standard Bank has been at the forefront of gender equality. Today, its permanent workforce comprises almost 60% women and its management almost 50%, which is far above the national average of 23%. Now, the bank wants South Africa to achieve similar levels of parity. The categories of the 2018 awards reflect this:

- Top Gender-Empowered Women-Owned SMME Award
- Diversity in the Workplace Award
- Corporate Citizenship Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Technical Skills Development Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Resources Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Retail Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Infrastructure Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Innovation Through Technology Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Health & Pharmaceuticals Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Energy & Utilities Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Financial Services
- Top Gender-Empowered Company: Travel & Hospitality Award
- Top Gender-Empowered Public Service Award
- Top Woman Entrepreneur Of 2018 Award
- Public Sector Woman Leader Award
- Top Gender Empowered: Woman in Science Award
- Top Male Driving Gender Empowerment Award
- Top Young Achiever Of The Year Award
- Top Businesswoman Of The Year Award
- Top Gender Empowered: Business Of The Year Award

Standard Bank Top Women's most prestigious award celebrates the company that is at the forefront of South Africa's gender empowerment movement. "Being part of the Standard Bank Top Women Awards isn't just a chance to act as an inspiration to other women, it's an opportunity to expand your network, gather knowledge and make lifelong friends," says Fletcher.

The awards are also supported by SACAA, SABC, Schneider Electric, Elijah Barayi Memorial Training Centre, Black Royalty Minerals, Aberdare Cables, British American Tobacco, Liberty and Public Sector Manager.

To nominate a candidate for the 2018 Standard Bank Top Women Awards, or for more information, go to <https://topwomen.co.za/awards>

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