

Lawyers against Abuse is seeking an Executive Director in JHB

Lawyers against Abuse (LvA) seeks a dynamic, dedicated leader who is passionate about our mission to join our team as the Executive Director. Reporting to and working closely in partnership with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director should be a seasoned leader and coach, with the ability to operate on both strategic and managerial levels. The Executive Director will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the organisation's operations, including fundraising, program development, financial management, compliance and staff supervision.

In addition to their operational responsibilities, the Executive Director will be a passionate leader who inspires others to engage with our mission. They will work closely with the Board of Directors to ensure that the organisation is fulfilling its mission and serving its clients effectively. The Executive Director will also be responsible for cultivating and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, including donors, partners and community leaders.

Our ideal candidate will be a motivational leader with a proven track record of success in nonprofit management. They will be passionate about our organisation's mission and committed to achieving our goals. The Executive Director will be a strategic thinker who is able to balance short-term needs with long-term planning. They will have excellent communication skills and be able to represent our organisation to a variety of audiences.

About Lawyers against Abuse

Established in 2011, Lawyers against Abuse is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to ensure meaningful access to justice for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) by providing legal services and psychosocial support, empowering communities and engaging state actors. LvA operates walk-in centres in Diepsloot, Orange Farm and Hillbrow.

Our organisation values are hope, inclusion, empathy, well-being, growth mindset, accountability and collaboration. We are committed to creating a work environment that is inclusive, respectful, and empowering. We believe that our work is strengthened by the diverse perspectives and experiences of our staff.

Our organisation is committed to providing victims and survivors of violence with client-centred and trauma-informed care, empowering communities with information and pushing the justice system to respond effectively in cases of GBV. Through our programmes and activities, we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve and the broader communities in which we work.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Work with the Board of Directors and staff to develop and implement the organisation's strategic plan.

- Articulate the organisation's vision, mission, theory of change, statement of need, unique value proposition and overall strategic direction to staff, volunteers, partners, stakeholders and donors.
- Model and promote the organisation's values and culture, setting a high standard for ethical and effective behaviour in all interactions.
- Foster a positive work environment that promotes teamwork, collaboration and open communication.
- Supervise and develop the organisation's Deputy Director and Finance Manager, providing guidance, motivation and support to help them succeed in their roles.
- Identify and foster relationships with potential strategic partners who align with the organisation's mission and goal, including government agencies, NGOs or community partners.

Fundraising and Development

- Develop and implement a comprehensive financing strategy that aligns with the organisation's mission and strategic plan.
- Identify and cultivate relationships with foundations, development partners, corporates, high-level donors and other potential funding sources, working closely with the Board of Directors and other stakeholders as needed to engage donors and secure donations.
- Build trust and rapport with potential and existing donors to persuade them to invest in the organisation's mission including presenting compelling proposals, articulating the organisation's impact and value proposition, addressing any concerns or inquiries and delivering high-quality donor reports.
- Ensure that the organisation raises enough funds to meet its annual goals, monitoring progress toward fundraising goals and making adjustments as needed.
- Develop and implement donor stewardship plans to maintain strong relationships with donors and secure ongoing support, including regular communication, recognition and engagement opportunities.
- Lead a team of staff, volunteers and board members to plan and execute an annual fundraising event.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of best practices in nonprofit fundraising and development and work collaboratively with the Board of Directors and other stakeholders to continuously improve the organisation's fundraising efforts.

Board Engagement & Development

- Provide regular updates to the board of directors regarding the organisation's operations and performance including, but not limited to, presentations at quarterly board meetings. Seek board input on critical decisions.
- Plan and prepare meeting agendas, in consultation with the Board Chairperson, and information pack for board meetings.
- Support recruitment, onboarding and induction of new board members.
- Support all board functions, including facilitating meetings, ensuring policy compliance, facilitating annual board evaluations and aligning the work of board committees.

Financial Management

- Oversee the organisation's financial management in partnership with the Finance Manager, ensuring that the organisation is financially sound and has strong financial controls in place.
- Develop and oversee the organisation's annual budget, working with the Finance Manager and other staff members to ensure that it aligns with the organisation's goals and priorities.
- Monitor financial performance on an ongoing basis, tracking revenue and expenses and making adjustments as needed to ensure that the organisation is operating within its budget and in alignment with specific donor budgets.
- Ensure that financial reports are accurate and provided to the Board of Directors in a timely manner, working with the Finance Manager to provide detailed financial analysis and reporting as needed.
- Support Finance Manager throughout annual audit, as needed.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of best practices in nonprofit financial management and ensure that the organisation's financial policies and procedures are in compliance with all relevant regulations and guidelines.

Human Resources

- Support recruitment, onboarding and induction of new staff members.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures that support the organisation's mission and goals, in consultation with the Board of Directors.
- Cultivate a culture of regular feedback among staff members, both in the form of ongoing coaching and formal performance evaluations, to ensure that they are meeting performance expectations and growing in their roles.
- Nurture a positive and empowering workplace culture that promotes accountability, collaboration, inclusion, employee wellness, innovation, satisfaction and retention.
- Support line managers with conducting disciplinary processes in compliance with LVA's disciplinary policy and the BCEA, as needed.

Operations and Technology

- Ensure an enabling environment that fosters staff productivity, innovation and performance (e.g. facilities, equipment, etc.).
- Ensure proper hardware and software are in place for fundraising, collaboration, document creation and storage, communication, productivity and record keeping.
- Create and maintain policies to ensure the use of the most relevant and efficient technology and planning/budgeting for upgrades needed for future success.
- Establish robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive information and ensure that updates and upgrades are followed to maintain technological infrastructure and keep systems running smoothly and securely.

Programme Development and Oversight

- Ensure LVA's programmatic work is of the highest quality, is trauma-informed, adheres to recognised best practices and complies with all legal and ethical standards.
- In collaboration with the Deputy Director, lead an annual work-planning process in alignment with LVA's strategic plan.

- Support the Deputy Director in managing the day-to-day operation of programmes and evaluating programme outcomes on an ongoing basis, using data and feedback from clients and other stakeholders to make adjustments and improvements as needed.
- Expand programmes and services as appropriate to fulfil the organisation's mission, working with the Board of Directors and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for growth and innovation.

Marketing, Communication and Public Relations

- Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy to increase the organisation's visibility and reach, including the organisation's website, social media channels, newsletters and annual reports.
- Create and maintain the organisation's brand and messaging across all channels.
- Act as the organisation's spokesperson and represent the organisation at public events and speaking engagements.
- Contribute to the creation of a positive image and overall credibility of the organization through participation in panels, webinars and interviews and publishing op-eds.
- Develop and maintain relationships with media outlets and reporters to secure press coverage and promote the organisation's activities.
- Supervise the Communications Officer.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

- Ensure that the organisation complies with all relevant legal and regulatory obligations, including tax laws, employment laws, and nonprofit reporting requirements.

Qualifications and Experience

- Post-graduate degree in law, social sciences or relevant field.
- Minimum of 5+ years of direct work experience in nonprofit senior management.
- Demonstrated experience in fundraising and development.
- Experience in community-based programmes and with a broad range of stakeholders.
- Experience working with victims of gender-based violence or other vulnerable populations.
- Proven success working with a board of directors.

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

- Deep passion for and commitment to women's rights and issues around gender-based violence.
- Understanding of how trauma impacts traditionally marginalized individuals and communities and how this influences the design and delivery of programmes serving them.
- Capacity to withstand difficult circumstances and commitment to personal wellness.
- Strong project management, monitoring and evaluation, financial management and budgeting skills.

- Competence in reading and understanding financial documents, including budgets, cash flow, income and expenditure statements and balance statements.
- Excellent supervision and people-management skills and a proven ability to mentor, motivate, develop and support through inclusive leadership practices and collaborative problem solving.
- Superb interpersonal skills, including the ability to generate respect and trust from colleagues, direct reports, and external stakeholders.
- Strong networking and relationship management skills.
- Demonstrated resourcefulness in resource-constrained settings and systems.
- Ability to provide long-term, inspirational vision while simultaneously creating pragmatic solutions to day-to-day problems.
- Ability to work on multiple projects while keeping focused on top organisational priorities.
- Strong written and verbal communications skills and presentation skills.
- Proficiency in Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook).

To Apply: Interested applicants should submit a CV and motivation letter to MaraisButton & Associate.

Email: annelie@maraisbutton.co.za

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Expected Start Date: As soon as possible

Closing date: 29 January 2026

Salary: Negotiable, based on experience and qualifications.

Location: Executive Director to be based at LvA Diepsloot Centre, Johannesburg with occasional visits to satellite offices. Periodic remote work can be considered.

LvA reserves the right not to hire for this position should no suitable candidates apply.