

Keynote address: Role of Women in Society

Prof. Refilwe Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya

Director, Human Sciences Research Council

Honorary Professor, Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan University

Heritage Gala Dinner, 25th September 201-

ANC Michael Buka Branch, Cradock



ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY



Presentation overview

- The changed role of women
- The diversity of roles women play
- The invisibility of women
- The Challenge to Leadership
- A call for self-recognition and recognition by others

The role of women has changed with changing times





**Women have
many faces**

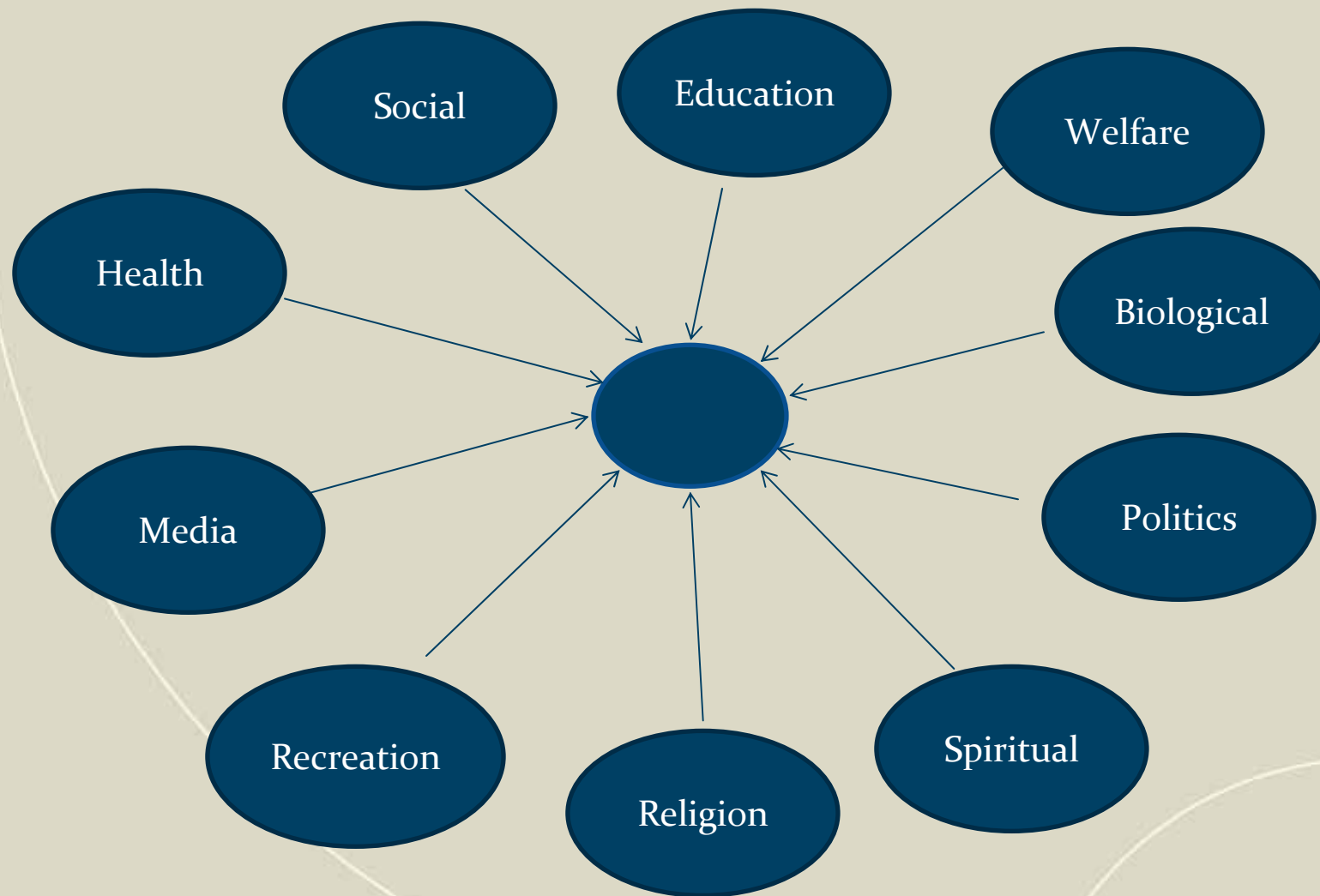
Women wear many hats



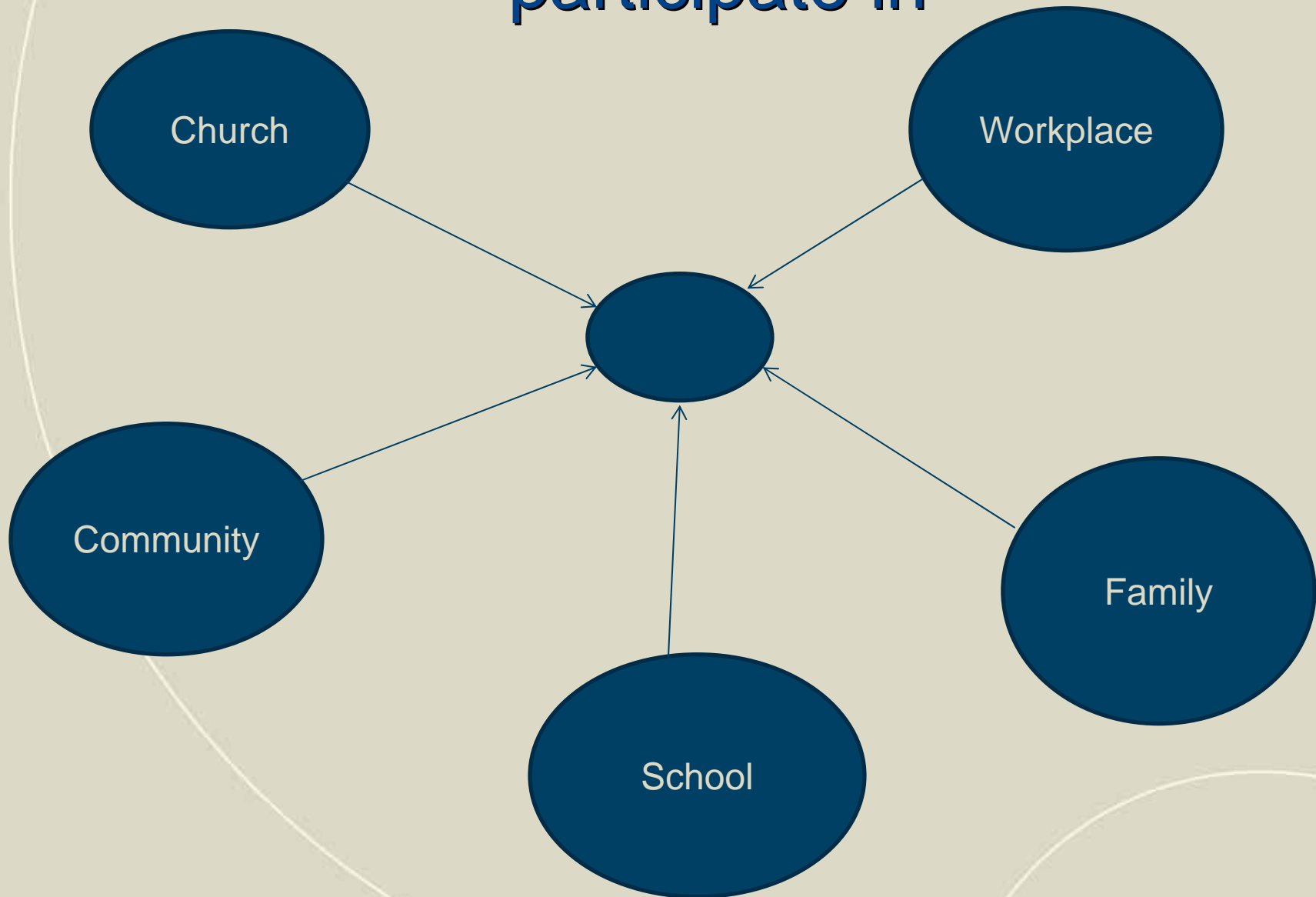
We wouldn't have so many bad hair days if we weren't wearing so many hats



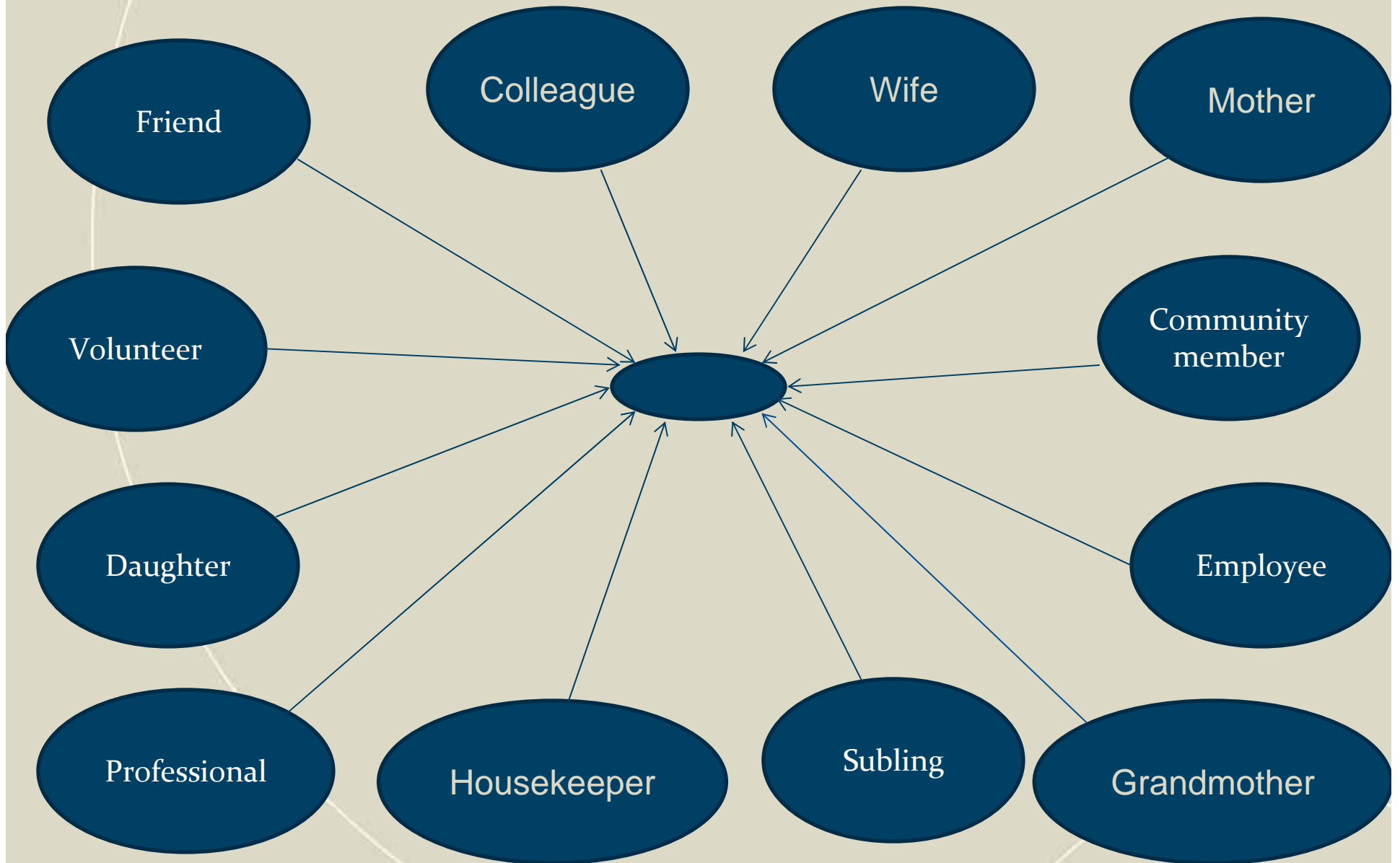
Spheres of life women participate in



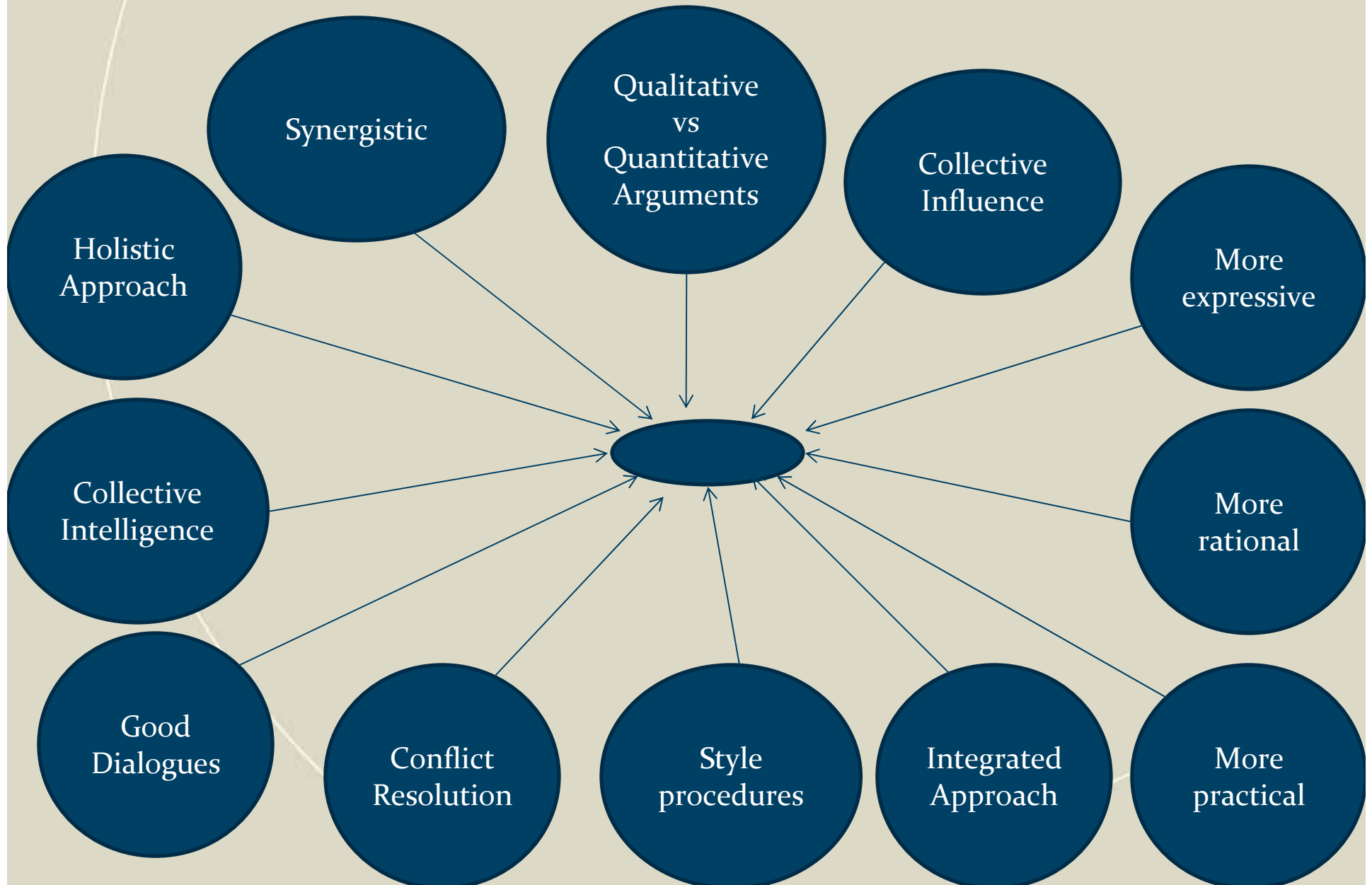
Societal structures that women participate in



Unique roles women play



Unique qualities of women



Women have a noble calling

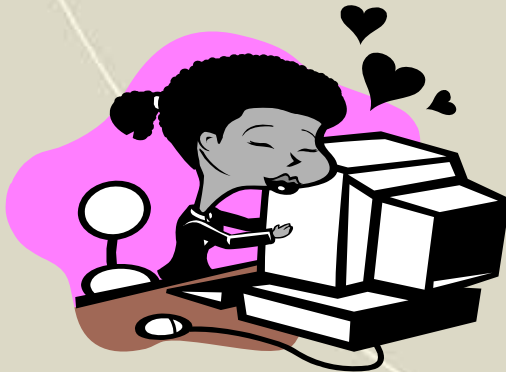


Women hold the world in their hands

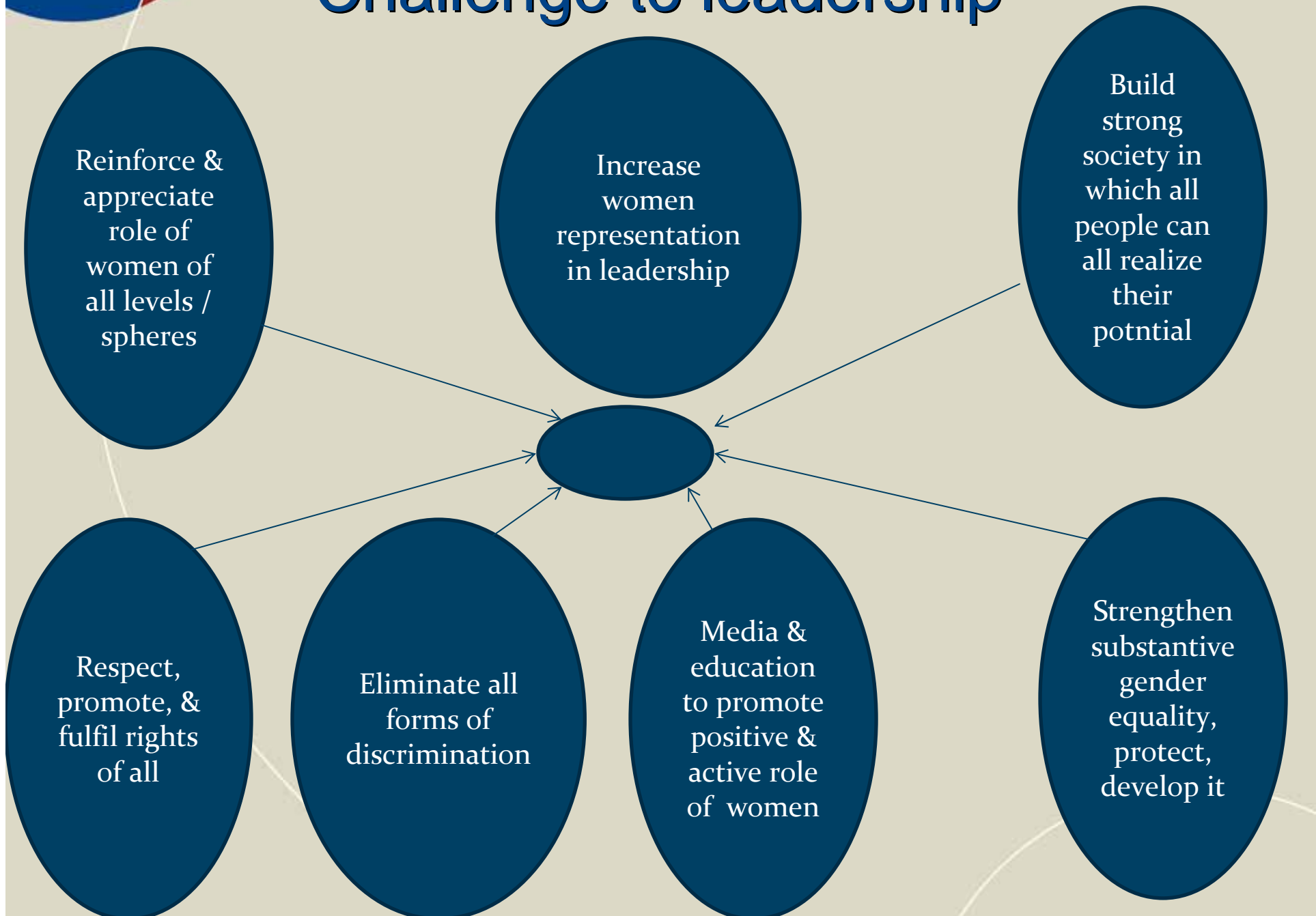


Yet women are not as visible

- Stats SA and UN statistics confirm this. Public /Private dichotomy.
- Women work harder but are least visible in public life
- Complexity of reasons – socio-cultural, patriarchal structures, systemic, etc.
- Women are too often trapped by circumstances
- Women self-stigmatise and self-oppress
- Media, Education, Some Religions and Culture reinforce this secondary, subservient, oppressed and dependent model of women, yet with God the place of the woman is where she wants her to be
- Research by GAP & SAMGI – women are quoted less often - 3% even though they make 17% of public figures
- Women writers/ journalists often do not focus on women or treat women as stereotypes



Challenge to leadership



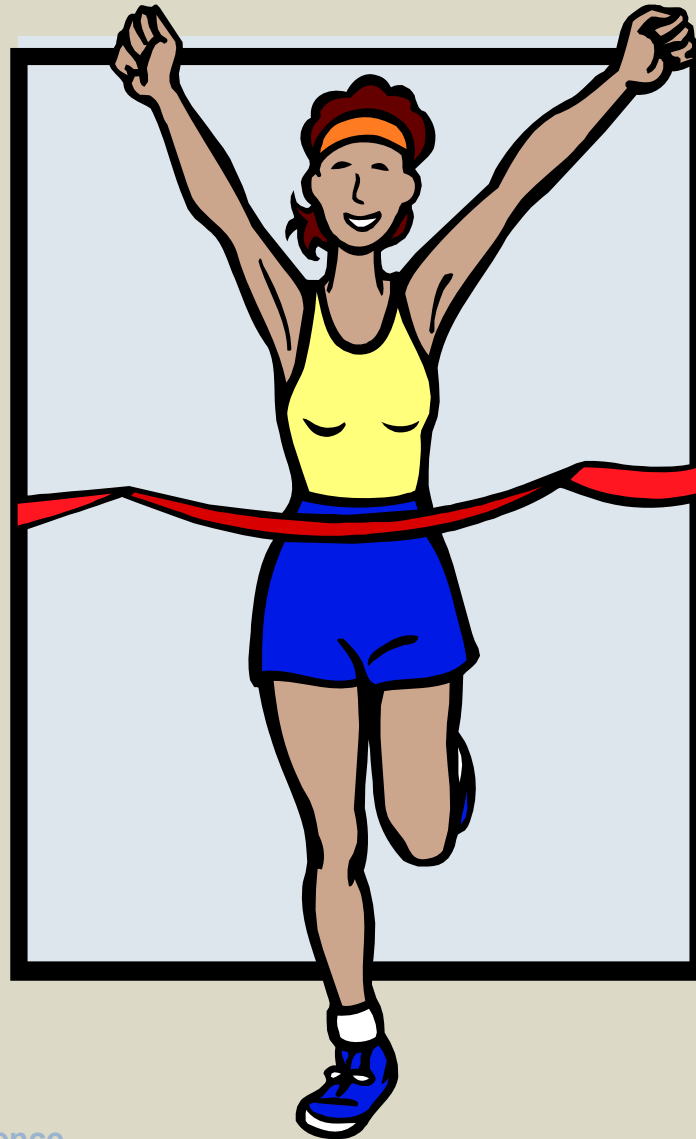
Suggestion grid to women

Be content with yourself	Celebrate your role	Recognize & internalize your value
Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it. Action has magic, grace and power in it.	Exploit your potential	Take risks – Apply for senior positions
Women to support other women	You bring valuable assets to society	Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined. As gov... simplify your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler

Step out of your cocoon



You can reach the finishing line





- Numbers make a difference
- Numbers can help reduce barriers
- Numbers increase the strength of the voice
- Let's use our numbers
- Let our numbers work for us

Even the sky is not the limit



Acknowledgements

- Rev N Pezi for inviting me
- Ms Taljaard for assisting with presentation layout
- Ms Babalwa Booie for assisting with literature search
- Mr Seth Mkhonto and Ms Nolonwabo Mhlanga for assisting with graphic design of some of the slides

