

By: Imbumba Foundations Communications Manager

# TREK4MANDELA FOCUS AERIN COHEN

**A**erin Cohen is a student at King David Victory Park and had dreamt of summiting Mount Kilimanjaro before writing her final matric exams this year, 2021.

However, due to the Covid19 pandemic, the Trek4Mandela Expedition in 2020 had to be postponed. This did not dishearten her but it rather prompted her to look back and think about why she wants to summit.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, the King David Victory Park school hosted a virtual event called “FEMPOWER” which gives women a voice with the aim of empowering, inspiring and, giving students an opportunity to listen and learn.



Mr Richard Mabaso, CEO and Founder of the Imbumba Foundation, was one of the guest speakers at this event and spoke about the importance of women's empowerment whilst relaying it to the Foundation and its respective initiatives.

After this event, Aerin felt inspired to start a fundraising scheme at her school to get her peers to make individual contributions towards empowering indigent girls, especially during these unprecedented times. The students had been asked to donate an amount of R10 or more, and they managed to raise R1000 in 1 school day. She will be joining the Caring4Girls team to distribute sanitary towels as part of the donations through her fundraising campaign.



Women's rights, which continues to be an uphill battle across the globe, has always been one of Aerin's passions. She recalls her first meeting with Mr. Mabaso where he shared his story. One thing that stood out for her the most was that *"he inspired me because he was making an actual tangible change and not*

*just speaking about it. Posting on my social media can only take me so far and I needed to get more involved."*

Aerin's selfless act, as a high school going student, reminds the Imbumba Foundation of the very powerful quote by Oscar Wilde, *"the smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention"*.