
MEDIA STATEMENT

Issued by the Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities

Attention: Journalists and News Editors

Pretoria, 12 July 2021

.....

MINISTER MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE RENEWS CALLS TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane wishes to renew calls to stop gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The country continues to see unacceptable acts of violence committed on girls and women on a daily basis.

The sad reality is that despite high levels of GBVF, many incidents remain undocumented, underreported and are unaccounted for within national statistics. Even accounted for cases are shockingly high. The 2020/2021 sexual offences statistics are yet to be released by SAPS, however, in 2019/2020 the South African Police Service recorded 53 776 sexual offences. 42 664 of these were rape cases.

Whilst the final figure for the 2020/21 financial year have not been released, existing data has shown that the lockdown levels impacted on levels of reporting. Together the four 2020/21 quarterly crime statistics indicated a total of 46 447 sexual offences. According to the 2020/21 statistics 9 518 people were raped between January and March 2021.

The Department of Social Development GBV Command Centre also showed a dramatic increase in the number of calls, smses and USSDs, with the number of overall calls increasing significantly from 54 849 in 2019/20 to 157 952 in 2020/21 and the number of GBV referred calls increasing three-fold from the previous financial year. This suggests that the lockdown levels impacted on women's ability to report incidences or seek help through regular channels



The Department of Health reported a cumulative total of 36 363 new sexual assault cases at public facilities for the 2020/21 financial year. This number is not the complete picture as it only covers public facilities.

“These numbers might be difficult to comprehend, or may even seem unbelievable to some, however, just in the past month, we must read stories of sexual assault allegations at UCT, Stories of Policemen in court for requesting bribes to make rape cases disappear, policemen also murdering their girlfriends and wives, stories of murdered children in Limpopo, the story of the man who murdered his estranged wife and dumped her body in a pit toilet. The stories go on and on,” said Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

What is more concerning is that stories are emerging in the media of women who are deciding to drop their cases. The circumstances range from women who are pressured to drop rape and sexual assault cases by their friends to prevent a falling out amongst friends and family members, or women who wish to marry and leave their past behind, or women who can no longer bear the emotional burden of a case that is being investigated for years.

“We will soon be presenting our Year 1 Report on the Implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence, to President Ramaphosa. What is clear is that even though government has committed an immense amount of resources to ending GBVF, men continue to abuse, rape and murder women. The department calls on all South Africans to play their part in fighting this scourge and to unite in the fight against GBVF,” said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

The Department calls upon all South Africans to play their part in fighting this scourge and to unite in the fight against GBVF. We encourage everyone to be on the lookout for early warning signs of gender-based violence and report anything out of the ordinary to SAPS for further investigation.

HOW TO PLAY YOUR PART:

- Increase awareness and visibility: Incorporate GBVF key messages in all discussions, addresses in all aspects of your daily life.
- Utilise GBVF Posters in your spaces.
- Partner with government, business, media houses, private sector in hosting GBVF events and heighten communications around GBVF.
- Leverage on other mega events such as sporting events, national days, themed days,



conferences etc. to spread messages on ending GBVF.

- Host lectures, debates and discussions on GBVF on topics such as eradicating patriarchal attitudes.
- Host learner competitions on equality, justice and human dignity.
- Host engagements with men and boys to encourage positive masculinity.
- Utilise your social media platforms to condemn any form of GBVF.
- Report any act or sign of gender-based violence.
- Join www.for-women.co.za – a hub for survivors and victims who need help and corporates who can offer help.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Mr Shalen Gajadhar (Director: Communications, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities)
060 979 4235

Know and Share these contact details:

GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 / *120*7867# from any cell phone

Persons with disabilities, SMS 'help' to 31531

Women Abuse Helpline: 0800 150 150

Child line: 0800 055 555

SAPS Crime Stop: 0860 10111 / SMS Crime Line: 32211

GBVF-related service complaints (SAPS): 0800 333 177

National AIDS Helpline: 0800 012 322

National Human Trafficking Helpline: 0800 222 777

Suicide Helpline: 0800 567 567

Twitter: @DWYPD_ZA

Instagram: @dwypdza

Facebook: @dwypdza

