



women

Department:
Women
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

Attention Journalists and News Editors

Pretoria, 09 December 2018

WOMEN SHOULD BE SEEN AS COMPANIONS AND NOT COMPETITORS

09 December 2018, Pretoria: Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, Ms Bathabile Dlamini led a dialogue with Men and Boys in Tshwane, Gauteng. The dialogue aims to encourage men and boys to be a part of the solution in ending the scourge of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

The Men and Boys Dialogue is one of several events and activities The Department of Women has held across South Africa during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to raise awareness to the scourge of GBV. During the past three days the department has engaged community members in Engcobo, Queenstown and Fort Beaufort in the Eastern Cape. The department has spent time in shopping centres and taxi ranks, schools and local churches where awareness was raised on how to identify healthy and unhealthy relationships. To honour the centenary year of the life and legacy of Mama Albertina Sisulu, the department hosted a memorial lecture which was presented by Ms Ntsiki Sisulu, granddaughter of Mama Sisulu. The lecture was held in Queenstown on Friday, 7 December 2018.

“During our country-wide campaign we have learnt that many South Africans consider the 16 Days of Activism Campaign as a campaign to lay blame in the hands of men. Nothing can be further from the truth. Men and boys are critical to the cause of ending Gender-Based Violence,” said Minister Dlamini.

During the Boys and Mens Dialogue boys called on South Africa to portray images of positive manhood so that they could aspire to emulate this as they grew older. “We only see images of abused women, but we still do not know what it means to be a

good man,” said Boipelo Rapholo (23). Rapholo added that selling violence on television will result in a violent nation.

Minister Dlamini acknowledged Rapholo’s comment as being deeply concerning. “Your comment points to a lack of positive role models in society. Government alone cannot provide this. This must come from within communities,” responded Minister Dlamini.

The Dialogue serves to engage men and boys on the root-causes of Gender-Based Violence, and also to strategize with men on how to combat violence and how to socialise boys and girls into a society free of Gender-Based Violence.

As the 16 Days of Activism Campaign draws to a close the department calls on all South Africans to heed the call of President Cyril Ramaphosa during the GBV Summit to ensure that this campaign becomes a 365 Day Campaign.

[ENDS]

ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT IN THE PRESIDENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN

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