

MEDIA STATEMENT

Issued by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
Attention: Journalists and News Editors
Thursday: 2 April 2026

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MINISTER CHIKUNGA CALLS FOR A SAFER EASTER WEEKEND FOR WOMEN, YOUTH, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Sindisiwe Chikunga, calls on all South Africans to prioritise safety, dignity, and respect during the Easter holiday period particularly for women, young people, and persons with disabilities, who remain among the most vulnerable in our society.

Easter is a time of reflection, renewal, and unity. However, it is also a period that often sees an increase in incidents of gender-based violence, road accidents, substance abuse, and neglect of vulnerable individuals. The Minister urges communities, families, faith-based organisations, and all sectors of society to work together to ensure that this period is marked not by harm, but by care and protection.

“Let this Easter be a time where we reaffirm our collective responsibility to protect one another, especially those most at risk. No woman should feel unsafe, no young person should be exposed to harm, and no person with a disability should be left behind,” said Minister Chikunga.

The Ministry emphasises the following key calls to action:

- Zero tolerance for gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF): Communities must speak out and act against any form of abuse or exploitation.
- Responsible behaviour among youth: Young people are encouraged to celebrate responsibly and avoid risky behaviours that may endanger their lives and futures.
- Protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities: Families and communities must ensure accessibility, safety, and full participation for persons with disabilities during

all Easter activities.

- Road safety awareness: Motorists and pedestrians are urged to exercise caution, adhere to traffic regulations, and avoid driving under the influence of alcohol.

The Department will continue to work with law enforcement agencies, civil society, and community structures to strengthen awareness and response mechanisms throughout the holiday period.

Minister Chikunga further calls on faith leaders to use this period to promote messages of compassion, non-violence, and social cohesion in their congregations and communities.

“Together, we can build a society where safety, equality, and human dignity are not seasonal values, but a way of life,” the Minister concluded.

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