

- Tell someone you trust, friend, family member, religious or community leader.

#### **UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ABUSE OF POWER**

The Declaration confirmed the need or the recognition of, and respect for, the rights of victims of crime by member states and this led to most countries giving increased attention to the victims of crime.

#### **CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)**

CEDAW has laid the foundation for women's international human rights laws transcending national, religious and customary laws.

#### **BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

The PFA calls for the integration of gender perspective in all policies and programmes and focuses on concrete measures to address:

- critical areas such as poverty and the economy, human rights, peace, violence against women, people centred sustainable;
- development, health, and the equitable sharing of family responsibilities.

#### **AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

- The African Charter is a regional human rights instrument specifically designed to reflect the history, values, traditions and development of Africa;
- Accordingly, the Charter seeks to combine African values with international norms by not only promoting internationally recognised;
- Individual duties, but also by proclaiming collective rights and individual duties;
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of Women in Africa;
- Charter places great emphasis on traditional African Values and traditions without explicit addressing concerns that many customary practices, such as female;
- Genital mutilation, forced marriage and wife inheritance, can be harmful or life- threatening to women. By ignoring critical issues such as custom and marriage.

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**Commission for Gender Equality**

A society free from gender oppression and inequality



**16 DAYS  
OF ACTIVISM AGAINST  
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

## BACKGROUND

The 16 days of activism against women abuse is international campaign that was started by the Centre for women's Global leadership (CWGL) in 1991. The 16 days run from November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women to December 10, International Human Rights Day to symbolically link violence against women and human rights.

The 16-day period also highlights other significant days including December 1, World Aids Day, and December 6, which marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

## VISION

A society **FREE** from **gender oppression** and all forms of inequality.

## MISSION

The Commission for Gender Equality shall advance, promote and protect gender equality in South Africa through undertaking research, public education, policy development, legislative initiatives, effectively monitoring and litigation.

## THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE AS AN ORGANIZING STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY:

- Raising awareness around gender-based violence as a human rights issue;
- Strengthening local work around gender-based violence;
- Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end gender-based violence;
- Providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- Demonstrating the solidarity of women and all vulnerable groups against gender-based violence;
- Creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to engender-based violence.

## DEFINITION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

According to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the term gender-based violence (GBV) is used to distinguish violence that targets individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender from other forms of violence. It includes any act which results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or emotional and economic abuse based on gender.



## TYPES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### PHYSICAL

- Slapping, punching, grabbing, kicking, shaking, pulling hair, restraint, biting, use of force/threat/coercion to obtain sex, use of weapons against a person, battery, murder, destroying someone's possessions;
- Sexual acts which include sodomy rape and marital rape, genital mutilation, sexual harassment, incest, defilement and sexual violence committed during
- Human trafficking, forced prostitution, violence related to exploitation

### EMOTIONAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

- Shouting, ridicule and humiliation, denial of safe sex;
- Denying others access to education and training
- Verbal insults and forced marriages
- Movement or association,

### ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION

- Denying others access to employment
- Failure to provide for family
- Denying others access to education and training
- Discriminating against others in employment situations
- Refusal to pay maintenance by spouse

## CAUSES OF GBV

- Inequalities and imbalanced power relations among people in society
- Structures with a complex set of values, norms, practices, customs and traditions, beliefs and practices that are rooted in patriarchy and gender inequality
- Lack of prevention programmes targeting the perpetrators and communities
- Others poverty coupled with lack of their human rights
- Lack of knowledge of who the real perpetrators are
- The exposure of the family to public scrutiny and society trying to protect the family institution

## CONSEQUENCES OF GBV

- Death of a victim or the perpetrator.
- The risk of contracting HIV.
- Injuries and harm extended to children, family and community members.
- Anxiety, depression, humiliation and low self-esteem.
- Child headed families.
- Dependency on social systems packages such as welfare packages, police and health services.
- Low levels of economic productivity

## THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- Provide the public with information on GBV
- Conduct legal clinics
- Monitor police conduct concerning GBV cases
- Monitor GBV cases in courts
- Hold both public and private institutions accountable regarding gender equality

## POLICIES AND LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO GBV

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- South African Constitution
- National Victim Empowerment Policy/ Charter
- Domestic Violence Act, 116 of 1998
- Children's Act, 38 of 2005
- Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act, 32 of 2007 (Amended)
- Older Person's Act 13 of 2006
- Trafficking in Persons' Act, 7 of 2013

## WHERE TO REPORT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- South African Police Services (SAPS)
- Non-Governmental Organisations

November 25<sup>th</sup>

December 1<sup>st</sup>

December 6<sup>th</sup>

December 10<sup>th</sup>