

Why do we need the NSP-GBVF?

SOUTH AFRICA IS EXPERIENCING A GBVF CRISIS



SOUTH AFRICA RANK 38 OUT OF 163 COUNTRIES AS ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT PLACES IN THE WORLD

South Africa has the highest number of murders outside of a war zone in the world. Currently, South Africa is ranked number **38 out of 163** in terms of levels of violence.



1 in 3 women

In Gauteng, **1 in 3 women** are victims of physical/sexual violence from their partners



56%

of women killed by intimate partner violence

Intimate partner murder is the leading cause of female murders in South Africa. **56% of cases reported on women who have been killed is cause by intimate partner violence = intimate partner femicide**



Sexual offences reported to the police have been steadily increasing every year as follows:

2016 - 2017 → 49,660

2017 - 2018 → 50,108

2018 - 2019 → 52,420



1st 2 weeks 2,300 cases

In the first two weeks of lockdown in March-April 2020, **2,300 cases of gender-based violence** were reported.



1 in 23 women report

For all cases of sexual assault reported a lot more remain unreported. **Only 1 in 23 women** in Gauteng report cases of sexual assault.

Implementation Structures of the NSP-GBVF

National Council on GBVF (NCGBFV)

- This is an independent non-partisan advisory body.
- Its powers and functions shall be set out in legislation which shall be drafted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.
- The role of the council includes:
 - See to the implementation of the NSP processes and facilitate engagement of all stakeholders
 - Ensure resources are equitably distributed for an effective GBVF response
 - Increase accountability, strengthen coordination of NSP-GBVF tasks
 - Facilitate strategic partnerships

The Executive Board

- This will be made up of 13 people. 6 representatives from government departments and 7 from civil society organisations.

NCGBFV Secretariat

- This shall be led by a Chief Executive Officer
- The Secretariat is responsible for the day to day running of the task of the NCGBFV
- The Secretariat shall answer to the NCGBFV

The NCGBFV structure shall be established at a **National Level, provincial level, and district level.**

- At the Provincial level the Premier of the Province shall be the leader
- At District/local level the leader shall be the Mayor.

The state shall be responsible for funding the structures of the NSP and for the implementation at all levels of government.

THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON Gender-Based Violence & Femicide

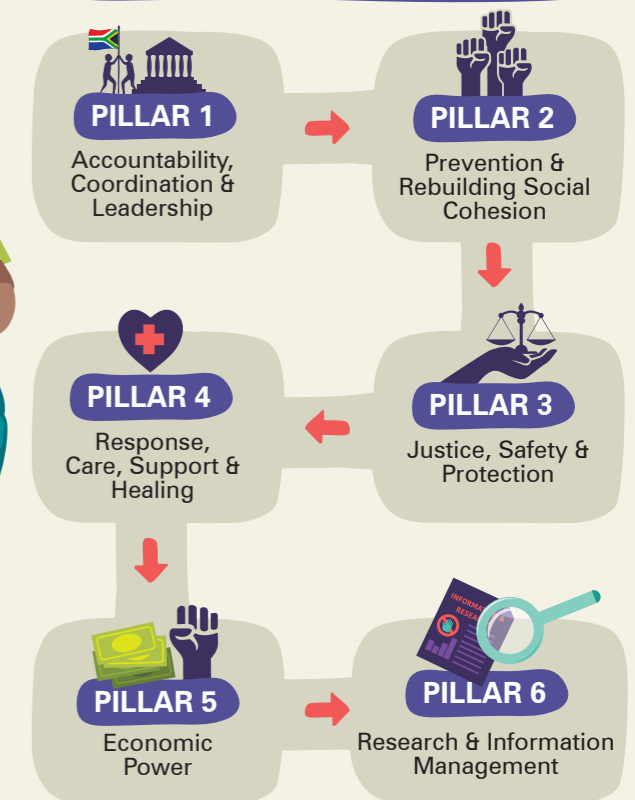


What is it?

The **National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide** is a policy document developed to address GBVF in South Africa.

It involves various sectors such as, **the safety and security sector, justice sector, the health sector, civil society and the private sector** in a joint effort to understand the root causes or drivers of GBVF in South Africa and how to address them as well as how to provide support and protection for victims of GBVF in a systematic, uniform manner across the whole country.

The National Strategic Plan is made up of 6 pillars





PILLAR 1

ACCOUNTABILITY, COORDINATION & LEADERSHIP

This pillar calls on us to hold one another accountable at **ALL** levels of society from the highest political office to the lowest person.

- This pillar requires individual leadership (to take the bold step and make a stand) which shall then lead to;
- Collective leadership, where members of the community as a group make a stand together to hold those in office accountable.
- Once there is joint community accountability it shall lead to the building of structures or organised systems for responding to GBVF cases making sure different government departments coordinate and work together towards this goal.
- Collectively the community holds those in office accountable to make sure GBVF responses are properly resourced/funded at every level.



PILLAR 2

PREVENTION & REBUILDING SOCIAL COHESION

This pillar looks at the causes of GBVF in society and tries to deal with them at the root of the problem. It seeks to answer the question:

“WHY DO WE HAVE A GBVF PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA?”

Some of the causes/drivers of GBVF are:

- Patriarchy and ideas of masculinity which believes in men controlling women, men’s sexual entitlement and promote the use of violence as an acceptable social practice



PILLAR 3

JUSTICE SAFETY & PROTECTION

This pillar looks at the current failures in the legal system and seeks to implement solutions through legislation, policy, international and regional protocols. **Some** of the solutions to be implemented include;

- All GBV survivors can access efficient and sensitive criminal justice that is quick
- This means dealing with the causes in the backlog of cases where investigations into GBV cases takes too long or court process to deal with perpetrators of GBV takes too long thus denying victims justice.
- Coordination of the roles of the Police, Prosecutors, Magistrates to ensure GBV cases are dealt with as a matter of priority and urgency.
- It means ensuring the SAPS is held accountable for its role in ensuring GBV cases get the attention they deserve
- Clearing backlog of all DNA samples at forensic laboratories
- Set up a laboratory for DNA testing in the Eastern Cape and other rural provinces
- Establishing 11 sexual offences courts to deal specifically with sexual offences only
- Dealing with online sexual violence

- Ideas of femininity that promote women’s subordination to men and encourage women to accept violence and encourage men’s sexual entitlement
- Exposure to and experiencing violence from early childhood including boys being bullied
- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Drug and substance abuse

The pillar looks at how to deal with the causes/drivers of GBVF by rebuilding the society in which we live.



PILLAR 4

RESPONSE CARE SUPPORT & HEALING

This pillar focuses on the mental and physical health and overall, wellbeing of survivors of GBV. It is aimed at the healing process to enable survivors to be able to reclaim their lives.

- It seeks to facilitate and ensure relationships between different government institutions and Civil Society organizations are harmonized and strengthened to give support to survivors of GBV.
 - For example, the health sector giving appropriate assistance to a victim of GBV after the case has been reported to the police.
 - Ensuring that the victim gets counselling assistance and support from a social worker therefore involving the Department of social development.
 - Ensuring that Civil society organizations dealing with GBV survivors have the support whether it is funding for shelters, social workers attending the organisations to give practical assistance or whether it is cooperation from the police when cases are reported.
- Most importantly, this pillar seeks to involve communities in providing support for GBV survivors. this means developing safe spaces in the community for survivors to come together to express themselves without fear of shame and break the silence.
- Communities can do this through establishing informal platforms such as
 - women’s/men’s group meetings at church or
 - women’s/men’s group meetings formed within the community or
 - even combined group meetings for all for people to share their experiences.



PILLAR 5

ECONOMIC POWER

This pillar focuses on economic empowerment of women. Often women stay in abusive relationships because they are dependent on their abuser. This means they are not only physically abused; they are also economically abused.

Economic abuse shows itself through the financial control of women often through withholding financial resources particularly when it comes to child maintenance.

This pillar seeks to change the economic power dynamics which have a negative impact on women by;

- Increasing women’s access to public and private procurement, employment and other income generating initiatives
- Strengthened child maintenance and related support systems to deal with women’s economic vulnerability



PILLAR 6

RESEARCH & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

This pillar seeks to ensure that research on GBV is coordinated and shared by different stakeholders conducting the research. This involves

- Different sectors share their statistics findings and reports on GBVF so that there is increased knowledge on the problem and a more holistic understanding of the level of the problem and the extent
 - For example sectors such as the SAPS share the number of cases on GBVF reported annually, the DoH share their reports on number of GBV related cases they have to deal with, the DSD shares the number of clients they have provided support or counselling to following GBVF
- The more knowledge is shared about GBVF better solutions can be achieved. Once these solutions are implemented, shared research will enable us to determine whether the new solutions are successful and what we can do to improve or change to eradicate GBVF.