
MEDIA STATEMENT

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

Attention: Journalists and News Editors

Pretoria, 25 November 2019

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA OFFICIALLY OPENS 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

President Cyril Ramaphosa officially opened International 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children (16 Days Campaign) on Monday 25 November 2019 in Witpoort, Lephalale Local Municipality.

President Ramaphosa, in his stirring address echoed the mood of the nation saying, “Enough is Enough.” We have lost our way in the manner in which we treat women and children. We were taught to never raise your hand against a woman.” President Ramaphosa went on to assure the nation that we were on track in rolling out the Emergency Action Plan which requires government to reprioritise R1.6 Billion to respond to the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide, which has pushed the country to the edge.

This year’s campaign is themed: *Enough is Enough: 365 days to end Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)*. The theme mirrors the collective conscious of the nation, and is a message to collaborate every day to eradicate the horrific trend of gender-based violence and femicide, as well as violent acts enacted on children.

After the President officially opened the campaign at Witpoort Police Station, the department held a community event in Ga-Seleka Community Hall, led by the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. The dialogue set the tone for engagement and interaction during the campaign which calls on government, civil society, business, organisations faith-based organisations and unions to work together to eradicate gender-based violence in all its forms, including sexual harassment in the workplace, at places of learning, and places of worship.

Elements and objectives of the 16 Days of Activism campaign include:

- Public updates on the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and fostering partnership for its implementation;
- Expanding the call on men and boys to take a stand against all forms of abuse and the killing of women and children;
- Promoting multi-sectoral, collective action and responsibility in the fight to eradicate violence against women and children;
- Engendering and mobilising an active and patriotic citizenry that works with government in the development of national goals and a vision for a safer South Africa for women and children;, and
- Mobilising all South Africans to commit to ending Gender-Based Violence and Femicide by signing the National Pledge on GBVF.

The National Pledge calls on South African men to become actively involved in ending all forms of violence. It is not only about being a good man, father, husband and co-worker. It goes beyond that to men not allowing violence in all its forms to take place. Men can do this by calling out other men who insult, denigrate, abuse, or treat women like objects. Men need to be active players in activist efforts to end GBVF.

The department encourages the country to host dialogues, speak about gender-based violence and mobilise within communities to root out perpetrators and report them to SAPS.

More information can be found at: www.women.gov.za and www.gov.za/16Days.

For interviews please contact Ms Mmabatho Ramompi on 076 480 3513 / mmabatho.ramompi@women.gov.za or Ms Kea Motlokwa, on 066 0777347 / kea.mptlokwa@women.gov.za.

For further information please contact Mr Shalen Gajadhar on 060 979 4235 / shalen.gajadhar@women.gov.za

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