

## **CONCEPT PAPER**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

South African continues to experience high prevalence of gender-based violence and the government of South Africa is committed to ending this scourge. Citizens, especially women, came in large numbers in various parts of the country to voice their concerns about this scourge and make concrete suggestions on how to end the violence. In response to these concerns, the Presidency held a National Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Summit on 1-2 November 2018. The Presidential Summit resulted in a Declaration with specific short-term and long-term recommendations.

In line with the commitment made by the President during the Summit, the process of implementation commenced with the setting up of an Interim Steering Committee on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (ISC GBVF) chaired by the Presidency. Article 3 and 4 of the Presidential Summit Against GBVF Declaration respectively advocates for establishment of a resourced Interim GBVF Steering Committee (IGBVF-SC) and a multi-sectoral coordinating body i.e., NCGBVF within six (6) months of the date on which the Declaration is signed. In this regard, the IGBVF-SC was established on the 12 April, 2019, to take the urgent recommendations of the Summit forward. The IGBVF-SC considered the notion that structure supports strategy; and in that regard, the establishment of the NCGBVF should be based on a comprehensive gender based violence and femicide national strategy.

The ISC GBVF completed the task of developing a National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF through a consultative and participatory process. This also included a recommended GBVF Council structure. The NSP on GBVF and GBVF Council Structure were approved by Cabinet in March 2020. Cabinet also approved the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) comprising the Ministers of Police, Justice & Correctional Services, Public Service & Administration, Social Development and the Minister of Women, Youth & People with Disabilities as the convener. The IMC plays a key facilitation and political liaison role in the NCGVBF process.

Guided by the Summit Declaration, the term of the ISC GBVF came to an end in March 2020. Although the process of developing the GBVF-NSP has been particularly challenging and took longer than planned due to absence of necessary financial resources and administrative support, this task was successfully conclude and the plan is ready for roll-out and implementation. The Department is planning a Webinar to update civil society on processes put in place to establish the NCGBVF and solicit their views and inputs on the proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) and Selection Criteria for NCGBVF representatives.

## 2. AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE WEBINAR

The NCGVBF is based on the agreement and understanding that a multi-sectoral approach is central to effectively addressing GBVF in SA. The NCGBVF was therefore proposed as a vehicle to drive a multi-sectoral, coherent strategic policy and programming framework to ensure a coordinated national response to the crisis of gender-based violence and femicide by the government of South Africa and the country as a whole.

The NCGBVF will work with and through key strategic government departments and civil society networks and organizations to build on-going national, provincial and local accountability for urgent, comprehensive and all-inclusive response to GBVF. The scope encompasses comprehensively and strategically responding to gender-based violence and femicide, with a specific focus on violence against all women (across age, physical location, disability, sexual orientation and gender identify, gender expression, nationality and other diversities) and violence against children and how these serve to reinforce each other.

Based on the above, the **objectives** of the Webinar are to:

- Share progress made and the roadmap towards the implementation of the establishment of the NCGBVF and the GBVF-NSP;
- Review and agree on the proposed Terms of Reference for the NCGBVF;
- Review and agree on the proposed Selection Criteria for NCGBVF representatives;

Expected **outcomes** of the Webinar are:

- Inputs on a draft base/reference documents (TOR and Selection Criteria);
- Feedback on proposed road map/project plan;
- Possible scenarios for GBVF-NSP roll-out and implementation; and
- Enhanced stakeholder participation and collaboration in the NCGBVF establishment processes and GBVF-NSP implementation process.

## 3. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

The key functions of the NCGBVF will include, but not limited to:

- Setting strategic direction and agenda to address GBVF in an impactful way;
- Coordinating different sectors, geographies and existing structures to ensure synchronicity and alignment towards a common goals;
- Strengthening political accountability in terms of GBVF;
- Serving as custodian of the GBVF-NSP and as a consultative body;
- Providing oversight and advice in terms of programmes, policies and resourcing, drawing on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism;
- Representing interests and needs of survivors and the sector at large;

- Serving as a link across levels,, internally (local, district, provincial, national);
- Playing advocacy and awareness role.

#### **4. GOVERNANCE**

The NCGBVF will be an independent body constituted by 13 members, comprising 51% civil society representatives and 49% government representatives i.e.;

- 7 CSOs (representation, reflective of a range of interests) representatives;
- 6 Government representatives; and
- Co-chaired by government and civil society.

#### **5. TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

The draft agenda, TOR and Selection Criteria for Council representation are attached as separate reference documents, and form the basis for discussion and engagement.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

The Webinar will involve participants from national gender machineries (NGM) comprised of government, civil society and private sector. The discussions will help inform the final Terms of Reference and Selection Criteria for the NCGBVF.