



## WHO WE ARE

Despite having one of the most progressive Constitutions and legal frameworks, South Africa holds the shameful distinction of being one of the most unsafe places in the world for women. Partly due to a legacy of violent repression under apartheid and subsequent failures to deliver economic prosperity and social cohesion, multiple state- and civil society-driven gender-based violence (GBV) initiatives have not succeeded in bringing GBV under control. While evidence points to some effective initiatives, these operate in isolation and largely address symptoms rather than causes.

Recognising these shortcomings and driven by the shocking increase in the rate of GBV and the gruesome murder of women and children in South Africa, the South African government, working closely with civil society developed the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF). In April 2020, the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) was approved by the Cabinet to serve as a national framework to respond to the crisis of GBVF in the country in a holistic and integrated manner. The NSP on GBVF requires that a national coordination mechanism be established to coordinate a multi-sectoral response to GBVF.

Alongside the protracted process of establishing the national coordination mechanism, UN Women, working together with the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) created a platform which began to harness the will, passion, and capabilities of different stakeholders. This is a voluntary platform that brings together like-minded individuals, organisations, institutions, corporates, etc – to work together to implement the priorities of the NSP on GBVF in a coordinated and coherent manner to improve impact. Key stakeholders in End GBVF Collective, the Multi-Sectoral Collaborative NSP Implementation Platform include government, civil society organisations, trade unions, the private sector, development agencies and activists with the passion to end GBVF in South Africa. End GBVF Collective is designed to address GBVF in new and more powerful ways, where cross-sector collaboration, rapid innovation, and disciplined execution are the norm, and where the capacity of people to contribute to solving their own problems is fully unleashed.

End GBVF Collective focuses purely on implementing the interventions identified in the NSP. Participants find expression of their interests and skills by joining one or more of the six pillar working groups, which are co-convened by government, civil society, and private sector partners. Technical support to the process is provided by development partners, viz, UNWomen, GIZ, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNHCR and ILO, with the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) leading the process. End GBVF Collective, originally known as The NSP Collaborative, started with 36 CSOs committing to work with the government to implement the NSP on GBVF whilst waiting for the establishment of the National Council on GBVF. The process gained momentum with the introduction of a results-oriented planning process that facilitated the identification of quick but impactful interventions. This led to the development of a 100 Days plan by the 6 pillars.

The movement grew from 36 to 82 organisations and 363 individuals attending meetings since inception. The core group, which consists of independent individuals and representatives of different sectors (government, civil society, private sector, trade unions, research institutions, development agencies) has grown to over 50 members. These are people who volunteer time and skills to serve in different structures and collaborative processes in End GBVF Collective.

## THE WAY WE WORK

### Pillar Meetings

Members of End GBVF Collective join a specific pillar in line with their mandate or particular area of work. Pillars meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to plan and execute priority interventions. The Pillars are self-managed with a Convener from Government and a Co-convener from Civil society. Where necessary, pillars create smaller task teams to focus on specific subjects or tasks. Pillars create their own rhythms.

## COORDINATION

### Monthly Collaborative Meetings

Monthly collaborative sessions are designed to allocate time and space for pillar reporting and identification of strategic alignment issues. The design process includes a multi-sectoral team that ensures that all sectors of End GBVF Collective are taken into consideration when decisions are made.

End GBVF Collective is undergirded by a strong coordination structure, which serves as a container for the activities of the different pillars. The Coordination Team plays a vital role in building key systems to promote inclusive internal communication, consensus-building and mutual accountability, and building a unique inclusive brand that avoids competitiveness and builds solidarity, while affirming all partner contributions. It creates spaces for mutual learning, collaboration, planning, monitoring and evaluation, systematic communication, and advocacy.

The Coordination function also involves the facilitation of monthly collaborative meetings. The success of the collaborative sessions lies in consciously harnessing the goodwill, skills, and presence of collaborators and being responsive to their needs.

The structures that support the coordination function are:

- **Strategic Alignment Task Team** – whose role is to facilitate strategic alignment and cohesion in the work of the pillars and secure funding and resources for administrative support and project implementation when needed.
- **Communication Task Team** – whose role is to ensure inclusive internal communication and wide visibility of the work of End GBVF Collective.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of the notable achievements of End GBVF Collective include:

- Initiated a lobbying process to ratify the ILO C190 and through this process, strengthened partnerships with other role players particularly NEDLAC, DEL, DPSA, Federations, private sector and civil society
- Lobbied the JSE to support the campaign not to allow ex-perpetrators to be registered as directors with CIPC
- Developed a communication strategy and 3 big brands – Loeries, Tractor and Unilever heeded the call to support the strategy
- Developed communication content for social norms and behaviour messaging which had access to 474 billboard spots per day during September 2020
- Developed tools for GBV prevention, including the use of art to speak to the scourge of GBVF and implementation of evidence-based prevention interventions such as the peace dialogues as well as capacity building for 2000 learners in 5 provinces
- Held Public education sessions on legal rights through radio interviews Hosted webinars on the 3 GBV Bills before the public hearing dates set by Parliament
- Pillar 6 conceived the heatmap concept but could not carry it through due to financial constraints. Established the Researchers Forum, which was supported by the HSRC through the provision of 4 interns.
- Participated in the planning and execution on the Presidential GBVF Summit 2, held on 1 and 2 November 2022

## CONCLUSION

End GBVF Collective promotes innovative coordination and management of processes. It harnesses the determination and hunger of all stakeholders to learn. The success of End GBVF Collective attests to the tenacity of this decentralised approach that harnesses human capacity and existing resources. There is a strong need to intentionally pursue and resource multi-sectoral approaches and harness the wealth of ground-level contributions to ending GBVF if the objectives of the NSP are to be met effectively.

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