



# THE GIRL CHILD AND ISSUES SHE FACES



**The Justice Desk**  
A Human Rights NPO

# INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be a man working as an ally with women and other men to end violence against women and children? What does it mean to be an authentic man? How are men showing up to do this work and engage other men in ending gender-based violence?

In order to address the roles men of all ages can play in preventing and reducing gender-based violence, we need to examine the root cause; the socialisation of men, power and patriarchy, toxic masculinities, gender inequality many more links to all different forms of violence against women.

However, using the 'gender-based' aspect is important as it highlights the fact that many forms of violence against women are rooted in power inequalities between women and men.



# KEY DEFINITIONS

## Femicide

Also known as female homicide, it is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women. However, broader definitions include any killing of women or girls. In South Africa, it is defined as the killing of a female person, on the basis of their gender identity. (National Strategic Plan On Gender Based Violence & Femicide: 2020)

## Sexual harassment

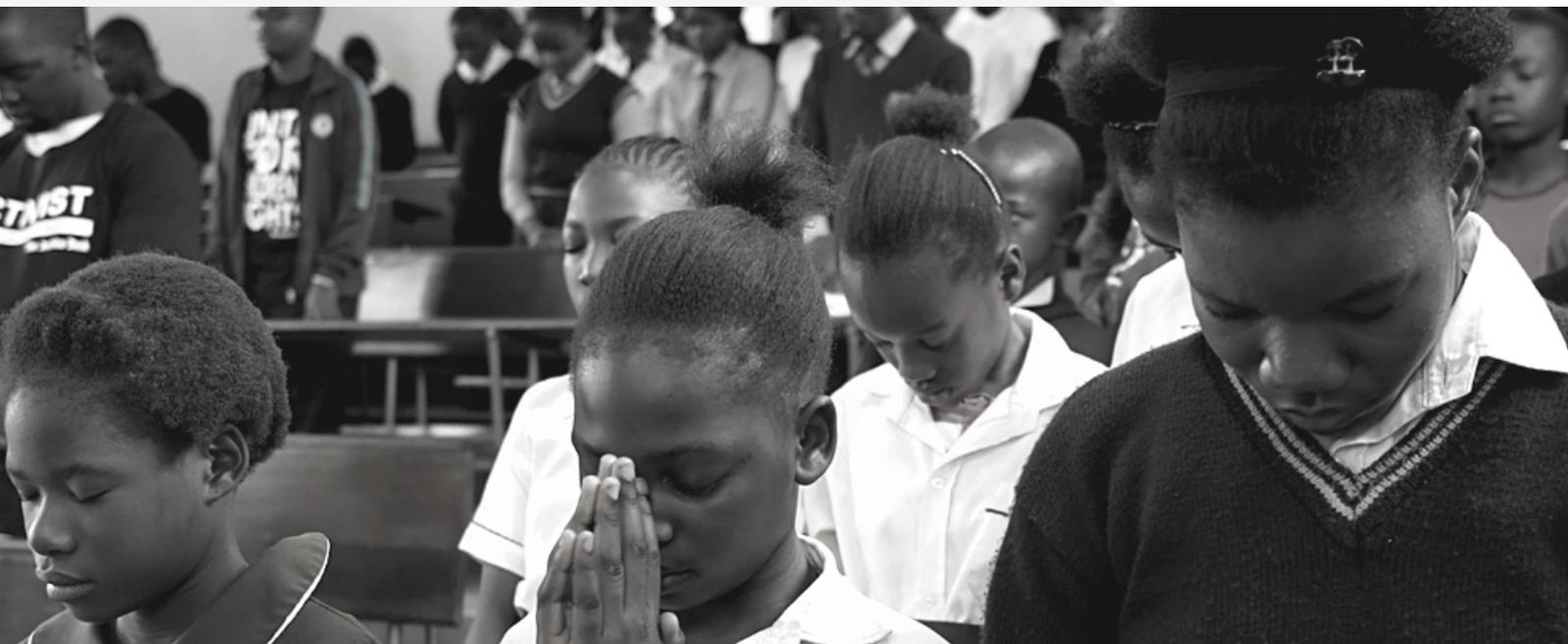
Behaviour characterised by the making of unwelcomed and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances in a workplace or other professional or social situation.

## Domestic Violence

According to South African law, domestic violence includes physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional, verbal and psychological abuse; economic abuse; intimidation; harassment; stalking; entry into a persons' residence without their consent or any other controlling or abusive behavior taking place in domestic relationships (during or after a relationship).

## Patriarchy

The National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (2020) states that patriarchy is a social system in which men are positioned to hold primary power, dominate in roles of political privilege, and control property. It is a system that favours men over and above women.



# UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL CONSENT

## SEXUAL CONSENT

Sexual consent is when a person gives a clear 'yes' when engaging in any sexual activity before or during the activity. It is all about personal boundaries. Enjoying sexual activity only when wanted by all parties, and respecting those we initiate sexual activity towards, is vital.

## CONDITIONS

1. The person giving consent should not be a minor. (South African age of consent is 16 years).
2. Accepting an invitation, gift etc is not sexual consent.
3. The person giving consent should want to have sex.
4. There is no form of dressing that implies consent.
5. The person giving consent should know that they are agreeing to, and not be impaired by mental or physical illness, or disability. They cannot be sleeping, drugged, drunk, blackmailed or manipulated.
6. The person initiating sexual activity must be sure to obtain consent.
7. A relationship and sexual history does not imply consent.
8. Sexual consent is an ongoing process. A person may give sexual consent to one activity, and decline the rest.
9. A person may and is allowed to stop and say no at any point, even if they gave consent at the beginning.
10. Silence is not consent.
11. NO is a full sentence, it is not trickery, hard to get or asking for negotiation.
12. Crying, pulling away and "freezing up" should alert the other person about disapproval and discomfort, and should be stopped.



## IT'S IMPORTANT FOR MEN TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE BEING A WOMAN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

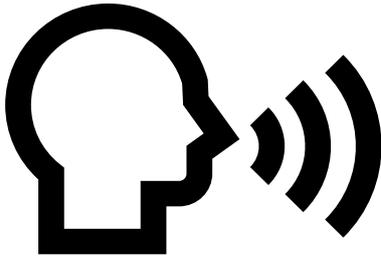
Being a woman means:

- Avoiding groups of men when taking a walk regardless of the time of day.
- Fearing for your life simply because you are a woman or girl.
- Not being able to go anywhere alone after sundown.
- Having to consider what to wear before going to get a taxi.
- Constantly having to look over your shoulder when going to work.
- Being harrassed by men when you refuse to give them your number or talk to them.

# VS

## MALE PRIVILEGE

- Being able to go anywhere at anytime without fear of being attacked by a women.
- Being able to jog without having to constantly look over your shoulder.
- Not having to fear for your life simply because you are a man.



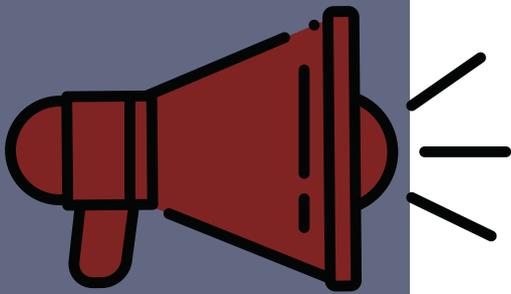
# THE USE OF LANGUAGE AND HOW IT PERPETUATES GBV

Rape culture is not only about raping. It is about the myths and stereotypes that are prevalent across all communities, which ultimately manifests through things like language, behaviour and attitudes, which then encourage violence towards women.

It starts with the small things, how you talk to women, how you talk about women and how you view women in general. We need to change the way we use language as it often adds to the perpetuation of rape culture and GBV against women and girls. For example: change the words "women are raped" to "men rape women".

'Language constructs reality, and the way we speak about gender, the way we speak about sex, the way we speak about women, all of these can combine to construct a culture which is enabling of rape'.

Barbara Boswell, senior lecturer at University of Witwatersrand.



## ARE YOU TIRED OF GBV? THIS IS HOW MEN CAN BE ALLIES!

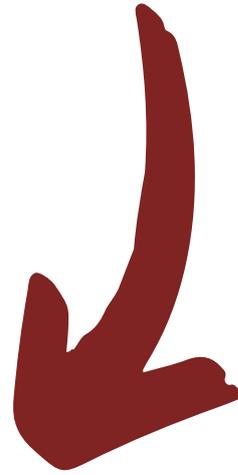
1. Recognize that there is a problem. Understand that GBV is a man's problem. You need to evolve and help your loved ones do the same.
2. Do research and educate yourself about sexism and GBV.
3. Call your "boys" out.
4. When a woman says NO once, stop immediately and don't try to change her mind.
5. Listen to women when they tell you something is sexist. Sexism upholds GBV!
6. When people that you know or prominent figures are accused GBV believe the victim.
7. Stop slut shaming women.
8. Use your voice on social media to bring awareness to GBV. Using social media can help you connect to others outside your normal social circles. Use your Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other platforms to call for an end to GBV. Join others in the #NOGBV conversation to bring awareness to what GBV looks like around the world and how members of the social media universe can take steps to end GBV globally.
9. Stop calling women after objects. They are not "chicks" or "dolls". They are human.

*There is absolutely no reason, no excuse and no justification for the femicide that is happening to our women right now!*

# HOW TO TELL IF YOU ARE A RAPE APOLOGIST

## RAPE APOLOGIST

A person who defends acts of rape, usually by claiming that rape is not a serious crime or that people do not need to give consent to sex. They are any person who suggests that women may be able to take precautions to reduce their chances of being raped (Urban Dictionary, 2016)



1. You believe a women's dressing and behavior determines how they should be treated.
2. You tend to gravitate towards the accused eg, "he is a good guy, he would never do such a thing"
3. You always bring up stories of men being raped to shut down conversations, eg: men also get raped, why are you guys overreacting"
4. Always complain about why victims speak out at their own time, eg: "why are you only speaking now?" or "why didn't you shout?"
5. You believe that persistence & pleading is the key in getting someone to have sex with you.
6. You assume that being in a relationship is the ticket to consent.
7. You find yourself saying "why was she there in the first place?" or "she shouldn't have worn that".
8. You bring up false allegations when a victim of rape has spoken up.
9. You believe asking for consent ruins the mood.
10. You think women visiting men in their apartments is an invitation for sex.

**YOU CAN DO BETTER  
RAPISTS RELY ON RAPE APOLOGISTS  
TO KEEP ON RAPING.**

# The Justice Desk

Promoting the Power of  
Everyday Activists

Office Email:

[info@justicedesk.org](mailto:info@justicedesk.org)

Website: [www.justicedesk.org](http://www.justicedesk.org)

NPO:186-262

BBBEE Level 1

Tel: 060 627 1963

Queens Young Leaders Recipient