

Violence Against Women in South Africa
Oral statement June 2021
The Justice Desk
248 words

South Africa has a Gender Based Violence and Femicide Crisis that continues to effect girls, women, children, the LGBTQIA+ community and PLWD. This crisis is worsened by a history of apartheid, normalized violence, poverty and prevailing gender inequalities.

South Africa is one of the most unsafe places in the world to be a woman, with some of the highest rates of intimate partner violence¹

South African laws are not accessible to suit the needs of women and girls comprehensively, especially those in underserved township communities. Despite the criminalization of rape in SA, the laws remain ineffectively implemented due to low levels of reporting, ineffective reporting and investigative mechanisms and underwhelming prosecution rates²

ERI and The Justice Desk urge that the following be implemented country-wide:

- A human rights-based, survivor-focused approach to GBVF that empowers the everyday person to know and understand their rights
- Integrated strategies involving the education of men and boys to address the root causes of GBV
- Awareness-raising campaigns that promote effective ways of reporting
- Effective and accessible reporting and investigative mechanisms to ensure successful prosecution of rape and GBV cases
- The effective criminalising or challenging of traditional attitudes, beliefs and norms that attempt to justify and normalise GBV
- The adoption of a preventative approach to GBV as opposed to reactive strategies

It is imperative that the root causes of GBV be addressed in South Africa, and that it's laws, policies, reporting mechanisms, as well as it's investigative and legal systems be made accessible and effective on-the-ground.

¹<https://www.justice.gov.za/vg/gbv/NSP-GBVF-FINAL-DOC-04-05.pdf> pg 2.

² UCT, 2015 Policing Sexual Offences in SA

