



Summary of National Gender-based Violence and Femicide Strategic Plan 2020 – 2030

(Based on draft 1 as released on 14 August 2019 for public comment)

19 November 2019

This brief provides a brief summary of the National Gender-based Violence and Femicide Strategic Plan 2020-2030 as released on 12 August 2019. It must be noted that there may be significant changes to the plan given the public comment process; however, this overview aims to give members a broad idea of what is contained in the draft plan and may form part of the final plan. In a media statement released by GCIS on 08 November 2019, it was noted that the final plan will be submitted to government by the end of November 2019.

1. Purpose of the NSP

Provide a multi-sectoral, coherent strategic policy and programming framework to strengthen 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.

2. Vision of the NSP

Ensure that all people in South Africa, particularly women, children and gender non-conforming persons are and feel safe; enjoy healthy, happy lives, relationships and social connectedness; have access to sensitive, humanising quality services, and are fully able to realise and exercise their right to autonomy and bodily integrity and equality as an integral component of sustainable human development in the country.

3. Specific target groups covered by the NSP

- (a) All women across the life cycle who bear the disproportionate burden of gender-based violence across the continuum, ranging from ongoing sexual harassment in work and public spaces to the brutal denial of their agency, rights and bodily integrity within intimate relationships, families and communities to misogynistic belief systems and practices that in certain instances have resulted in their untimely deaths;
- (b) Young women
- (c) Older women
- (d) Workers – sex workers, farm works, etc.
- (e) Lesbian women who face violence arising from their sexual orientation;
- (f) Transgender women who self- identify as women and are subjected to violence as a result of their gender identity;

- (g) Disabled women, who are at increased risk of violence, both from intimate partners and health care providers and face specific challenges in reporting violence and in accessing care and support.
- (h) Migrant women who experience general violence, xenophobic violence, violence from partners and non-partners, and reduced likelihood of reporting due to fear of authority and deportation
- (i) Women and girls, across ages, nationalities, sexual orientation and gender identities who have become victims of sex trafficking;
- (j) Children who experience violence within families and institutions.
- (k) Girls, who are particularly vulnerable to specific forms of violence, such as early forced marriages, sexual violence, cyber violence and other specific forms of violence

4. Gaps in responding to GBV

The draft plan acknowledges that South Africa finds itself in a gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) crisis and identifies the following gaps in the response to GBVF:

- inadequate integration and/or alignment of GBV programming with the wider violence programming and vice versa
- a lack of awareness and acknowledgement of intersectionality¹
- an implementation gap between legislation and the activities that it calls for
- policy incoherence
- inadequacies in the way state funds are allocated to prevent violence against women and girls
- a lack of political leadership on the issue
- a lack of agreement on what needs to be done
- an inability to scale-up programmes and interventions that are shown to be effective
- inadequate co-operation, collaboration and information-sharing between government, NGOs and the research community.

¹ Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categorisations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage

5. Key proposed outcomes of the plan

The plan outlines 6 outcomes which need to be fast-tracked across the next 5 years to achieve a South Africa that is safe and free from GBVF. These are:

Outcome 1: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership	Through: Firm leadership and strengthened accountability that responds to the GBVF crisis in a multi-sectoral, strategically and institutionally coherent and resourced way	This means: Harnessing all (stakeholders) to respond to the GBVF crisis and elevate leadership and accountability at all levels.
Outcome 2: Prevention and Healing	Through: Addressing specific systemic and structural drivers of GBV through the roll out of effective prevention and healing interventions that target institutions and households	This means: Stop violence before it happens
Outcome 3: Law and Policy	Through: Enforcing, implementing and adopting laws, policies and frameworks that are aligned with addressing GBVF substantively at all levels	This means: Enforce, implement and adopt transformative laws and policies
Outcome 4: Response, Care and Support	Through: Ensuring that victim-centred and survivor focussed accessible, equitable and quality services are readily available across the criminal justice system, health system, educational systems and social support system at respective levels	This means: Provide survivor-centred accessible, quality services
Outcome 5: Economic Power	Through: Ensuring that women and girls are able to access the necessary resources and opportunities that enable them to feel and be free and safer in public spaces, whilst making healthy autonomous choices for their lives.	This means: Addressing the structural drivers of GBV
Outcome 6: Research and Information Systems	Through: multi-disciplinary research and integrated information systems that are nationally coordinated and	This means: Strengthening the information base informing GBV response

	decentralised and increasingly shapes a strengthened response to GBVF in South Africa	
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5.1 Envisaged outcomes in the next 2 years

The draft NSP for GBVF proposes the following key outcomes to be achieved within the next 2 years:

Outcome 1: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership

- Multi-sectoral , autonomous functional structure with optimal institutional arrangements and adequate resourcing in place – i.e. GBVF Council
- GBVF national priorities are rolled out as integral to departmental strategic plans at national, provincial and local levels;
- Sector –wide Monitoring and Evaluation System in place, building onto existing government-wide framework
- Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting and Monitoring and Evaluation is piloted through the roll out of the NSP
- Rapid Response Structures at community level / local platforms in place /harnessed to readily respond to crisis
- Key Technical Teams are in place, specifically a Research Technical Team and a GBVF Fund

Outcome 2: Prevention and Healing

- Strengthened strategic resourcing for effective prevention programmes
- Effective prevention programmes are scaled up at family, school and community levels
- Accelerated and improved interventions to shift societal norms away from misogyny, heteronormativity, cisnormativity and patriarchy directed at public overall, as well as civil servants, involved in GBV service provision
- Expanded local capacity to meet survivor needs through the establishment of Rapid Response Teams in place
- Deepened understanding of research needs until 2030

Outcome 3: Law and Policy

- Revision and alignment of existing legislation directly addressing different forms of violence against women, with international law and good practice.
- Strengthened legislation and policy to specifically prevent GBV, that is aligned with constitutional, regional and international obligations
- Finalization of all Bills, legislative amendments and legislation dealing with and/or preventing GBV
- Harmonization of laws, policies and procedures at best practice level across jurisdictions, including setting guidelines for customary/traditional and religious practitioners.
- Accountable and ethical governance
- Strengthened Criminal Justice System infrastructure and capacity to respond to GBV.

- Enhanced access to wider conceptions of justice.
- Responsive justice system that enables and protects legal and human rights

Outcome 4: Response, Care and Support

- Strengthened legal, policy and implementation frameworks for response, care and support in place
- Increased resourcing for psychosocial support services in place, aligned with MTSF for next five years and GRPBM&E.
- Improved capacity to drive the national response, care and support agenda as integral to the GBVF response in the country
- Strengthened integrated planning for GBV linked to HIV, substance abuse, disability, housing & poverty reduction & IDPs
- Improved multi-sectoral locally rooted responses to GBV.

Outcome 5: Economic Power

- Deepened understanding of the way/s in which structural drivers shape experiences and manifestations of GBV;
- Increased commitment to integrating responses to GBV in the mandates of key government departments within the economic cluster.

Outcome 6: Research and Information Systems

- Multi-disciplinary Research Technical Team in place, linked to National Structure;
- National repository for GBV research is established, as integral to wider violence research repository;
- Critical national research priorities, relating to prevention, response, care and support and implementation are identified, in partnership with relevant stakeholders;
- Conceptualization and Design of Prevalence Study has taken place;
- Prevalence Study is rolled out;
- GBV Management Information Systems across government are integrated and strengthened;
- Unused information generated by government systems is used optimally to maximise service delivery and programming efficiencies;
- Good community level practises are identified for assessment and roll out

The plan identifies the National GBV Council, Government as a whole, Civil Society Organisations, the Private Sector and the Development Sector as key stakeholders for the successful implementation of the plan, however at the release of the draft plan the implementation methods and monitoring and evaluation framework had not yet been concluded.