



8 October 2020  
9 De Beer Street  
Braamfontein  
Johannesburg  
2001

**Attention:**

Hon. Mr BG Magwanishe  
Chairperson: PC on Justice and Correctional Services  
By email: [Gbvbillss@parliament.gov.za](mailto:Gbvbillss@parliament.gov.za)  
By Cc: Mr V Ramaano

**RE: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) BILLS**

Dear Hon. Magwanishe,

This letter is a response to a call for comments on the three Gender Based Violence (GBV) Bills viz. Criminal Law (Sexual Offences & Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill, Domestic Violence Amendment Bill and Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill, issued by the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Service

Voice It In Action is a Non-Profit Company aimed at curbing the heightened violent culture witnessed in our communities, through various innovative solutions (campaigns, programs and services). Our Vision is to educate and empower individuals for the future. We believe in education and its key role in changing the problems faced by South Africa and in empowering South Africans in better participating in socio-economic issues.

Voice It In Action welcomes the Draft Bills on Gender Based Violence, viz. the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences & Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill, Domestic Violence Amendment Bill and Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill. These bills are a fundamental step taken by the President towards fighting the GBV pandemic. Voice It In Action offers its full support in seeing the contents of this bill come into fruition. However, the bills are missing responses to GBV that South Africa requires **immediately**.

On the 5th September 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa stood in front of the nation and declared violence against women and children a national pandemic. A year later, we still have an alarming and rising number of cases. In contrast, on the 15th March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa presented us with an invisible enemy, Covid-19 Coronavirus, a national pandemic. Two days later borders were closed and the economy literally shut down. In less than 6 months, the surge of cases was curbed and the enemy that threatened all of us including millions of men is being managed. Covid-19 is being managed all over South Africa and the rest of the world as the race for long-term sustainable solutions are being developed.

Likewise, Voice It In Action requests the Portfolio committee to consider setting up a gender based violence command centre that will treat GBV and Femicide as a National State of Disaster.

Voice It In Action proposes the following immediate actions:

- Applying the same urgency and drastic measures taken to protect South Africa against the impact of the COVID-19, into protecting the country's vulnerable groups against GBV and Femicide.



- Creating integrated and coordinated disaster management mechanisms that will focus on preventing and reducing GBV e.g. by setting more enhanced emergency, rapid and efficient emergency response systems that are effective and will mitigate the severity of the impact of the GBV as a pandemic.
- Providing reports of GBV from all police stations indicating tallies on cases reported and the number of cases solved. This must be followed by extensive analyses and studies that will aid in uprooting the causal effects of the exacerbated GBV in South Africa. This will also determine an accountability mechanism for both the perpetrators of GBV and the justice system that is currently showing no consistency for justice to victims.
- Following the extensive analysis of the progression of Covid-19 Coronavirus worldwide and in South Africa, tallies and extensive studies were made. We must also have the same energy and action implemented for combating GBV. Including daily; national, provincial, municipal, regional and police station tallies on cases reported and the number of cases solved.
- The same way we had different departments share knowledge and shift funds in order to combat Covid-19 Coronavirus. We must have different departments sharing knowledge and shifting funds for the thousands of victims, the millions who are still at risk and those who are and will be left destitute due to GBV.

While the country awaits the enactment of these very critical bills, immediate action is required to protect South Africa. This is the basis of our comments on the GBV Bills.

*A SAFER, CLEANER and SUSTAINABLE community is possible through combined efforts -  
#VOICEITINACTION*

Sincerely,

Kgothatso Moloto

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