



Lee-Anne Germanos <leeanne.germanos@gmail.com>

Letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa

Lee-Anne Germanos <leeanne.germanos@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 7:27 PM

To: Robert Ngobeni-Hlongwane <Robert@presidency.gov.za>

Cc: "leeanne.van89@gmail.com" <leeanne.van89@gmail.com>, Nomusa Zondi <Nomusa@presidency.gov.za>, Makhosini Makhubele <Makhosini@presidency.gov.za>, Mike Louw <mike@presidency.gov.za>

Dear Mr Ngobeni-Hlongwane

Thank you very much for your prompt response to the submission of our letter. It is much appreciated.

We would like to give context to our letter which might explain why it is that we approached the Office of the Presidency, and not the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. Our letter relates to the implementation (or rather lack thereof) of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, the Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (ERAP), and the GBVF Response Fund. From our understanding these policies, and the fund, emanate from, and fall within the mandate of, the Office of the Presidency. The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is only one among a number of government stakeholders of these policies.

In April 2021, the Commission for Gender Equality released a Report on Government's Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, which effectively found that the Presidency's ERAP was very poorly implemented by the various government stakeholders. Following that report, in May 2021, the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women released its report on an 'Inquiry concerning South Africa conducted under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention', and found the South African government to be in grave and systemic violation of the international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It is evident from both these reports that, despite these policies and funds, there is a lack of political will to truly eradicate gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa. It is for that reason that we are appealing to the Head of State, and not one of the many government stakeholders, on this issue.

Furthermore, numerous government departments are responsible for different facets of the eradication of gender-based violence and femicide - not only the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. These departments include the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, Police, Social Development, and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Because of the interdepartmental relations at play, as well as the fact that the aforementioned policies come from the Office of the Presidency, we believe His Excellency President Ramaphosa to be the correct recipient of this letter. Furthermore, the three "GBV Bills" that are currently with the Parliamentary Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, as well as the Department of Social Development's Victim Support Services Bill, will have to eventually be signed into law by the President - which is another reason that this letter is addressed to His Excellency.

Given what we have explained above, kindly advise whether you still consider the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to be the appropriate recipient of the letter.

We would greatly appreciate your advice and direction in this regard.

Should you wish to contact me directly, I am available on 082 560 3816.

Kind Regards

Lee-Anne Germanos

Director and Co-Founder

Admitted Attorney



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Lee-Anne Germanos <leeanne.germanos@gmail.com>

Letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa

Lee-Anne Germanos <leeanne.germanos@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 9:50 PM

To: Robert Ngobeni-Hlongwane <Robert@presidency.gov.za>

Cc: Leanne Van <leanne.van89@gmail.com>, Nomusa Zondi <Nomusa@presidency.gov.za>, Makhosini Makhubele <Makhosini@presidency.gov.za>, Mike Louw <mike@presidency.gov.za>

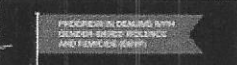
Bcc: Cassandra Guerra <cassandragera04@gmail.com>, Michelle Dexter <180069@virtualwindow.co.za>

Dear Mr Ngobeni-Hlongwane

In addition to the points made in our email below, it is also our organisation's understanding that combating gender-based violence and femicide is a national priority, which is the reason that the policies and fund referred to in our email below fall under the Office of the Presidency. The seriousness of our country's "second pandemic", a term coined by His Excellency, the President, is the primary reason that we consider him, to be the appropriate functionary, and recipient of our letter.

Kind Regards

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