

COSATU

National Council on Gender Based Violence & Femicide Bill

**Portfolio Committee:
Women, Children & Persons with
Disabilities
Parliament**

22/03/2023



Introduction

- COSATU welcomes the tabling of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill at Parliament.
- COSATU participated extensively on it with the Department at Nedlac.
- We support the Bill in full and urge Parliament to pass it before the end of the 6th Parliament.

Areas of Support:

- COSATU supports the Bill as a long overdue intervention to ensure coordinated strategy by all levels of government against the pandemic of gender-based violence and femicide.
- This is a pandemic that has grown each passing year & one that we have failed collectively as a society & government to defeat.
- Whilst we have put in place various laws, resources & strategies, these are often poorly coordinated with a lack of a single body to oversee them & hold various role-players responsible for their work.

Areas of Support:

- This is a key developmental planning Bill that must be supported.
- COSATU supports its provisions in general & specifically those that provide for the following:

Objectives

- COSATU welcomes & supports the objectives of the Council, namely to:
 - Facilitate a co-ordinated and structured multi-sectoral approach between relevant stakeholders for the prevention and elimination of, and response to, gender-based violence and femicide;

Areas of Support: Objectives

Objectives

- COSATU welcomes & supports the objectives of the Council, namely to:
 - Set short term, medium term and long-term priorities, aligned with the National Development Plan outcomes, Medium Term Strategic Framework, Medium Term Expenditure Framework priorities and National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence;
 - Ensure the establishment and maintenance of a platform for sharing of information & best practices on the prevention of, & response to, gender-based violence and femicide.

Areas of Support: Objectives

- These are critical to ensuring a coordinated approach and specific targets for GBV and Femicide across all institutions of government as well as to ensuring an inclusive approach that brings on board civil society.

Areas of Support: Functions

COSATU welcomes and supports the objectives of the Council, in particular its mandate to:

- Develop a National Strategic Plan;
- Set key indicators for the NSP;
- Ensure resources are allocated to the NSP;
- Ensure the coordination of the NSP's implementation;
- Monitor & evaluate the implementation of the NSP; &
- Report on progress with regards to the NSP's implementation to government & Parliament. ⁷

Areas of Support: Composition of the Council

- COSATU supports the establishment of the Council.

COSATU Proposal:

- COSATU believes that given the importance of this sector to workers, that provision for the inclusion of a representative from organised labour be included to help ensure that the voice of workers is heard in the work of the panel.

Conclusion

- COSATU supports the National Council on GBV and Femicide Bill wholeheartedly. It is a progressive and long overdue Bill. It is critical towards ensuring a coordinated response to the nation's pandemic of GBV and femicide.
- It is critical that Parliament expedite & ensure its passage before the 2024 elections.
- COSATU urges Parliament to consider its proposals to provide for organise labour's inclusion in the Council.