



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

mkutama@kutamaattorneys.co.za

LEGAL EDUCATION CENTRE:

1st Floor Kings, Block 1 Kings Mead Building
The Oval Office Park
Meadowbrook Lane
Bryanston, JHB,
Tel: (011) 403 0802
Fax: 086 630 0621

28 November 2019

**BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ("BLA") STATEMENT ON:16 DAYS OF
ACTIVISM ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND
CHILDREN AND FEMICIDE.**

The BLA welcomes the call by the government with specific reference to the President of the country in his speech when he opened the 16 days of activism on gbvf campaign on the 25th November 2019 in Lephalale, Limpopo. He emphasised that this must be a 365 DAYS of activism to end Gender Based Violence against women, children and Femicide as opposed to the current 16 days that it is.

As BLA, we strongly condemn the abuse and the killing of women in our society. The latest statistics from the SAPS indicates that a woman is murdered in every three hours. As we all know, women have been objectified and devalued for centuries and as BLA we feel that this can and should not be normalized. It is now high time that men actively organise themselves to take up this war against gbvf. After all, it is men who commit these barbaric acts against women and children. We challenge men to rise up and say **"NOT IN MY NAME, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH"**.

This year has been the toughest year in the life of a woman. We have witnessed a rise in gbvf. The BLA is particularly disturbed and notes with great concern that the targets are now young females, these horrific crimes are prevalent in the institutions of higher learning. It is sad because these young women are die with their potentials lives are taken at a tender age. Parents' lives, hopes and prides are left shattered as some would have been bread winners and others are leaving behind young children to be destitute. The BLA sympathies with women as they are not safe around men, whether it is by family relations, friendships or strangers. There is just no difference nowadays. They are not safe in public places as well as in their private spaces.

With a heavy heart we remember amongst others; Uyinene Mrwetyana, Leighandre Jegels, Ayakha Jiyane, Janka Mallo, Thandie Mampane, Boitumeelo Matsekoleng and many more (may their souls rest in peace). Just on the eve of the start of the 16 days of activism against women and children (weekend of 22-24 November 2019) we heard of a Limpopo student, Precious Ramabulana, who had been stabbed 52 times. This is both barbaric and inhumane. This is a direct

National Executive Committee: Mr. Mashudu Kutama (President), Mr. Bayethe Maswazi (Deputy President), Ms. Mabaeng Lenyai (Secretary General), Ms. Charlotte Mahlatji (Deputy Secretary General), Mr. Noveni Kubayi (Treasury General), Ms. Zanele Nkosi (Head: Events & Campaigns), Mr. Vumani Mthembu (Head: Legal Education & Research), Ms. Nolundi Nyati (Head: Policy & Legislation) and Ms Nompemelelo Khaba (President: BLA Student Chapter).

attack to our constitution which seeks to protect the right to dignity and the right to life. As Africans, men protect their families and shield them from harm. This is unAfrican, it is killing the spirit of Ubuntu, our moral fibre. Men arise, advocate for **“NOT IN MY Name and say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH”**. BLA urges its members to act pro bono for watching briefs to see through the legal process in favour of victims and their families.

As an organization, the BLA is a gender inclusive organisation. We have men who are fathers, sons, nephews and who themselves have mothers, daughters and nieces to protect. It is for that reason that as the BLA we stand up to condemn this scourge. On the 19th October 2019 the BLA Western Cape branch had its **#NOT IN MY Name** solution driven conversation with the Deputy Minister of Department of Justice and Constitutional Development Mr Jeffery as well as Judge Mantame of the West Cape High Court as guests. We encourage these conversations and engagements, recent attacks show that more needs still needs to be done.

We want to see a solution driven collaborative effort between the Department of Justice, Minister Police, Department of Education, Department of Social Services and civil society organisations working together to root out this evil. The BLA believes that it is about time that as a country we equally give attention and focus to the girl child as well as the boy child. Let us start having conversations to reinforce kindness, alternative means of dispute resolution and coping mechanisms at a young age. They must be taught to coexist without one gender feeling more powerful and bullying the other gender. This should apply to all communities, every school (from primary to high school). Ideally, public schools should must have a live in recreational therapists / intermediary. Lastly, the BLA supports the Minister of Justice Ronald Lamola when he said that police must be sensitive to victims of gbvf, no shaming or judging at the police stations.

Working together, we can turn this tragedy into triumph.

Our struggle continues.

For more information contact :

Mashudu Kutama
President : Black Lawyers Association
Mobile : 082 884 5244

National Executive Committee: Mr. Mashudu Kutama (President), Mr. Bayethe Maswazi (Deputy President), Ms. Mabaeng Lenyai (Secretary General), Ms. Charlotte Mahlatji (Deputy Secretary General), Mr. Noveni Kubayi (Treasury General), Ms. Zanele Nkosi (Head: Events & Campaigns), Mr. Vumani Mthembu (Head: Legal Education & Research), Ms. Nolundi Nyati (Head: Policy & Legislation) and Ms Nompemelelo Khaba (President: BLA Student Chapter).