

NARRATIVE REPORT TO ACT ALLIANCE
16 Days of No Violence against GBV
Tackling the Sticking Points for 365 Days of Effective Action:
 A Survivor led Faith Sector hosted
Multi-Stakeholder Convention and Multilogue
Tuesday 28th November, 10.30 am – 4 pm.
Glenridge Church, Durban

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Background and Overview

The 2015-2019 KZN 365 Strategic Framework for the eradication of gender based violence commits the Province to preventing and responding to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)¹ through various means, including addressing the root causes of SGBV. It has established a coordinating structure that represents every relevant sector in KZN, which meets regularly. Although no systematic mid-term review has yet been done, indications are that progress has been uneven, and the faith sector has been under-represented in the Gender Machinery until recently.

Lack of significant progress may in part be due to the following three factors: Most solutions to SGBV have been devised without listening to voices of those who are directly affected by GBV: survivors themselves. Secondly, inadequate attention has been given to key social institutions that powerfully influence a foundational driver of GBV: the underlying social, religious and cultural assumptions that drive SGBV. Lastly,

¹ P. 1 and 11.

Management Committee: Chair: Vacant; Dep. Chair: Ms Lyn van Rooyen; Treasurer: Mr Simon John Read; Members: Ms Solange Mukamana, Ms Nompilo Gcwensa, Ms Marlene Wyngaardt; Ms Stephanie Thomas, Rev Bafana Khumalo, Rev Phumzile Mabizela; Ms Emma Leigh Benn, Ms Puseletso Modimogale. Interim Coordinator: Ms Daniela Gennrich.

there is limited continuity of care and communication between key stakeholders addressing SGBV, particularly between official services and community-based initiatives including faith communities and SGBV survivor support groups.

Aims, Objectives and Projected Outcomes

The **Survivors in Solidarity** campaign aims to offer an innovative approach to give priority to survivor voices and conscientise the faith sector as a key actor in transforming attitudes, while also opening spaces for all stakeholders to dialogue amongst each other to resolve support and service provision challenges and weaknesses in prevention efforts.

The **Goal** of the event on 28th November was to kick-start a collaborative, inclusive 365-day process that:

- is SGBV survivor-led;
- includes the faith sector as a key actor (along with Government, academics, CBOs, NGOs, custodians of culture, etc), through its influence on underlying attitudes and social assumptions; and
- intentionally and regularly opens dialogue and multilogue spaces to improve synergies between GBV service providers, promotes united prevention actions, and creates overt links between provincial services and community initiatives, with a strong focus on faith based actors.

The **Objectives** were to:

1. Open up a **'multilogue'** conversation centred around the experiences and needs of **SGBV survivors**, with **faith leaders** as the primary audience;
2. Encourage **faith leaders to make concrete commitments** to steps they would take in their congregations to address SGBV;
3. Obtain input from all participants to guide a **shared Action Plan framework** that proposes concrete mechanisms for different stakeholder teams to:
 - address key gaps in communications, referrals, accountability mechanisms and improve synergies, and
 - more effectively tackle underlying drivers of SGBV in prevention efforts.
4. Develop a brief **Case Study report and/or video** of the event and its intentions, experiences of participants and vision into the future - to inspire other similar initiatives to risk being survivor-led, and to draw in the faith sector as a key partner in multi-stakeholder SGBV prevention and response strategies.

It is hoped that the process initiated on 28th November 2017 will lead to the following **Mid to Long Term Outcomes (Impacts)**:

1. Existing and new **survivor groups in KZN receive better support** and experience less stigmatization;

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2. **Faith communities** respond meaningfully at local community level to survivor needs (where public service providers generally cannot reach) and act as key stakeholders in coordinated and comprehensive year-round provincial efforts to end GBV and mitigate its impact on survivors and communities.

Key Partners

WWSOSA was the main Coordinating Partner of the event (in close consultation with the ecumenical organisations and Phephisa Survivor Network), with the others as key partners:

- Survivor groups associated with 3 Lifeline branches, Gay and Lesbian Network, KwaZulu Regional Christian Council (KRCC)
- NGOs: Lifelines, Gay and Lesbian Network
 - Faith Based Organisations, including Ecumenical Agencies: KZN Christian Council, Midlands Council of Churches, Diakonia Council of Churches, KwaZulu Regional Christian Council, and South Coast Council of Churches; and the World Council for Religion and Peace and its partner representatives.
- Government: Premier's Office, Department of Health Gender Directorate, Department of Social Development; the Ethekwini Mayor was invited to welcome all guests.
- Other: PEPFAR representative.

Summary Overview:

Achievements:

All activities were implemented as planned and the conversations that emerged were profound, humbling, challenging and pointed to clear steps needed for further work.

Two important outputs:

- A 10-minute documentary to be used as a conversation-starter. and
- A dialogue resource to be used in workshops or discussion groups dealing with GBV and issues of faith;

Both can be accessed on WWSOSA's new website: <http://www.wwsosa.org.za/content/survivor-led-faith-sector-hosted-multi-stakeholder-convention-and-multilogue-and-tools>

Limitations:

Fewer stakeholders than planned-for attended on the day due to the fullness of the 16 Days programming in KZN this year and short notice, since we were unsure of funding until just 2 weeks before the date.

It was not possible to get partners together for a review and planning meeting for 2018 before end January as most NGOs were closed until end January for the summer break, but this is planned as the next step.

A planned joint faith leaders' statement was too ambitious in the time available, but this will be taken forward in future processes to be decided at the planning meeting.

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Quantitative Results:

Faith Leaders: Over 100 faith leaders: 70 through ecumenical agencies, plus 30 reps from at least 25 different churches, as well as 3 Muslims (Religions and Peace) (Many registration forms included only the ecumenical organization faith leaders came to the event with, so not all individual churches present were captured.)

Survivors: Phephisa chose 4 representatives to present their jointly agreed presentations and one co-chaired Session 2. At least 4 others spoke from the floor. TOTAL survivor reps 118: 90 from Phephisa KZ Survivor Movement; 1 Survivor Rep from Cape Town (in WwsOSA Mancom); 17 through Lifeline Durban and 10 through KRCC 2.

Government: 1 senior representative addressed the meeting from the Office of the Premier (Department of Women) and 2 from Department of Social Development; a SA Police Services official. The Mayor cancelled on the same day, due to an emergency Council meeting.

NGOs: 27 NGOs, Including Commission for Gender Equality, Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International.

Most participants were from KZN Province, but some came from Gauteng and the Western Cape, where WWSOSA also has a presence, though less active.

Qualitative Results

These are demonstrated in both the documentary and the Dialogue Tool.

A brief photographic overview is provided overleaf.

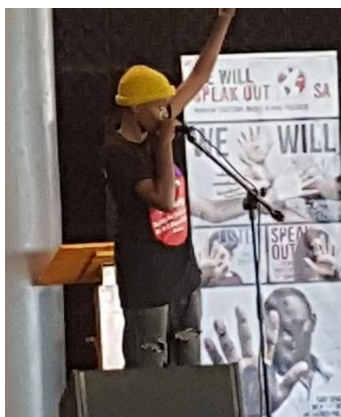
The Day in Pictures (overleaf)

Women survivors and children expressed themselves in speeches, dance, banners, poetry and song. Faith leaders responded with deep and difficult discussion, and through joint prayers of repentance.

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WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA

Faith leaders' pledge: Speaking and acting against all forms of gender based violence

As faith leaders:
 We have listened to the voices of survivors of sexual, intimate partner and other forms of gender based violence.

We recognise our failure as faith communities, when we have:

- not listened well to their cries, and have sent them away with easy 'solutions'
- stigmatised and even blamed them
- normalising unjust gender relations, and
- sometimes even excused perpetrators.

Responding to Gender Based Violence is not optional but integral to our ministries to the needs of God's people.

**Photograph With thanks to Mandisa Mkhungu, Flegibus Survivor Awareness



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