

KZN GBV VIBES



AMPLIFYING VOICES. BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER*

Aug/Sept 2026 | Issue Volume 1

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AMPLIFYING VOICES. BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES



As we continue our collective efforts to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), we are reminded that meaningful change begins with community, collaboration, and collective action.

We launch this first edition at a critical time. In KZN, climate crises like floods and heatwaves, rising economic pressure on families, and shrinking safe spaces are disproportionately impacting women and girls and putting decades of hard-won progress at risk. At the same time, significant reductions in funding and growing pressure on civil society organisations are disrupting essential services and creating new challenges for the local leaders and communities driving change – including our own Rapid Response Teams who are first on the ground.

And yet, amid these challenges, local leaders continue to drive bold, community-led solutions that are transforming lives and reshaping systems.

This edition is a celebration of that resilience.

Inside, we highlight the important work taking place across eThekweni and KZN: the bravery of our Rapid Response Teams responding to cases day and night, our community awareness dialogues in wards and schools, growing partnerships with SAPS, Thuthuzela Centres, DSD and traditional leaders, our survivor support programmes providing psychosocial support and referrals, ongoing campaigns aimed at creating safer and more inclusive communities.

We also recognise the dedication of the organisations, volunteers, community leaders, and individuals who continue to stand against violence and support those affected by it. Your commitment, courage, and compassion are the backbone of lasting change. Siyanibonga kakhulu!

A Message from the Director:

"We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together, often with very little but with so much heart. May this newsletter remind us that when we amplify one voice, we strengthen an entire community – and that our collective action is truly our power."

As we move forward, let us continue to speak up, strengthen our partnerships, support survivors without judgement, and empower communities to take action against GBV.

Together, we can continue building communities where everyone can live with safety, dignity, and respect.

Strengthening Community Partnerships Across KZN

Together for safer stronger communities

◆ STAKEHOLDERS



Chatsworth
Chatsworth



Ntuzuma
Ntuzuma



Newlands East
Newlands East



North Coast
North Coast

◆ COMMUNITY RRT COORDINATORS



Dr Daniel Chettiar
Coordinator



Nomathemba Sibiya
Coordinator



Lindiwe Nzuza
Coordinator



Dr Brandon Pillay
Coordinator



Marlene Oakes
Coordinator

Collaboration • Protection • Support • Safer Communities

FROM THE GROUND: OUR RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS KEEP SHOWING UP

In eThekweni and across KZN, climate shocks like the floods, rising violence against women and girls, and shrinking safe spaces are threatening decades of progress we have fought so hard for. At the same time, funding cuts and growing pressure on community organizations are making it harder to keep essential services running. This directly affects the work of our Rapid Response Teams – the local leaders who are first on the ground when a survivor needs help. And yet, in the face of all this, our teams continue to show up. With courage and care, they are driving bold, community-led solutions that are not only saving lives but restoring dignity and reshaping how our communities prevent and respond to GBV. This is their story – and this newsletter celebrates them, for their passion, commitment, and diligence in making their communities safer.

Who Are Our Rapid Response Teams?

Our Rapid Response Teams are not outsiders. They are trusted women and men living in the very wards they serve – in Umlazi, Ntuzuma, Newlands East, Chatsworth, North Coast (Phoenix, Verulam, Tongaat South, Tongaat North and Stanger). Trained as first responders, they are the vital bridge between the survivor and the formal justice and health system. When a call comes in at 2am, when a clinic turns a survivor away, when a family does not know where to go – it is our teams who walk with her.

What They Do

Beyond Response: Immediate Crisis Response: Providing on-site psychosocial support, safety planning, and escorting survivors to Thuthuzela Care Centres, SAPS, and shelters. Ensuring survivors do not fall through the cracks and avoiding secondary victimization. They follow up on cases, accompany survivors to court for protection orders, and hold service providers accountable.

Holding the System Accountable

Documenting service delivery failures and advocating for faster, more survivor-centred services at war rooms, and stakeholder forums. GBV cases were responded to and referred. Survivors are provided with continuous psychosocial support and follow-up.

RRTs responded to GBV cases in this quarter- July, August and September):

- Ntuzuma -95
- Chatsworth -76
- Newlands East -128
- North Coast -283
- uMlazi - 210

VOICE FROM THE GROUND

We see you. We honor you. Siyabonga!

Rapid Response Teams Highlights



Youth Speak Out on Sexual Harassment, Statutory Rape and Bullying in Ntuzuma

A youth focused community dialogue was held at Dumehlezi High School in Ntuzuma, providing learners with a safe space to discuss sexual harassment, statutory rape, bullying and other social ills affecting young people.

The engagement formed part of ongoing GBVF community dialogues and social-ills awareness initiatives, aimed at educating learners about their rights, personal safety and the importance of speaking out against abuse and harmful behavior.

Learners were encouraged to recognize different forms of abuse, understand the impact of bullying and harassment, and seek support from trusted adults and appropriate community structures.

The dialogue highlighted the importance of empowering young people with knowledge and building safer schools and communities where young people can speak up, seek help and support one another.

Men's Month Programme Unites Chatsworth Community to Strengthen Fathers and Families

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Chatsworth hosted a meaningful Men's Month Programme at the Bayview Ubuntu Community Centre (BUCC), bringing together men from across the community for a day of learning, reflection, empowerment and open dialogue.

The programme was presented in partnership with FAMSA, Bayview Ubuntu Community Centre (BUCC), the Department of Social Development (DSD), Chatsworth Child Welfare, Anti-Drug Forum Chatsworth, eThekweni Municipality, the Area Based Management Unit (ABM), the Department of Health, Bayview Clinic, ABH, SANCA, Bayview SAPS, Bayview Community Police Forum (CPF), Lifeline, SA Outreach and MLCCP.

A key highlight of the programme was an inspiring and thought-provoking session facilitated by Heartlines Fathers Matter. The engaging presentation encouraged men to reflect on the important roles they play as fathers, husbands, mentors, leaders and positive role models within their families and communities.



Re-Awakening Community Action Against GBV in Newlands East Ward 11

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) in Newlands East Ward 11 continues to strengthen its commitment to building a safer, more united and violence-free community.

Through collaboration with community leaders, faith-based organisations, government departments, schools, local stakeholders and residents, the RRT is working to increase awareness, encourage community participation and promote a culture where Gender-Based Violence (GBV) are not tolerated.

A key focus of the RRT's work has been the prevention of GBV and the re-awakening of the Prevention In Action - Violence Free Zone (VFZ) initiative. The initiative aims to encourage communities to take collective responsibility for creating safer environments for women, children, young people and other vulnerable members of society.

GBV Information Sharing Session

As part of our commitment to creating safer communities the Rapid Response Teams, host a series of GBV Information Sharing Sessions.

The Newlands East Rapid Response Team, hosted their session in the Prevention in Action - Violence Free Zone.

The Violence Free Zone is more than just a space – it is a community-declared commitment where residents, leaders, and stakeholders actively say NO to all forms of violence and YES to safety, dignity, and accountability. It is where survivors can seek help without fear, stigma, or judgement. A Violence Free Zone is not built in one day – it is built by everyday actions.

* SAPS, Social Workers and Shelters

- How bystanders and men and boys can take active action to prevent violence
- Safety planning for survivors currently in abusive relationships

Community Voices:

The dialogues are highly interactive, with targeted groups of women, men and youth sharing their lived experiences. Our teams provide on-the-spot counselling, screening and referrals.

*Impact:

Most Importantly, the sessions strengthened trust between the community and our Rapid Response Teams.

Purpose of the Sessions:

The sessions were aimed at bridging the information gap that often leaves survivors and families unsure of where to go and what to do after violence occurs. Many community members know violence is wrong, but do not know their rights, the referral pathways, or the services available to them.

Key Issues Covered:

Understanding the different forms of GBV, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic abuse and femicide

The Domestic Violence Act and Protection Orders – how to apply and where to get help

The role of the Rapid Response Teams and how to contact them 24/7

Referral pathways: Clinics, Thuthuzela Care Centres,



In Her Own Words - Survivor Voice

“ Before the session, I thought I had to endure the abuse and the violence, because I had nowhere to go. Today I learnt that I have rights, that there is a team in my own community that can stand with me, and that I am not alone. For the first time in a long time, I have hope.” ”

— Anonymous Survivor, 32 years old

RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS • Community Support



Building Safer Communities Through Awareness,

Compassion and Collective Action

Abandoned Baby Awareness Programme and Community Wellness

Campaign Bring Stakeholders Together

The Abandoned Baby Awareness Programme and Community Wellness Campaign brought together community stakeholders, organisations and local partners to raise awareness around child protection, community safety and family support. The initiative created an opportunity for meaningful dialogue, sharing of information and strengthening referral pathways for vulnerable individuals and families.

Through collaboration and community engagement, stakeholders highlighted the importance of early intervention, support services and collective responsibility in protecting children and building healthier, safer communities.



Pink Towel Campaign: Creating Awareness Around GBV

The Pink Towel Campaign served as an important platform for raising awareness about gender-based violence and encouraging communities to speak openly about violence against women and vulnerable people. The campaign emphasised the importance of recognising the different forms of GBV and understanding that violence can have lasting physical, emotional, psychological and social consequences for survivors, families and communities.

Through awareness activities, community members were encouraged to break the silence surrounding GBV and to recognise the role they can play in prevention and support. Community awareness is particularly important because survivors may face fear, stigma or uncertainty about where to seek assistance.



Community Wellness Campaign: Supporting Those Who Support Others

Alongside the awareness initiatives, the Community Wellness Campaign for stakeholders working in GBV and elder abuse created an opportunity to focus on the wellbeing of people working directly with vulnerable communities.

GBV and elder abuse practitioners, community workers, caregivers, volunteers and other stakeholders often work in challenging environments while supporting people experiencing trauma, violence, neglect and other forms of vulnerability.

Community wellness initiatives can help create spaces where stakeholders are able to connect, share experiences, access information and reflect on the importance of their own wellbeing while continuing to serve their communities.

The campaign reinforced the idea that supporting survivors and vulnerable people requires not only effective services, but also healthy and connected support networks.



Frazer Supports Communities with Hygiene Packs

Frazer continues to support local communities through meaningful initiatives aimed at promoting health, dignity and wellbeing. As part of its community support efforts, Frazer provided essential hygiene packs to individuals in need.

These packs contain basic hygiene products that can help ease some of the everyday challenges faced by vulnerable community members.

The initiative goes beyond providing essential items—it is about restoring dignity, showing care and reminding community members that they are supported.

Through initiatives like this, Frazer demonstrates its commitment to making a positive contribution to the communities it serves. By partnering with community organisations and supporting practical needs, Frazer is helping create healthier, stronger and more resilient communities. Frazer remains committed to making a meaningful difference, one community at a time.



The Sarie Stroll GBV Programme brings communities together to raise awareness, promote safety and stand united against gender-based violence (GBV)

The initiative creates an opportunity for community members, stakeholders and GBV organisations to come together, share information and encourage conversations around prevention, support and survivor services. Through collective action, the programme highlights the importance of building communities where women, children and vulnerable people can live free from violence and fear.

The stroll also serves as a platform to connect community members with organisations and support services available to those affected by GBV. It encourages everyone to play a role in creating safer communities — from speaking out against abuse to knowing where survivors can access help.



Umlazi RRT Strengthening Safety Structures Through Collaboration

The Umlazi Rapid Response Team (RRT) continues to strengthen community safety structures through collaboration with local stakeholders and community members.

The initiative focuses on building stronger relationships between the RRT, community structures and relevant service providers to ensure that survivors and vulnerable individuals can access support, information and referral services when they need them.

Through ongoing engagement, the Umlazi RRT creates opportunities to identify community concerns, strengthen referral pathways and improve coordination between organisations working to address gender-based violence and related challenges. Collaboration remains an important part of the RRT's approach.

By bringing together community members, organisations and key stakeholders, the team can respond more effectively to concerns and ensure that support reaches those who need it. The Umlazi RRT remains committed to strengthening local safety networks and promoting communities where individuals can access information, support and appropriate services.



Statistics Paint a Grim Picture: Women and Children Face the Weight of Violence in KZN

KwaZulu-Natal GBVF Statistics: April–June 2026

According to the latest quarterly SAPS statistics for April–June 2026, KwaZulu-Natal recorded:

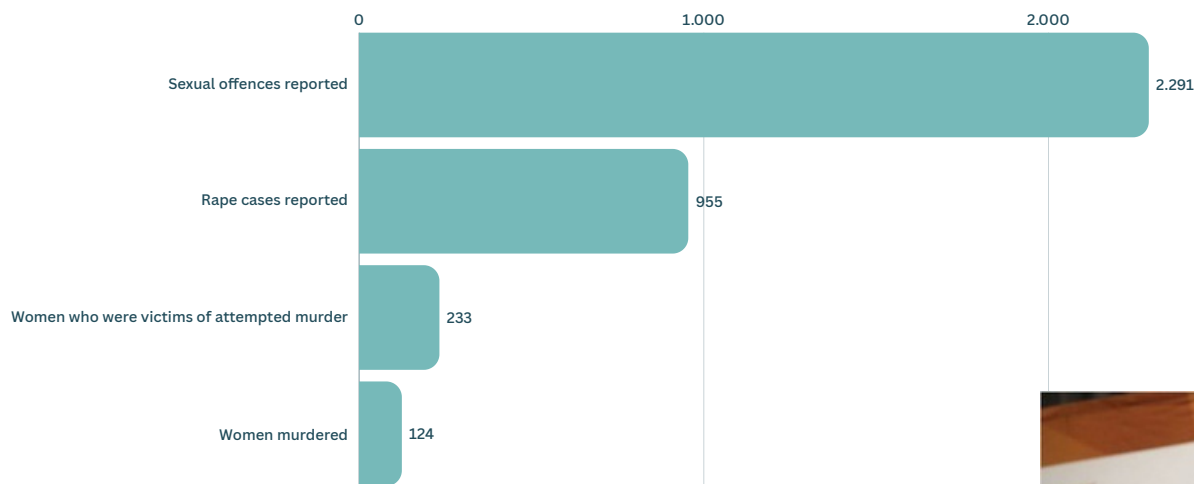
- 124 women were murdered
- 233 women were victims of attempted murder
- 955 rapes were reported
- 2,291 sexual offences were reported
- 1,179 people were murdered overall during the three-month period.

For the 2025/26 financial year, KwaZulu-Natal recorded 9,412 reported GBVF-related cases, the highest provincial total. The GBVF-related category includes murder, attempted murder, rape, sexual assault, abduction and assault offences.

Below is a graph that shows the above stats on the murder, attempted murders and rape cases reported in KZN since April-June 2026

Please note : These are only the reported cases how many are unreported

RAPE AND MURDER CASES IN KZN



Statistics: KZN 'warzone' as women and children bear brunt of sexual violence

AS KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) recorded the highest number of reported sexual offences in the country, children and...

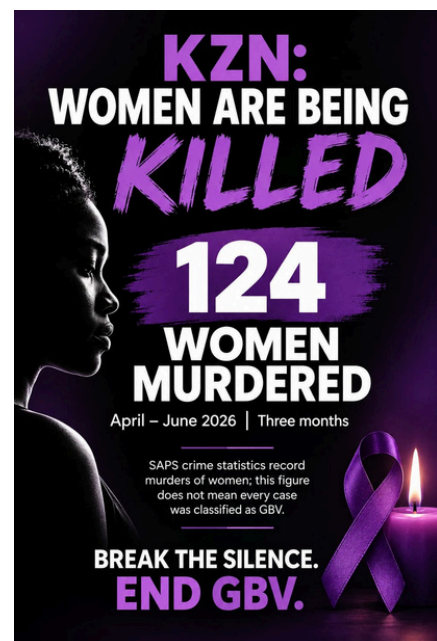
P The Post / Sep 6



Numbers game cannot cure South Africa of its gender-based violence

Statistics and budgets do not reflect whether the state's interventions are fit for purpose and effective....

DA Daily Maverick / Aug 9



A Nation Under Siege: We Must Name This War and Fight It Differently

Grace and eternal Peace to you.

It is with a heavy heart as a sister, mother, aunt, grandmother who is really tired of burying her daughters, and sisters. I’m writing this article as one of the millions who refuse to pretend that we are fine. The hype of the killing of women in Kempton Park has brought the issue again on the national agenda. What I am pleading is for us as a nation stand up and confront this demon, silence is no longer an option.

South Africa is bleeding again Eight bodies recovered. Eight daughters, sisters and mothers whose dreams will never be fulfilled. Families shattered forever because of the death of their loved ones.

But let us tell the truth: This is not eight. This is not new. This is not isolated cases according to SAPS, 157 women have been killed every month since April. But because these murders are scattered across provinces, they do not make headlines. They do not trend. They do not shake the nation the way Kempton Park has. Yet they should because every woman matters.

We are not dealing with crime. We are dealing with war, a war declared against the women of South Africa. And in a war, you cannot continue using the same ammunition while losing the battle. Before we continue, we must name this crisis with the full weight it deserves. Around the world, the killing of women because they are women is called femicide. It is recognized as a gendered crime, a human rights violation, a systemic pattern of violence. But femicide for South Africa does not carry the same legal gravitas as genocide. Because as you speak of Genocide it is the destruction of a group because of who they are – a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. It is the highest crime in international law. It obligates nations to act. It triggers global intervention. It is treated as a threat to humanity itself. And today, South Africa must confront a painful truth because the scale, brutality, and frequency of femicide in our country has reached genocidal proportions.

Women are being hunted, targeted, and destroyed as a group. Women are being killed because they are women. Women are being terrorised in every province, every community, every class, every age group. This is not random crime. This is not isolated violence. This is not a social problem. This is the systematic destruction of women as a group, and it demands a response with the gravitas of a nation facing genocide.

When 157 women are killed every month, when serial killers emerge repeatedly, when bodies are found in shallow graves, when blood is drained from victims, when women disappear daily without national alarm, we are no longer dealing with crime. We are dealing with a national humanitarian crisis. We are fighting a war. And we are using the wrong ammunition to deal with this war. Let us honor the truth: We have marched. We have shut down cities. We have taken back the night. We have invaded courts to oppose bail. We have confronted perpetrators at their workplaces. We have demanded accountability. We have declared GBVF a national emergency.

We keep telling women to “be careful.” But to be careful of what? Be careful of whom? Because the enemy is not hiding in the bushes. The enemy is in our beds, our streets, our offices, our malls, our post offices, our classrooms, our churches...so, to be careful of what, of living? To not go to work, to schools, to post offices, to church? Again we are removing the responsibility from the perpetrators and putting the burden to women who are not abusing themselves.

We have not profiled the enemy. We have not studied the psychology of these killers. Or even mapped their patterns. Because we have not done that, we must stop telling women to be careful. In 2021, Seshego in Limpopo faced another serial killer, Themba Prince Dube who was sentenced to 88 years in prison. He lured young women with job adverts. These young women died because they responded to employment opportunities, not because they were careless. And what was done to them was not human. It was satanic. Blood drawn from their bodies and their bodies buried in shallow graves. Families left with nightmares instead of answers. There is no march, no law, no policy that can stop this level of evil.

The President must declare a State of Emergency on Crime and Criminality.

We know that visible policing reduces crime. This has been proven every time international events taking place in our country and they are deployed in every corner. We know communities can identify perpetrators. However, many are afraid to report because most of these criminal's work with the police. Communities know hotspots and also know patterns.

South Africa, let us stop pretending. Prison in our country is not a deterrent. It is a joke to criminals. They go to school. They get free education. They get free healthcare. They get free meals. They form new families inside and also receive visits from their loved ones. Meanwhile, children lose their mothers forever. Families lose their breadwinners. Communities lose their daughters and women lose their lives.

A life sentence does not remove the privilege of living for the criminals. It only removes the privilege of freedom of movement. And that is not enough for the level of evil we are facing in our county.

- What we need is the following:
- The army deployed to crime-ridden communities
 - Every police officer on the streets
 - Roadblocks, patrols, and foot soldiers
 - Intelligence units working with communities
 - A national crackdown on organised criminal networks Crime must be met with the full force of the law.

As a nation we must look at the issue of the rights of criminals versus the right of victims with regards to crime and criminality. We must confront a painful truth that in South Africa, criminals have more rights than their victims. They have constitutional protections. They have legal representation. They have access to services. They have the benefit of doubt.

Whereas, victims have graves. Have trauma and silence. If this imbalance does not change, we are wasting our time. To the families of missing daughters, sisters, mothers, aunts, and wives, we stand with you. To the families who have lost their loved ones, in this brutal manner, we hold you in our hearts.

South Africa must have a national conversation, not whispered in corridors or behind closed doors, not avoided because the Constitution as it stands does not allow it. We must call for a referendum on the death penalty. Because the Constitution protects every life, that include the lives of women who are being abused, violated and murdered.

This is genocide.

We call on the President, the Cabinet, and every Member of Parliament to, stand up and lead on this issue. To use the power entrusted to them to Act and Protect women who are the majority of this population and their constituencies Safety for women is not negotiable. Not anymore. Not ever again. In closing, South Africa stands at a crossroads. We can continue burying women. Or we can choose to fight this war with the right ammunition. We can choose to confront this evil. We can choose to prevent and protect lives. And to rise as a nation that values its daughters. May God heal our land. May God protect His daughters. May God restore our humanity.

I thank you.
Mmabatho Makena
Chairperson: MFWD

