

TO ALL MEDIA/ NEWS EDITORS
JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG
FRIDAY, 21 November 2025

NYDA CONCURS WITH PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA AND WELCOMES GBVF NATIONAL DISASTER CLASSIFICATION

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) fully supports the declaration by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, that Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) constitutes a national crisis in South Africa. The Agency further welcomes and strongly supports the decision by the Head of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), Dr Bongani Elias Sithole, to classify GBVF as a national disaster in terms of Section 23 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002).

The Agency aligns unequivocally with its mother department, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD), in recognising this scourge as a profound threat to the nation's social fabric and safety. It also echoes the sentiments of the DWYPD Minister, Sindisiwe Chikunga, who described the declaration as a bold and necessary step.

The Agency affirms its steadfast support for the comprehensive framework to combat this crisis, acknowledging that the persistent calls for justice from the women of South Africa demand a state-led response of the highest priority.

As a government-led entity, the NYDA underscores the importance of utilising state systems to coordinate a sustained and effective response. The Agency is committed to leveraging its own structures and programmes to ensure that government resources and policies reach young people and communities, thereby advancing the safety and justice they deserve.

The NYDA Executive Chairperson, Dr Sunshine Myende, solidified the Agency's position, stating, "The National Youth Development Agency is resolutely against all forms of gender-based violence. We cannot and will not remain silent while the lives of women and children are under constant threat. Our vision for a just, safe, and peaceful South Africa cannot be realised without defeating this scourge. We call on the youth of this nation, as the most powerful catalysts for change, to take up the mantle of leadership in this fight."

In line with this call to action, the NYDA urges young people across the country to lead the charge against GBVF. The Agency encourages youth to champion positive masculinity, foster respectful relationships within their communities, and actively participate in awareness campaigns. Young people are also reminded to utilise

