

**ONLINE PLEDGE TO END GBVF
TALKING POINTS**

***Sign the pledge and join the fight against GBVF!***

* We call on the men of our nation to take a stand against GBVF by signing the pledge against GBVF.
* The pledge can be accessed online <https://www.stateofthenation.gov.za/endGBVF/take-the-pledge>.
* In signing the pledge, you are joining other men across the country who are making a personal commitment to end all forms of violence against women and children.
* All men can be part of the solution by taking responsibility for their actions, holding other men to account and breaking the silence on GBVF.
* In taking a collective stand against all forms of violence against women and children, we contribute to creating a better nation for all.
* We encourage business, community and faith-based organisations to promote the pledge as we advocate for behaviour change in dealing with the challenge of GBVF.

***The pledge forms part of efforts to intensify the fight against the scourge of GBVF.***

* The pledge is part of our initiatives to take a united stand to end all forms of violence against women and children.
* It raises awareness on the plight of GBVF and promotes accountability of men in the fight against this scourge.
* President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the call to action by signing the national pledge on Women’s Day, 9 August 2024, in Pofadder, Northern Cape.
* This pledge commits men to be part of the solution to end all forms of violence including abuse, harassment, rape and domestic violence.
* It commits men to never raise a hand against women or make them feel uncomfortable, intimidated, undermined or violated in any way.
* Men are urged to take responsibility for their actions and treat women equally, with dignity, respect and protect their safety.

***Men are called to step up in the fight against GBVF.***

* We appeal to the men of our nation to take a stand and play their part in ending the scourge of violence against women and children.
* Men must lead in speaking out and reporting gender-based violence, raising awareness, peer education and in prevention efforts.
* We encourage men to come together to pledge to never rape a woman, lay a hand on a woman and hold one another accountable.
* Men can also play a more formative and present role in their families, particularly in raising their sons to be respectful of women.
* It is also the responsibility of every citizen to protect women and children and create safe, enabling environments where they are free and empowered.
* Our united effort can be the force needed to put an end to the scourge of GBVF.

***Government is committed to fighting GBVF***

* The pledge builds on efforts under the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-based Violence and Femicide to eradicate GBVF by mobilising all sectors of society.
* The NSP on GBVF, is a multi-sectoral and co-ordinated national response to ending GBVF and dealing with the challenges faced by women.
* Government has dedicated resources to implement the NSP which includes women empowerment, psychological support, legal reforms and provision of evidence kits at police stations.
* Government has enacted various new legislation to strengthen the criminal justice system, promote accountability across the state and support survivors.
* It includes the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, National Prosecuting Authority Amendment, Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment, Criminal and Related Matters Amendment and the Domestic Violence Amendment.
* Amongst others, the new legislation tightens bail conditions, strengthens parole conditions, ensures consequences for contravening a protection order, as well as increasing the minimum sentence for perpetrators of sexual offences.
* Government has also increased the number of sexual offences courts and various specialised units within the SAPS.
* Thuthuzela Care Centres and Khuseleka Care Centres provide survivors of GBVF with assistance and support. The 65th Thuthuzela Care Centre was recently opened in Mitchells Plain Hospital in Cape Town to support victims of GBVF.