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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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Issued by The Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities

Attention Journalists and News Editors

Pretoria, 19 November 2019

### **MEN NEED TO PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN ENDING-GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

International Men's Day falls on 19 November. The day's activities celebrates the positive value men bring to the world, their families and communities. The day focuses on the impact positive role models have on the lives of young men and boys. It also highlights physical and mental health risks that affect men.

The day is intended to celebrate positive masculinity and the role men play in their families and communities. While this is an important day in its own right, South Africa continues to be gripped by unrelenting wave of gender-based violence. Within this context the department calls on men to practise positive masculinity by denouncing gender-based violence, by reporting perpetrators of abuse, and by mentoring younger men, and boys to be respectful and to serve as champions for gender equality.

The 2019 theme for International Men's Day is: *Making a difference for men and boys*. The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities calls on South African men to heed President Ramaphosa's call and be a part of the solution in ending gender-based violence. "Positive Masculinity is about respecting the tenets of gender equality, and men holding other men to account for their actions. We need men to aspire to high moral values and not to allow other men to denigrate, insult, or objectify women for their own entertainment," said Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

The Emergency Action Plan unveiled by President Ramaphosa on 18 September aims to combat violence against women and children through a coordinated government and civil society effort. While the Interim Steering Committee on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) coordinates the implementation of the GBVF, men's organisations are encouraged to intensify programmes that mentor boys and young men to contribute positively to their communities.

South Africa will enter the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign – a United Nations campaign that takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

The department will kickstart the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign in Ga-Seleka, Lephalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, on 25 November 2019.

Men are encouraged to use the campaign period to launch sustainable long-term programmes to encourage positive masculinity in their communities.

**Important contact details:**

GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 / \*120\*7867 from any cell phone

Persons with disabilities, SMS 'help' to 31531

Women Abuse Helpline: 0800 150 150

Child line: 0800 055 555

SAPS Crime Stop: 08600 10111 / SMS Crime Line: 32211

GBVF-related service complaints (SAPS): 0800 333 177 /

[complaintsnodalpoint@saps.gov.za](mailto:complaintsnodalpoint@saps.gov.za)

National AIDS Helpline: 0800 012 322

National Human Trafficking Helpline: 0800 222 777

Domestic Violence Helpline (Stop Woman Abuse):0800 150 150

Suicide Helpline: 0800 567 567

**ENDS**

For interviews please contact Ms Mmabatho Ramompi on 076 480 3513 / [mmabatho.ramompi@women.gov.za](mailto:mmabatho.ramompi@women.gov.za) or Ms Kea Motlokwa, on 066 0777347 / [kea.mptlokwa@women.gov.za](mailto:kea.mptlokwa@women.gov.za)

For further information please contact Mr Shalen Gajadhar on 060 979 4235 / [shalen.gajadhar@women.gov.za](mailto:shalen.gajadhar@women.gov.za)

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