



**Faith ACTION**  
to end Gender-Based Violence

**WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA**  
FAITH COMMUNITIES ENDING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

## GROWING AN INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOR AN END TO GBV IN SOUTH AFRICA

For the first time in, South Africa, people from different faith groupings are joining forces to go beyond talk to united concrete action against gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa, by addressing both GBV prevention and mitigation guided by SA's first Interfaith GBV Strategy (2024-2030).

Spearheaded by We Will Speak Out SA and the Faith Action to End GBV Collective, the movement comprises almost 1000 partners and subscribers.

The faith sector changemakers hail from the following faith traditions:

- African Traditional Religion
- Baha'i
- Brahma Kumaris
- Buddhism
- Christianity (at least 3 traditions)
- Hinduism
- Hare Krishna
- Islam
- Judaism

**“When you are abused, your spirit is attacked. That is why we need our faith leaders.”**

Nompilo Gcwensa,  
Chair Phephisa Survivors Network



### SNAPSHOT 2023-2024

- 8 different faith traditions
- 1000+ people of faith have engaged to date
- 2 in-person consultations to learn about each other's faiths wrt gender and GBV
- 2 faith sector **Summits** – attendance over 300 in total in-person and online
- Monthly online **Interfaith Forums** of the Faith Action Collective to End GBV
- 8 interfaith **Webinars** (with global partners Side by Side and Bread for the World)
- 1 ground-breaking united **Interfaith GBV Statement of Commitment**
- Over 700 **Signatories** to the Statement
- 1 formal **Interfaith GBV Prevention and Mitigation Plan (2024-2030)**
- Detailed systematic **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework** ready for implementation

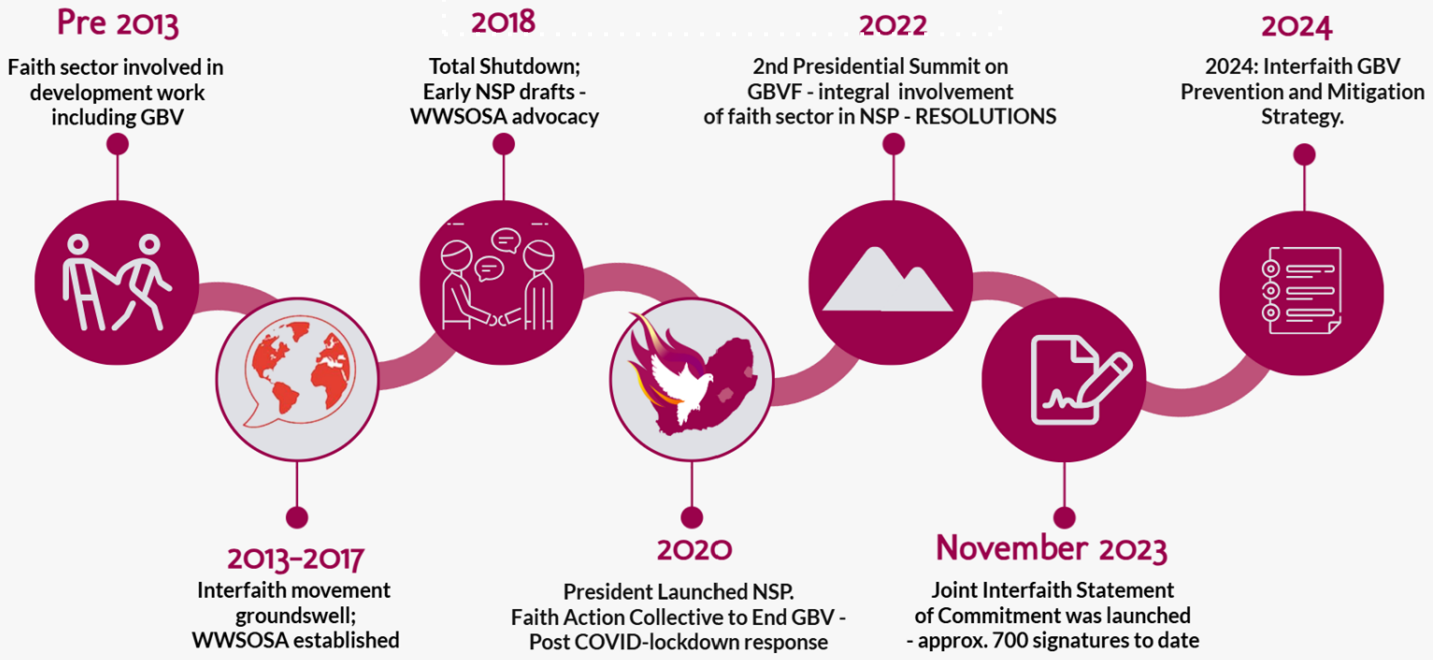


All interfaith gatherings include prayers shared by the diverse faith traditions present

### OUR MANDATE

- We believe that the all-encompassing God of love, justice and mercy, has called all people of faith and religious institutions to play a central role in ending GBV.
- We are called to unite as we acknowledge our own shortcomings while courageously speaking truth to power as needed
- We need to review how our religious institutions can be better equipped to become safe spaces
- Our work aligns with the national call to all sectors to work together to achieve the goals of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF).

# The Journey So Far



## Who owns the Process and Strategy?

**EVERYONE!**

All people of faith have a role to play, in line with the National Strategic Plan (NSP GBVF)

## 2025 and Beyond: Where to Next?

Practical Implementation has already begun:

- 8 Working Groups were proposed at the Strategy launch.
- 4 have already begun developing concept notes, budgets and work plans.
- The core Faith Leaders Gender Transformation Programme (FLGTP) is moving towards UNISA accreditation, its final pilot in 2025 and roll-out by 2026.
- Revised coordination and enabling mechanisms for the Faith Action Collective are being finalised.
- Training of group convenors in use of the M,E and Learning tools and data collection
- A team of practical skills specialists from diverse faiths has been formed to offer bespoke support to faith groups on request.
- An **ONLINE COMMUNITY OF PRACTIS PLATFORM** offers safe networking, shared learning and joint advocacy planning spaces. <https://www.interfaithendgbv.org.za/>



“If 80% of South Africa’s population are church goers and 90% of those who actually go to church are women, then every Sunday, I preach to both survivors and perpetrators of this violence... How does my preaching help to address this scourge?”

Bishop Nathi Zondi, Truevine Community Church, Executive Secretary of the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council

*The new interfaith strategy introduces an important concept, **SPIRITUAL ABUSE**: a distortion and exploitation of spiritual authority and sacred texts to manipulate, control, use, or harm others, mostly through shame and fear. This may be deliberate or due to ignorance.*

Scan here for more details and documents



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