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2nd September 2024

CONCEPT NOTE

Interfaith GBV Prevention and Mitigation Strategy 2024-2030 Launch and Action Planning

Interfaith Movement to address GBV: From Policy to Action

3 October 2024, 9am – 4pm

Baha'i Centre, 209 Bellairs Dr, Northriding, Gauteng

Background:

The Faith Action to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Collective, coordinated by We Will Speak Out South Africa (WWSOSA) as Secretariat, has completed Phase 1 of an interfaith initiative focused on mobilising the faith sector to address GBV in South Africa. This initiative included a high-impact campaign that engaged multiple faith communities, promoting the commitment of leaders to the National Strategic Plan to End GBV and Femicide (NSP on GBVF).

As part of the campaign, a Statement of Commitment was launched in November 2023 and has been signed by almost 700 faith leaders, followed by workshops to implement the Statement within various faith contexts.

A new consultative phase began in February 2024, featuring internal reviews of the interfaith process so far and a strategic planning workshop, which has culminated in a five-year Interfaith GBV Prevention and Mitigation Strategy for 2024-2030. This is currently being shared widely for members of diverse faith communities and other stakeholders to offer feedback and suggested improvements, so that it is owned by all faith partners and is clearly aligned to the objectives of the NSP on GBVF.

The writing team will then incorporate inputs from the submissions, with a final strategy launch planned for 3 October 2024.

Future plans include supporting faith leaders as they localise the Statement through institutional GBV action plans and inviting collaborative proposals for new initiatives focused on shared learning and sustainable impact in combating GBV within faith communities and their surrounding communities.

Rationale:

The Interfaith GBV Strategy 2030 Launch and Action Planning meeting will create an opportunity to transition from policy commitments to tangible actions in preventing and addressing GBV through the faith community. The **strategy** aims to guide the faith sector as we put the commitments we made in the joint Interfaith Statement into practice over the next five years.

Management Committee: Chair: Ms Pontsho Segwai; Dep. Chair: Ms Pat Sibanyoni Treasurer (Ag.): Mr Sthembiso Mpungose; Members: Ms Fatima Noordien, Ms Esperande Bigirimana (Survivor Organisation Representative), Rev. Vusi Cebekhulu, Pundit Arthi Shanand, Ms Bongzi Vilakazi (Survivor Organisation Representative), Dr Stanley Maphosa, Coordinator: Ms Daniela Gennrich.

The purpose of the **launch** is partly to **publicise the strategy**, but also for the diverse stakeholders in the growing faith sector movement to begin to **plan national and localised implementation**, as well as agreeing on the systems to move forward effectively.

Despite significant progress in mobilising faith leaders and communities through our Interfaith Campaign, there remain gaps in implementation of the commitments in the join Interfaith GBV Statement. This engagement aims to foster a collaborative environment where diverse faith sector stakeholders can actively participate in planning and executing concrete work plans.

So, the launch includes an intentional **practical purpose** – speeches will be kept to a minimum to allow more time for **actioning the next steps** and sharing the **tools** available to support partners in achieving their plans.

Delegates will be introduced to the new **online and in-person Community of Praxis** as vital resources to encourage them to undertake innovative initiatives in their local contexts and to participate in joint activities as important learning opportunities.

Objectives:

1. Agree on some preliminary concrete work plans at national, provincial and local levels.
2. Unpack the Strategy for increasing involvement and ownership of diverse faith sector stakeholders.
3. Invite multi-sectoral partners to be active collaborators in actualising the strategy for maximum impact in achieving the objectives of the NSP on GBVF.
4. Assign roles and responsibilities to move the strategy forward.
5. Introduce two elements of the Community of Praxis:
 - Online Platform;
 - Faith and Interfaith Resource Teams to support practical initiatives.
6. Activate the communications strategy and invite participation.

Participants:

1. Faith Action Collective partners
2. Development partners
3. Private sector partners
4. Senior Government leads in the NSP on GBVF
5. Senior faith leaders
6. Scholars, activists, practitioners in the faith sector
7. Partner NGOs and CBOs with an interest in collaborating in faith sector GBV work