

MEDIA RELEASE *16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children: PSA calls for support*

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) joins South Africa and the global community in observing the *16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children* campaign from 25 November to 10 December 2025.

Violence against women and children remains a severe and persistent human-rights failure in South Africa. As part of the Union's ongoing commitment to combating gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), the PSA recently participated in the GBVF Dialogue arranged by the Special Investigating Unit. The Dialogue, themed "*Prevent Today and Protect Tomorrow*", strongly aligned with the PSA's stance that society must respond early to the warning signs that enable GBVF in communities and workplaces. Prevention must be prioritised long before protests, marches, or public outrage follow an incident.

The PSA calls on government to accelerate the implementation of response strategies, strengthen law enforcement capacity, and ensure that perpetrators face meaningful consequences. Workplaces must operate as safe and accountable environments where survivors are supported, policies are consistently enforced, and awareness initiatives promote a culture of respect.

The PSA further calls for the rejuvenation of morals and ethical principles in society. The growing acceptance or glamorisation of harmful and exploitative behaviours, including so-called "Mavuso" practices, cannot be normalised. Such conduct fuels environments where exploitation and GBVF thrive. South Africa cannot afford ethical decay that places women and children at risk.

The PSA encourages all South Africans to engage actively in conversations that challenge harmful norms and reinforce gender equality. Whilst the *16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children* campaign is an important national focal point, genuine impact depends on year-round vigilance, accountability, and collective leadership.

The PSA urges every citizen, especially those in public service, to take a stand through consistent daily actions. Building a society where women and children live free from fear requires shared responsibility, courage, and an uncompromising stance against all forms of violence and exploitation.

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