

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA shocked by killing of labour lawyer: Calls for greater protection of legal Practitioners
<b>DATE</b>	27 March 2026
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the murder of Ms Chinette Gallichan, a labour lawyer, outside the office of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration on Monday, 23 March 2026.

This tragic incident follows a disturbing pattern of violence against officers of the justice system. In July 2025, Ms Tracy Brown, a Regional Court Prosecutor stationed at New Brighton Court in Gqeberha, was killed outside her home. On 29 April 2025 another Prosecutor, Mr Elona Sombulula, was murdered in Mendu Village near Ngcobo in the Eastern Cape.

The PSA views any attack on legal practitioners and prosecutors as a direct attack on the rule of law and the democratic foundations of South Africa. These professionals play a critical role in ensuring that justice is served and in upholding the *Constitution*. When these persons become targets of violence, the integrity and stability of the justice system are threatened.

The PSA therefore calls on government, particularly the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Clusters, to urgently prioritise the safety and protection of prosecutors, legal practitioners, and all officials working in the justice system. Stronger security measures, risk assessments, and protective mechanisms must be implemented to ensure that those tasked with enforcing the law can perform their duties without fear for their lives.

The PSA further urges law enforcement authorities to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are swiftly apprehended and prosecuted so that justice can prevail. The PSA extends condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Ms Gallichan. The PSA is steadfast in its commitment to protecting public servants and advocating for safer working conditions for all employees in the justice sector.

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