

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence affects employees in all provinces, with higher reports from rural districts. Survivors struggle with slow investigations, limited shelters, and weak coordination between departments.

Statistics: April 2024 to March 2025

- North West recorded increases in domestic violence reports across Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Bojanala districts.
- Mpumalanga reported more sexual offences in Nkomazi and Ehlanzeni.
- The Northern Cape noted high assault cases linked to alcohol abuse.
- The SA Police Service reported more than 65 000 sexual offences nationwide in the same period.
- South Africa recorded more than 10 000 rape cases in the second quarter of 2024.

Statistics 2025 to 2026

SAPS quarterly data released between April 2025 and September 2025.

- North West recorded a rise in protection-order applications in Mahikeng and Rustenburg courts.
- Mpumalanga noted higher reporting of intimate-partner violence amongst women aged 18 to 35.
- The Northern Cape detected decreases in Upington but increases in Kuruman.
- National SAPS data showed more than 14 000 rape cases in the first two quarters of 2025.
- Most cases involved partners or known people.

Drivers of GBV

- Alcohol and drug abuse.
- Long delays in police response.
- Lack of shelters in rural areas.
- Victim intimidation at community level.
- Limited psychosocial support for workers.
- Workplaces failing to enforce harassment policies.

Key warning signs

- Isolation from friends or family.
- Controlling behaviour over finances or movement.

- Physical harm.
- Threats and intimidation.
- Forced sexual contact.

Support organisations: North West

- Department of Social Development GBV Command Centre - 0800 428 428
- Thuthuzela Care Centres
- Mahikeng Provincial Hospital
- Moses Kotane Hospital
- South African Police Service - 10111
- North West Department of Health – (018) 391 4000
- Legal Aid SA Mahikeng – (018) 381 7000

Support organisations: Northern Cape

- Thuthuzela Care Centres
- Kimberley Hospital
- Upington Hospital
- SAPS - 10111
- Northern Cape Health – (053) 830 6000
- Legal Aid SA Kimberley – (053) 838 4500

Support organisations: Mpumalanga

- Thuthuzela Care Centres – (013) 766 3000
- Rob Ferreira Hospital
- Themba Hospital
- SAPS - 10111
- Mpumalanga Health – (013) 766 3000
- Legal Aid SA Mbombela – (013) 752 8220

What should survivors do

- Go to any police station and open a case.
- Request a protection order at the nearest magistrate's court.
- Visit a Thuthuzela Care Centre for medical care and counselling.
- Contact the DSD for shelter placement.
- Keep evidence such as messages or call records.
- Inform a trusted person for support.

What employers should do

- Train staff on GBV and workplace harassment.
- Provide confidential reporting lines.
- Refer employees for counselling.
- Assist with emergency leave where needed.
- Strengthen workplace safety policies.
- Work with the DSD and SAPS during urgent cases.

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