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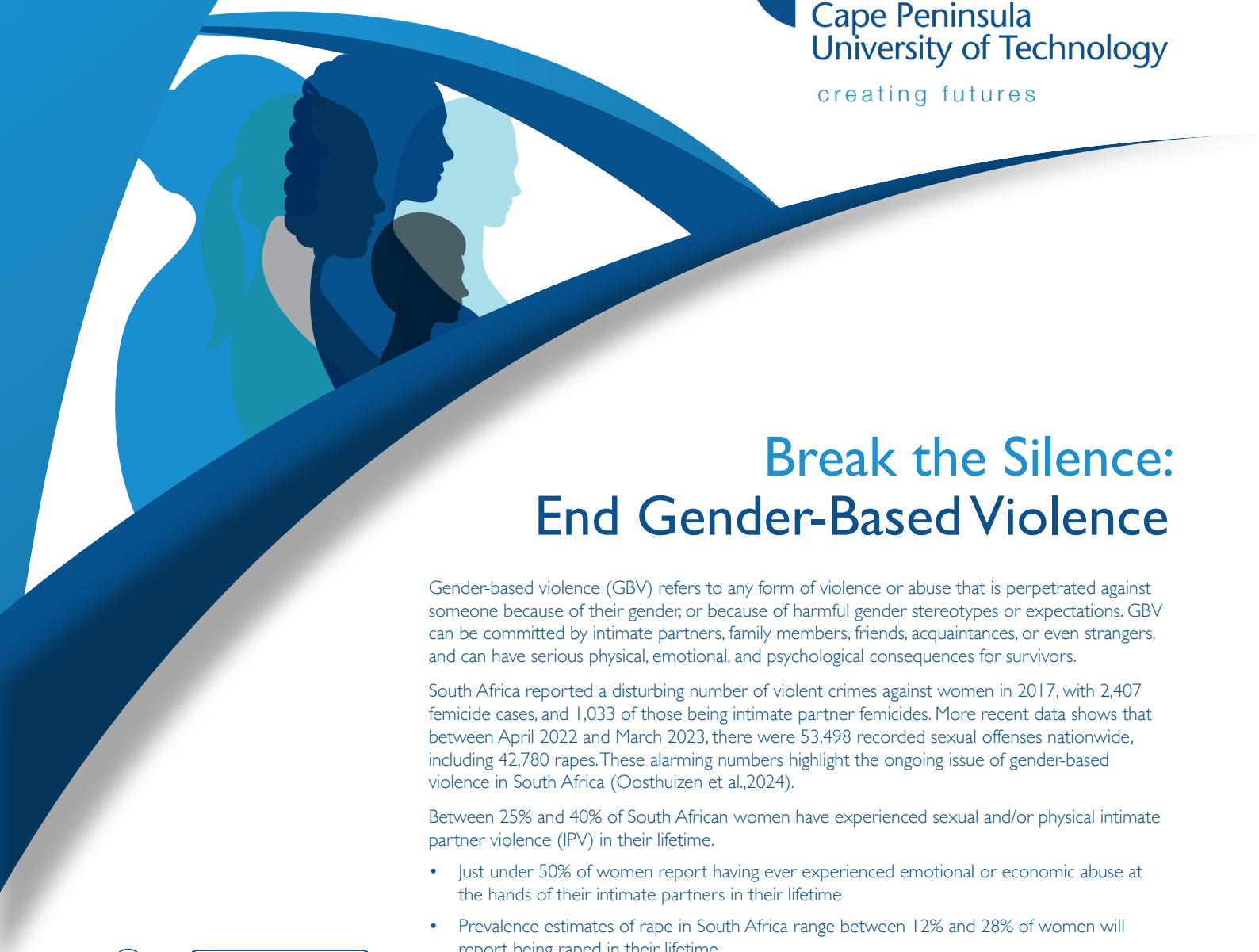


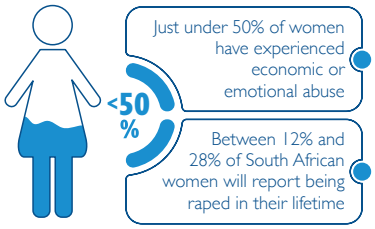
Break the Silence: End Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to any form of violence or abuse that is perpetrated against someone because of their gender, or because of harmful gender stereotypes or expectations. GBV can be committed by intimate partners, family members, friends, acquaintances, or even strangers, and can have serious physical, emotional, and psychological consequences for survivors.

South Africa reported a disturbing number of violent crimes against women in 2017, with 2,407 femicide cases, and 1,033 of those being intimate partner femicides. More recent data shows that between April 2022 and March 2023, there were 53,498 recorded sexual offenses nationwide, including 42,780 rapes. These alarming numbers highlight the ongoing issue of gender-based violence in South Africa (Oosthuizen et al.,2024).

Between 25% and 40% of South African women have experienced sexual and/or physical intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime.

- Just under 50% of women report having ever experienced emotional or economic abuse at the hands of their intimate partners in their lifetime
- Prevalence estimates of rape in South Africa range between 12% and 28% of women will report being raped in their lifetime
- Between 28% and 37% of adult men report having raped a woman
- Most men who rape do so for the first time as teenagers and almost all men who ever rape do so by their mid-20s



Source (Gender-Based Violence in South Africa." Safer Spaces. [https://www.saferspaces.org.za/understand/entry/gender-based-violence-in-south-africa]. Accessed [30 September 2024].

Types of Gender-Based Violence:

There are a variety of ways that Gender-Based Violence can be perpetrated against another person, with the intention of causing harm, because of their gender. Below are some descriptions of these ways:

- **Physical violence** – refers to the intentional use of physical force or action that causes harm, injury, or trauma to another person's body, such as hitting or pushing.
- **Sexual violence** – refers to a non-consensual sexual act committed against an individual's will.
- **Emotional abuse** – refers to a pattern where one person intentionally manipulates, controls another person's emotional well-being through action, words that degrade or intimidate.
- **Financial control** – it is where one person manipulates another person's financial decisions, for example restricting their access to money.
- **Stalking** – it is a pattern of repetitive, unwanted and obsessive behaviour where one monitors, follows the other.
- **Cyberbullying** – use of digital technologies, such as social media, emails to harass, threaten another person.

Signs of abuse:

Look out for these warning signs in someone you know:

- Unexplained injuries

Reports of:

- Fear of perpetrator – this is usually somebody who is either physically stronger or has some authority or seniority over a person. Examples include a partner / loved one, a colleague or member of staff
- Isolation from friends and family
- Control over daily life
- Belittling or put-downs

CPUT takes a zero-tolerance approach to GBV and commits to:

- Supporting survivors
- Holding alleged perpetrators to account
- Exposing transactional and coercive relationships that may render staff or students vulnerable to abuse
- Developing a foundational module on GBV that is educative and preventative
- Protecting the rights of employees and students

Support and Resources available:

- Momentum Counselling services for employees and families – **0800 111 223**
- National GBV Helpline **(0800 428 428)** – 24-hour helpline for counselling and support.
- Lifeline South Africa **(0861 322 322)** – 24-hour counselling helpline.
- Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust **(021 447 9762)** – Counselling and support services.
- POWA (People Opposing Women Abuse) **(011 642 4345)** – Counselling, shelter, and legal assistance.
- Thuthuzela Care Centres **(021 699 3246)**
- Sonke Gender Justice **(021 423 7088)**

Shelters

- Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust Shelters **(021 447 1457)**
- POWA Shelters
- Safe House – Email: **info@safehousestellenbosch.co.za**

Legal Resources

- South African Police Service (SAPS) – **08600 10111**
- Legal Aid South Africa – Offers free legal assistance to survivors **(0800 110 110)**
- National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) – Provides legal assistance and prosecution services. **(012 845 6000)**

Thuthuzela Care Centre(s) Contact numbers

- Worcester TCC* – **023 348 1294**
- Atlantis TCC* – **021 010 0421**
- Khayelitsha TCC* – **021 360 4570**
- Heideveld TCC – **021 699 0465**
- Karl Bremmer TCC – **021 918 1321**

Counselling, Crisis intervention and Support:

Referrals to health professionals and other psychosocial resources.

Campus Protection Services

- WhatsApp – **060 980 0286**
- Bellville – **021 959 6550 | 021 959 6301**
- District Six – **021 460 3123 | 021 460 3631**
- Granger Bay – **021 440 5726**
- Mowbray – **021 680 1582**
- Wellington – **021 864 5551**

Toll-free call – 0800 36 36 36 | **SMS – 43336**