

Via email:  
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20 February 2020

Attention: All Members of Parliament  
The Speaker  
National Assembly  
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa  
CAPE TOWN

Dear Honourable Members of Parliament,

**Re: Parliamentary Conduct on Gender Based Violence during SONA2020 Debate**


We are writing to express our absolute dismay at your conduct during the Joint Seating on 18 February 2020.

In 2019, Parliament hosted a discussion on Gender Based Violence giving the nation an impression that members not only cared but understand and are in unison with the national cause for concern that requires an urgent response on this issue. Instead, what the nation experienced during the SONA debate on the 18th of February was members of parliament using GBV for political gymnastics. In the process, this behaviour not only undermined women's agency especially that of victims and/or survivors of GBV but also served to further minimize the cause of GBV.

Furthermore, we are intrigued that members are now showing an interest in naming perpetrators of GBV, despite their silence on the 9,000+ men who were implicated in the #NameandShame (@HelpSurvivors) campaign in September 2019 following incidents related to the murder of Uyinenene from which The Wise Collective is still defending young women against subsequent defamation charges that further silence victims and survivors. We invite all members help change the prevailing narrative of not believing victims by holding ALL men accountable and advance the cause to end GBV and Femicide by holding all men including themselves and especially those in their circles accountable for all forms of violence against women, emotional, physical, financial, sexual and beyond, not just their political targets.

Ending GBVF also requires ending our collective silence about perpetrators and a paradigm shift to believing victims and survivors. We welcome a response from Parliament that speaks to what role members intend to play going forward in regards to efforts for ending GBVF.

Sincerely,



Brenda Madumise-Pajibo



Onica Nonhlanhla Makwakwa