



Via email: [PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za](mailto:PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za)  
cc: [mike@presidency.gov.za](mailto:mike@presidency.gov.za); [charmaine@presidency.gov.za](mailto:charmaine@presidency.gov.za)

November 22, 2019

His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
The Union Building  
Government Avenue  
Pretoria  
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Dear Honourable President,

**Re: PowerFM Chairman's Conversation on 28 November 2019**

We acknowledge and note the President's commitment to acting on arresting the scourge of gender based violence and femicide with the August 9th, 2018 speech in Paarl, convening the first Presidential Summit on GBVF, and many other commitments beyond. It is therefore due to this stated commitment, including more recently rolling out the Emergency Action Response Plan on GBVF, that we are dismayed at the participation in the upcoming Chairman's Conversation on PowerFM.

For background and context, response to this national crisis of GBVF requires leadership and coordination at the highest level of office which the honourable president, assisted by an Interim Steering Committee, is providing. That leadership requires accountability at a personal and professional level, not only for one's self but one's associations and among one's supporters too.

The Chairman of PowerFM, Given Mkhari, has flagrantly refused to account for his own involvement in gender based violence as an accused in a publicly lodged case of domestic violence, all while running a platform that purports to encourage the nation to "speak truth to power." Domestic violence is not a private matter, especially when a case has been lodged, it may happen in private but it has tremendous public consequences that call for every citizen to be accountable. Holding each other accountable is a critical element of how we will win against this scourge that's gripping our nation, as such, we at The Wise Collective believe it is in poor taste for the Honourable President to participate this Chairman's Conversation with not only someone who has been accused of domestic violence but also one who refuses to account to the very public he uses to espouse values of transparency and the power of speaking out.

We therefore join other civil society voices in requesting that you lead the nation in modeling accountability by not participating in this Chairman's Conversation on PowerFM. This will send a strong message to all our society that they too have a responsibility to hold each other accountable and **end the culture of violence and impunity.**

Sincerely,



**Adv. Brenda Madumise**



**Onica Makwakwa**



**Pinky Mgobozi**



**Sibongile Mthembu**