



The **Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)**
cordially invites you to the first webinar in its
Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Webinar Series.

**From Declaration to Action:
What Does a National GBVF Disaster Response Require?**

About the Webinar

Gender-based violence and femicide remain among South Africa's most serious social challenges. Recent cases and renewed public concern have again highlighted the scale and persistence of violence against women, while intensifying questions about how institutions, communities and society should respond.

Against this background, the webinar will examine what is required to move from the recognition of GBVF as a national crisis towards effective and coordinated action. It will bring together perspectives from research, civil society and practice to consider prevention, accountability, survivor support, institutional responses and the implementation of existing commitments.

The discussion will also consider how responses to GBVF can move beyond moments of heightened public attention towards sustained interventions that address both immediate harms and the broader social conditions that enable violence.

Date:

Thursday, 15 October 2026

Time:

11:00–12:30 SAST

Platform:

Online via Zoom

RSVP:

[Click here to register](#)

Programme

Programme Director: Prof Amanda Gouws, Stellenbosch University		
11:00–11:05	Welcome and Opening	Prof Amanda Gouws MASSAf; Stellenbosch University
11:05–11:10	Remarks on the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)	Prof Tamara Shefer MASSAf; University of the Western Cape
11:10–11:20	Setting the Scene: GBVF as a National Crisis – From Declaration to Action	Prof Amanda Gouws MASSAf; Stellenbosch University
11:20–11:32	Confronting Gender-Based Violence and Femicide	Dr Lisa Vetten University of the Witwatersrand
11:32–11:44	Survivor Support and the Reality of Responding to GBVF	Mr Michael Benevolent Masina Survivor Support Lead, Women for Change
11:44–11:56	Understanding and Addressing GBVF	Prof Nwabisa Shai, Gender and Health Research Unit, SAMRC; School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand
11:56–12:20	Moderated Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A	Prof Amanda Gouws & Panelists MASSAf; Stellenbosch University
12:20–12:25	Closing Reflections: From Crisis Recognition to Sustained Action	Prof Tamara Shefer MASSAf; University of the Western Cape
12:25–12:30	Vote of Thanks and Closing	Prof Amanda Gouws MASSAf; Stellenbosch University

About the Speakers



Prof Amanda Gouws
MASSAf; Professor of Political Science and SARChI Chair in Gender Politics, Stellenbosch University

Amanda Gouws is Professor of Political Science at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, where she holds a SARChI Chair in Gender Politics. Her research focuses on women and citizenship, women's representation, women's movements and gender-based violence. She has published widely in these areas. Her book, *Un)Thinking Citizenship: Feminist Debates in Contemporary South Africa*, was published by Ashgate in 2005. With Daiva Stasiulis, she published *Gender and Multiculturalism: North/South Perspectives* (Routledge, 2014). Her edited collections, *Nasty Women Talk Back* (2017) and *The COVID Diaries: Women's Experience of the Pandemic* (2021), were published by Imbali Press. Her latest book, *Feminist Institutionalism in South Africa: Designing for Gender Equality* (2022), was published by Rowman & Littlefield. In 2024, she received the Rector's Award for Excellence in Research. She was a Commissioner for the South African Commission for Gender Equality from 2012 to 2014.



Prof Tamara Shefer
MASSAf; Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and DSTI-NRF SARChI Chair in Blue Humanities and Gender Justice, University of the Western Cape

Tamara Shefer is Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of the Western Cape and DSTI-NRF SARChI Chair in Blue Humanities and Gender Justice. Her scholarship has foregrounded the study of gender and sexuality within postcolonial and transnational feminist scholarship and critical masculinities studies, with particular emphasis on young people. Her current work is directed towards reconceptualising academic knowledge, with an emphasis on art, activism, feminist decolonial thinking and hydrofeminist approaches engaging oceans and bodies of water in the pursuit of social and environmental justice.



Mr Michael Benevolent Masina
Survivor Support Lead, Women for Change

Michael Benevolent Masina is a South African gender-based violence (GBV) and mental health advocate, Specialist Wellness Counsellor and nationally recognised speaker. As Survivor Support Lead at Women for Change, he leads trauma-informed survivor support strategies and develops accessible, survivor-centred pathways. previously with TEARS Foundation, Michael gained over four years of frontline and leadership experience supporting survivors of sexual violence, domestic abuse and child-protection cases, including crisis intervention and multidisciplinary case management. A sought-after speaker and facilitator, he addresses GBV prevention, trauma recovery, masculinity and mental health across schools, universities, corporates and public platforms. He has also contributed to national conversations on GBV and survivor protection through media platforms including eNCA and SABC News. Michael combines psychological expertise, frontline experience and compelling storytelling to advocate for safer communities and meaningful social change.



Dr Lisa Vetten
Research Associate at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand

Lisa Vetten is a Research Associate at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has worked on gender-based violence and violence against women in South Africa for more than three decades, with particular expertise in domestic violence, sexual violence, policing, criminal justice and public policy. Her work spans research, advocacy and policy analysis, and she has contributed extensively to debates on the prevention of gender-based violence and the institutional responses available to survivors.



A/Prof Nwabisa Shai
Gender and Health Research Unit, SAMRC; School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand

Associate Professor Nwabisa Jama Shai is a Specialist Researcher and Director of the Gender and Health Research Unit and Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research focuses on the developing, adapting and evaluating evidence-based prevention interventions to address gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa and other low- and middle-income countries such as Nepal and Tajikistan. Her work impacts Nwabisa has a special research interest in femininities. Her work impacts women and girls, parents/caregivers, and families. She has co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, policy briefs, technical reports, and GBV prevention curricula across multiple sociocultural contexts. She also built close working relationships with South African government departments, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations, promoting the scaling up of evidence-based violence prevention interventions and contributing to GBV policy initiatives. A/Prof Jama Shai is currently working on strengthening measurement of adolescent violence in research and the national prevalence of femicide study

