



SAY 'NO' to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



The National lockdown, whilst being crucial, has also sadly heightened the surge of gender based violence and femicide afflicting vulnerable individuals. To quote President Ramaphosa, “We are aware that the restrictions that have been placed on people’s movement and the confinement to their homes is a frustration for many, but there is no excuse, nor are there ever any excuse, for violence – against women, children, the elderly, members of the LGBTQI community, foreign nationals, not against anyone.”

Gender based violence is an umbrella term for any harm and violence directed at an individual based on his or her gender identity. It is rooted in unjust power relations, structures and term, social and cultural norms. The lockdown has inevitably increased the risk of abuse for many as potential victims no longer have the prospect to connect with friends, family and work colleagues as a form of escapism. It has limited support networks that usually bring comfort, safety and security to

vulnerable individuals. GBV has detrimental psychological, emotional, social and physical consequences. The contributing factors or motivators by the perpetrators during this lockdown period may be exacerbated by frustration, anger and fear associated with the current state of uncertainty that humanity is facing.

Staff and students are not immune to this persecution, violence and terror arising out of GBV. In an effort not to be incapacitated by fear and helplessness to fight off the scourge of emotional and physical pain and sometimes numbness, it is important to be aware that there are numerous interventions available for support and seeking help. An individual experiencing violence will often be afraid to openly share their circumstances due to varied reasons. If you or someone you know may be experiencing any forms of GBV please be advised that assistance is available to staff and students during the lockdown period.

The University is committed to providing you with the necessary confidential professional online counselling, assistance and support. For assistance, you may contact the following:



Employee Wellness Programme:

Counselling services will be available to you via WhatsApp, Skype, Microsoft Teams or video calls. The Employee Wellness Programme can be contacted via ewp@dut.ac.za or rajcooms@dut.ac.za.

Student Health and Counselling Department

The Student Counselling centre is currently offering online counselling to all students. Students can book an appointment by emailing candicel@dut.ac.za. The department is also providing a GBV workshop which will be facilitated online via Microsoft teams. Departments are encouraged to send request in the email provided above.

We also encourage building a supportive network which can act as a protective measure; this includes taking steps to seek assistance and making use of the available service.

Emergency Numbers:	
SAPS Emergency Services	10111
Childline South Africa	080 005 5555
GBV Command Centre	080 042 8428
Legal Aid South Africa	080 011 0110
Commission for Gender Equality	080 015 0150
S.A Human Rights Commission	011 877 3600
Domestic Violence Helpline	080 015 0150
Stop violence against woman Toll-Free	087 158 3000