
TO EDITORS/REPORTERS

03 FEBRUARY 2026

**MEDIA INVITATION TO AN URGENT PRESS CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS GBVF
IN SACRED SPACES ON 05 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 10H00**

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious, and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission) invites members of the media to an urgent press conference on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Across the country, women and young girls are continuously subjected to gender-based violence and femicide, even in environments that are meant to provide safety and support. Shockingly, there are reports about the increasing prevalence of GBVF abuse perpetrated by individuals in positions of authority and trust, including some Pastors or Bishops and Ogobela (trainers of traditional healers). Notably, these incidents occur not only within specific religious institutions but also in spiritual, traditional healing spaces, where vulnerable individuals go to seek assistance, guidance, and healing. Undeniably, these abuses are not only a manifestation of a nation suffering from the erosion of moral values but also reveal an appalling environment in which abusers disregard and unashamedly violate the rights and the dignity of those who are victimised.

Thus, in executing its mandate, the CRL Rights Commission has taken a resolute stance against such violations and is strengthening efforts to safeguard communities from persistent exploitation and abuse within sacred spaces.

The press conference will be addressed by a number of victims of GBVF as well as activists, during which they will highlight the nature and extent of abuses and exploitation they experience, the challenges they continue to encounter despite GBVF having been declared a national crisis by the President of the Republic of South Africa. They will also share valuable insights and recommendations to reinforce protective

measures for victims and foster accountability among those in positions of authority and trust, thereby safeguarding community members and their well-being.

Media representatives are encouraged to attend and cover this significant event.

Please do confirm your attendance.

Date: 05 February 2026

Time: 10h00

Venue: Parktonian Hotel

120 De Korte Street, Braamfontein.

Issued by CRL Rights Commission

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