

## Press Release

### **POLICE LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY IS FAILING RAPE VICTIMS**

The People Opposing Women Abuse, the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy are deeply concerned by the spates of rape perpetrated against women in the country.

As organisations working towards the eradication of violence against women and children in the country, we find it deeply concerning that the such atrocities have been committed against women and reported to the South African Police Services since 2016 and none of the perpetrators have been identified by the Police. These incidences of rape by white and silver quantum's in the Johannesburg area are indication of the conflict environment that women are exposed to, we are not safe in our homes and nor in public spaces. So many us women rely on the public transport system as a mode of transportation ...how then can women feel safe when a culture of impunity and misogyny is the dominant narrative in the country.

In a country with such high levels of violence against women, a responsive justice system is important in ensuring that rape victims and survivors obtain justice .Justice has to be a reality for many rape survivors but it sadly remains an aspiration....Rape victims and survivors continue to face barriers when seeking redress for the crimes committed against us .In many parts of the country women are subjected to secondary victimisation in police stations and in accessing various medical – legal services that we should rightfully access to realise our rights ,however the under resourcing of these institutions make it even more difficult for women to obtain adequate services .It is however not surprising that many rape survivors are reluctant and fear reporting report rape cases because of the of the various hurdles they face in the system .

We commend the bravery and resilience of the survivors who have come forward to share their experiences and challenges they have faced in reporting .The perpetrators are roaming the streets – where is Justice for us women.

The morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 the Gauteng MEC of Safety and Security's comments on ENCA were concerning, she indicated that their Department is training police women to address Violence Against Women because of the negative attitudes of male police, this is an admission that she is condoning the attitude and misogyny against women and in effect compromising justice for women .Clearly the statement indicates that the Police are failing women.

We call on both the Minister of Police and MEC of Safety and Security to take swift action in ensuring that the perpetrators to these crimes are brought to book, justice must be seen to be served. It is up the police and the courts to show that women can regain their trust in the justice system.