

Taking Stock of South Africa's Progress towards Mitigating the Crime and Violence against Women

Tatenda Manomano¹, R. Mujoko² and S. M. Kang'ethe³

*University of Fort Hare, Department of Social Work and Social Development, Box X1314,
Alice. 5700, South Africa*

E-mail: ¹<tatendamano@gmail.com>, ²<200706021@ufh.ac.za>, ³<skangethe@ufh.ac.za>

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ABSTRACT Indubitably, violence against women, also referred to as gender-based violence is a critical challenge in South Africa that needs to be reduced significantly, controlled, mitigated, if not annihilated altogether. The vice emasculates women's participation in socio-economic affairs of their countries; and undermines their human rights and renders the country's aspirations to make a significant score in the Millennium Development Goal number three a daunting dream. The paper, using a review of literature methodology, aimed to debate and discuss some aspects of the environment of gender based violence in South Africa. The paper identifies that most women are raped or sexually molested in South Africa; emotionally harassed in families; lack of self-control and regulation among women; risky behaviour such as travelling late at night and hanging around wrong places. On the other hand, addressing the challenge of violence against women is beset by: poor justice and legal system to effectuate thorough punishment on perpetrators; lack of effective policing system to protect and safeguard the lives of the women; broken traditional and community leadership to foster the values of respect and dignity especially to among the women; as well as preponderance of poverty and unemployment. The paper suggests; awareness campaigns to inform and educate especially the women and men to respect and love one another; enhancing and ensuring community forums spread the message of zero tolerance towards violence; and having a stronger criminal justice system that will impose stiffer penalties to those who perpetrate crime against women.