

Community United Together Against GBV in Eldorado Park

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On 21 November 2025, large masses of protestors, predominantly women, came together to march against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide. The march took place in Eldorado Park Ext 5, opposite the police station. The march was a success, with people from all over joining in to say “enough is enough!”

The march had families and friends of people who lost their lives through GBV. People held signs, placards, and posters, sang songs, and walked through the streets of Eldorado Park to raise awareness about GBV. The march became intense and emotional when the affected families started crying. It was a heartbreaking moment for everyone, but there was enough support to comfort them.

Speakers at the event said that we all need to stand together to stop GBV. Gauteng MEC Faith Mazibuko said we need to unite to break the silence and end the violence, and unlike men, women need to be indoors looking after their children and stop engaging in alcohol-related activities, leaving that to men. However, many women disagreed with that statement, saying it is not only the woman’s responsibility but that of both parents.

The march was also a chance to show how important it is for communities to take action against GBV, because people believed that together we can make a difference. “As communities, we need to put safety measures (street lighting), support networks, create safe spaces and partner with NGOs to provide a place for people to seek help

We must engage men and youth through male ally programmes. Invite them to be part of the solution through mentorship or awareness groups,” said Boniswa Gwala, a young resident of Eldorado Park.

The South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa, has declared GBV a national crisis, acknowledging the situation we are facing as a country and the need for urgent action. “The spaces we live in aren’t as safe or liveable as they were back in the days. People in society need to own their spaces and feel free, knowing there are people around to make them feel safe, not the opposite. Places are not dangerous on their own – it is the people in those places. Communities need to make their areas uninhabitable for any perpetrators of violence,” said Dimakatso (31).

It is important to raise awareness and let people know that keeping quiet is not an option. “Keeping quiet sets, the perpetrator free and puts others in danger across society. It is crucial that we report cases, because if we wait for the government, nothing will be done. This has been a reminder that we have a voice and should use it,” said Carey-Lee.

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