

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **MEDIA STATEMENT: MDDA CALLS FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA TO INITIATE DIALOGUE ON ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

**Johannesburg, South Africa, 05 September 2019.** The recent deaths of University of Cape Town (UCT) student Uyinene Mrwetyana and boxing and karate champion Leighandre 'Baby Lee' Jegels have put back the spotlight on issues of gender-based violence and femicide that have gained prominence in South Africa.

The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) condemns the continuous violence perpetrated against women and children. As society, we must put resources to words. The days of long delays in prosecuting gender-based violence cases must come to an end. South Africa cannot afford to sloganeer and lament when women and girl children continue to die at the hands of men, most of whom are known to them.

The MDDA would like to make a call to ALL MEN in South Africa to actively play their part in addressing the epidemic of gender -based violence (GBV).

The MDDA would like to make a call to all South Africans to join hands and ensure No Violence against Women; to continue raising awareness and advocating against the scourge of gender-based violence. We would like to urge community media to play its part in fostering dialogue amongst men and boys to actively play their role in ending gender-based violence. Importantly, community media must create content that will heighten awareness about various forms of abuse in a way of educating and also assisting those in need of free legal advice on issues such gender -based violence, maintenance, estates, domestic violence, rape and other gender related matters.

#### **About MDDA**

The MDDA is a statutory development agency, deriving its mandate, from Section 16 and 32 of the Constitution Act No. 108 of 1996, thereby providing for freedom of expression and access to information. As a partnership between the South African Government and major print and broadcasting companies, it promotes and assists in the development of community media and small commercial media in South Africa and the transformation of the media, by providing support (financial, capacity building, etc.) in terms of the MDDA Act No 14 of 2002. It also aims



to raise public awareness with regard to media development and diversity issues, and to encourage media literacy and a culture of reading. For further information: [www.mdda.org.za](http://www.mdda.org.za)

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*Issued by the MDDA*

*Enquiries: Cheryl Langbridge 011 643 1100/082 493 6184  
cheryl@mdda.org.za  
Margaret Ndawonde 011 643 1100/082 785 6071  
margaret@mdda.org.za*

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