Gender-Based Violence in a time of COVID-19

In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, various organisations that work towards eradicating Gender-Based Violence have spoken out on the possibility of increased rates of domestic violence. In times of crisis, women are faced with disproportional domestic responsibilities, financial instability, and limited access to reproductive healthcare services. Research shows that gender-based violence, as well as opportunities to access care services, are worsened during global pandemics. At this time, the National Business Initiative (NBI) implores companies to continue working towards addressing and providing support for employees who may be dealing with various social issues, including gender-based violence.

Below are important contacts and sources during this period. We strongly encourage all companies to distribute the following amongst their employees and communities:

GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 / *120*7867# from any cell phone
Persons with disabilities: SMS ‘help’ to 31531
Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150
Childline: 0800 055 555 SAPS
People Opposing Women Abuse: 083 765 1235
Marie Stopes Clinics: 0800 117 785 / Email: info@mariestopes.org.za
Crime Stop: 0860 10111 / SMS Crime Line: 32211
GBVF-related service complaints (SAPS): 0800 333 177/ complaintsnodalpoint@saps.gov.za
Coronavirus Hotline: 0800 029 999
Lifeline: 0861 322 322
Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust: 021 447 9762 (Observatory) / 021 633 9229 (Athlone) / 021 361 9085 (Khayelitsha)
Alcoholics Anonymous (for people who have drinking challenges): 0861 435 722
Al-Anon (for people who are affected by someone with drinking challenges): 0861 252 666
National AIDS Helpline: 0800 012 322
National Human Trafficking Helpline: 0800 222 777
Suicide Helpline: 0800 567 567 or SMS 31393
National Department of Health: https://www.health.gov.za
National Institute of Communicable Diseases: https://www.nicd.ac.za