

PRESS RELEASE

TO: NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

DATE: 05 SEPTEMBER 2025

NBI Launches Bold Private Sector GBV Repository

Johannesburg- South Africa is grappling with one of the highest rates of gender-based violence (GBV) in the world, with women facing a lifetime risk of 45.6%—well above the global average. More than 2.5 million young people, including over half of adolescent girls and young women, bear the brunt of this crisis.

In response, the National Business Initiative (NBI), together with the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and the WeDare Network, has launched the WeDare GBV Repository for the Private Sector, a first-of-its-kind platform designed to move business from awareness to action.

“Workplaces are not isolated bubbles—they mirror the society we live in. Business must stand up responsibly and drive prevention, response and deep socio-culture change,” says Shameela Soobramoney, CEO of the NBI.

A Platform for Action

The Repository serves as a central hub for knowledge, practical tools, research and company case studies—equipping the private sector to move beyond compliance and lead systemic change.

“This is about businesses recognising GBV not only as a social issue, but also as an economic and human rights issue too,” adds Soobramoney. “We see this as a courageous leap, shifting the needle towards sustained culture change.”

Why It Matters

Economic Cost: GBV drains productivity, undermines workplace safety and deters inclusive growth.

Intangible cost: GBV lowers the quality of life and erodes mental health and general wellbeing

Workplace Relevance: Employees bring the impact of GBV into the workplace, making it a business, not just a societal issue.

Collective Action: By pooling insights, the Repository fosters collaboration across companies and sectors.

-ENDS-

Issued by the National Business Initiative (NBI).

For any enquiries, please contact: Nabeelah Khan, Communications Manager, NBI |+27 73 528 6614 | NabeelahK@nbi.org.za | www.nbi.org.za, Bomikazi Mdiya, Communications Coordinator, NBI |+27 74 636 7902 | Bomikazim@nbi.org.za | www.nbi.org.za