



Gender Panel Discussion

GBV and Covid-19

09 March 2021

MS Teams



Existing frameworks and measures on GBV

- **Robust legal framework incl.**
 - ✓ Namibian Constitution Art. 8(1) and (2)
 - ✓ Combating of Rape Act 8 of 2000
 - ✓ Combating of Domestic Violence Act 4 of 2003
 - ✓ Relevant international and regional legal instruments
- **Gender-specific departmental/institutional set-up**
 - ✓ Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare
 - ✓ Woman and Child Protection Unit since 1993
- **Dedicated instruments**
 - ✓ National Gender Action Plan
- **Good legislative representation of women**
 - ✓ Zebra style (50/50) in parliament



Main inputs from the panel and audience

- Gender stereotyping has created resentment that men and women fear being in relationships and there is a need to look into ways to deal with it.
- There is a need to clearly define the difference between Gender and Sex.
- Policy makers need to make a conscious efforts to make provisions for support to organisations fighting against GBV are as they consistently underfunded.
- The implications of the COVID-19 lockdowns were perhaps not carefully considered / were underestimated. There is a need to therefore include GBV response measures in framewoks for dealing with global pandemics.
- Addressing GBV should be a bottom-up approach from the grassroots level with a highlight on community engagement and commitment to address the issue.



Suggestions for future sessions

- As the topic is broad and complex, a longer session should be considered for the future.
- Follow-up session on the topic would can be considered with a longer time allocation and in-depth discussion.