



Zimbabwe's GBV Crisis (2020–2024): Prevalence, Laws, and Gaps in Response

(Mr. M. Mugova, Principal Research Officer)

1.0 GBV in Zimbabwe: 40% of Women Affected - Exceeds Global Average

Although figures vary across sources, they consistently indicate a rise in GBV cases between 2020 and 2024.

- **MICS, 2019:** 39.4% of women (15-49 years) experience physical violence since age 15, which is higher than the global average of 35 %¹
- **2020:** 5,507 cases reported, an increase of 35% from 1,930 in 2019².
- **2021:** 7,664 cases reported, a 16% rise from 2020³.
- **2022:** 39,827 cases reported by Musasa Project⁴.
- **2023:** January to October 2023, ZRP received 16 444 cases, in the same year, a total of 40,675 cases were reported by Musasa Project.⁵
- **2024:** Musasa Project reported 30,262 GBV cases⁶.

Femicide, often stemming from gender-based violence, remains a pressing issue in Zimbabwe. The 2021 femicide rate stood at 1.9 per 100,000⁷ women, mid-range globally but far below South Africa's 9.0⁸. Intimate partner killings have surged: 26 women in 2022⁹, 35 in early 2023¹⁰, and another 35 by mid-2024¹¹.

2.0 Legal Protections: The Constitution (sections 17, 25, 56, 78, and 80); The Labour Act; Domestic Violence Act; Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act; Gender Commission Act; and the Children's Act.

3.0 Responses mechanisms

Table 1.0 Report mechanisms, institutional framework, and response gaps

Category	Existing Structure	Identified Gaps
Support and report mechanism	National GBV Helpline (575); Musasa Project 13 shelters plus 24 hr helpline; ZWLA legal aid (080800131)	-Limited awareness and accessibility especially in rural areas; -potential underfunding and overstretching of existing services
Institutional framework	Ministry of Women Affairs; One-stop-Centres; Police Victim Friendly Unit; Zimbabwe Gender Commission; Ant-Domestic Council; Adult Rape Clinic (Harare Hospital)	-insufficient geographical coverage of OSCs; -lack of deeper coordination; - lack of clarity of Anti-Domestic Council mandate and funding
Programmes	National GBV strategy (2023-20230); Police training (2000 of 45 000 target trained); Nurse training (1500 trained) since 2019.	-Training is low among police and health; - lack of follow up of training; -weak survivor reintegration.

¹ High Rates of Depression Among GBV Survivors in Zimbabwe Raise Concern | Health Times

² Herald+1herald+1

³ The Herald

⁴ The Zimbabwe Independent+3Sunday Mail+3Zimbabwe Situation+3

⁵ NewsDay Zimbabwe+3Sunday Mail+3NewsDay Zimbabwe+3

⁶ Sunday Mail+1Zimbabwe Situation+1

⁷ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/femicide-rates-by-country>

⁸ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/femicide-rates-by-country>

⁹ Zimbabwe Situation

¹⁰ www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/30-000-cases-reported-in-january-septemb

¹¹ ¹¹ www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/30-000-cases-reported-in-january-septemb

