



Brot
für die Welt

Eswatini Church forum on HIV and AIDS – Press statement on the shooting of 5 women at Goje Township, Ezulwini, October 28, 2003 - Eswatini

On behalf of the Church Forum on HIV and AIDS Board of Directors, and the entire Church in the Kingdom of Eswatini, we would like to join the entire emaSwati in condemning the recent brutal shooting and killing of the 5 women at the Goje Township in Ezulwini. Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a social ill that is rooted in gender inequality and continues to be one of the notable violations of human rights within society. As a church in the Country we strongly condemn the brutal act by men who are perpetrators of such inhumane act. We urge Men to unite and act against such behavior, not all men are the same, let the good men stand up, unite and rebuke such acts of cowardness.

Eswatini Church Forum on HIV and AIDS is an apex body of the Church in Eswatini, its affiliates include the Eswatini Conference of Churches, the League of African Churches, Council of Swaziland Churches, International Terbanacle and the Seventh Day Adventist. One of Church Forum's strategic intent is to work towards the eradication of Gender Based Violence. With support from Bread for the World (Brot), Church Forum is currently implementing a program that seeks to improve the response of the Church in Eswatini on HIV and AIDS including Gender Based Violence. It is for this reason that Church Forum strongly believes that it is necessary for the Church and Country to engage in conversations surrounding gender based violence in a professional and yet relaxed setting to discourage the culture of acceptance of this social problem more especially because in most cases it results in the loss of lives.

What is more worrying is the fact that the incident happened in front of children (Children witness shooting of 5 women, traumatized – Eswatini News, Saturday, November 4, 2023). Eswatini Church Forum would like to take this opportunity to extend its sincere condolences to the affected families, friends and relatives and also to appreciate the support of partners such as the eSwatini Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) for providing trauma counselling services to the affected families. With the escalating gender based violence cases, we urge the Country to declare GBV a national disaster and to upscale gender based violence awareness and prevention programs.