

23 July 2019

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Minister of Social Development, Lindi Zulu/
Chair of Portfolio Committee of Social Development, Hon. Gungubele**

We, the WCWSM (Western Cape Women's Shelter Movement) together with the NSM (National Shelter Movement of South Africa) call for Government to release funding to implement the recommendations set out in the Commission for Gender Equality's (CGE) Investigative Report on the State of Shelters in South Africa.

The CGE findings corroborate research that the shelter movement has undertaken over the last three years. Research finds that shelters provide absolutely critical services to abused women, but the majority are not only chronically under-funded - especially when provided by non-profit organisations - but also highly variable, with subsidies provided by the Department of Social Development (DSD) differing across and within provinces. The subsidies to meet the needs of women residing at shelters can, for example, range from as little as R9 per person per day in one province to R71 in another province. Findings also indicate late payment of tranches with some shelters sitting without funding for several months at a time meaning that women and their children cannot be accommodated if shelters do not have other sources of funding to provide food and other essentials for those seeking reprieve from abuse; no subsidies for shelter infrastructure and maintenance; and inadequate and varying subsidies towards the employment of key shelter personnel, to name but a few findings.

The WCWSM and the NSM call on government to adequately cost shelter services and sufficiently fund shelters rendering services to survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) enabling them to better able meet the multitude of needs of survivors and the standards set by the department. Pertaining to this, the following applies:

Demand	Deadline
<p>1. Ensure that any funding framework or funding model employed is fairly, sufficiently and uniformly allocated across all provinces and within provinces, enabling standardisation of shelter services so that clients are afforded similar standards and equitable treatment regardless of where they live.</p> <p>For an example of a fair and equitable costing framework for shelters see: "<i>What is Rightfully Due? Costing the Operations of Domestic Violence Shelters</i>". Available at https://za.boell.org/sites/default/files/whatisrightlydue-costingdvshelters_fullreport.pdf</p>	<p>To developed by 31 January 2020, implemented by April 2020 and reviewed by 31 October 2020</p>
<p>2. Ensure that this funding allocates adequate client to staff ratio's and in particular enables the employment of a minimum staff complement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 shelter manager; • At least 1 Social Worker • At least 1 Social Auxiliary Worker • 3 Housemothers • 1 Administrator 	<p>April 2020</p>



<p>3. Ensure that this funding framework includes funds towards shelter maintenance/repairs/building infrastructure.</p>	<p>April 2020</p>
<p>4. Ensure that no subsidies provided by DSD's towards the employment of shelter personnel is less than the National Minimum Wage, as prescribed by the National Minimum Wage Act 9 of 2018. Subsidies for housemothers, for example, can range from as little as R600 per month in one province to R2,500 in another province. Currently, only WC DSD subsidises housemothers at the national minimum wage. Other provincial departments must ensure the same.</p>	<p>Immediately</p>
<p>5. Desist from delaying tranche disbursements to shelters.</p> <p>More specifically and URGENTLY, ensure <u>IMMEDIATE RELEASE of DSD funding tranche payments to all shelters in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and the North West</u> that have already or that regularly on an annual basis sign Service Level Agreements with provincial departments. Delays in receipt of DSD funding tranches holds significant negative consequences for shelters, their personnel and those they serve. Grace Help Centre in North West, for example, is the only shelter for abused women in the province. The shelter, which is currently accommodating 20 women, awaits its first tranche of funding which is delayed by 4 months. To enable the shelter to cover the costs of food and accommodation for women, and their children, the shelter manager has had to take out a personal loan.</p> <p>In the Free State, no Memorandums of Agreement between DSD and non-profit organisation shelters have been signed this financial year. Shelter movement members demand that this be addressed immediately.</p>	<p>Immediately</p>
<p>6. Ensure that provincial departments desist from employing onerous bureaucratic funding processes that inhibits shelter service rendering to survivors of GBV. For example, in the Eastern Cape, shelters are required to request permission from DSD before they are able to purchase anything despite the funds being in the shelters bank account. This permission requires completion of requisition forms, generally accompanied by comparative quotes and then physically requires the handover of this paperwork to DSD officials for approval before they are able to spend their money. This request needs to be signed off by several DSD officials of varying designations (ranging from 3 to 6 personnel not all of whom may be in the same office). This process can take up to several weeks. This is particularly problematic for those shelters that are not able to raise alternate sources of funding. This negatively impacts on clients seeking shelter services.</p>	<p>Immediately</p>
<p>7. Employ fairness and equality by ensuring that shelter personnel working at non-profit organisations earn the same as those who work in shelters run by government. Equality also means that shelters run by non-profit</p>	<p>April 2020</p>



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organisations must have access to the same resources that government shelters have access to.	
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While shelters are making a significant impact in abused women's lives such efforts can only be sustained if adequate resources are available. It is therefore imperative that the Departments of Social Development and Treasury address the current gaps within the shelter funding structure inclusive of doing so uniformly across all provinces. This will ensure that shelters are better able to meet the many needs of women and their children seeking reprieve from, and an end to, violence.

As signed by

Zubeda Dangor
Head of the Executive, NSM

Bernadine Bachar
Chair, WCWSM

Joy Lange
Executive Member, NSM

Kathy Cronje
Deputy Chair, WCWSM

Rose Bailey
NSM Northern Cape Provincial Representative

Delene Roberts
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Claire Adriaanse
NSM Northern Cape representative

Bernadette Simpson
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Chrislynn Moonieyan
NSM Eastern Cape Provincial Representative

Rina van der Berg
NSM North West Provincial Representative

Sarah Lekale
NSM Free State Provincial Representative

As received by

Name

Designation