

The Killing of Lebo Monene

The fatal shooting of Lebo Monene at Tembisa Hospital, allegedly by her boyfriend, marks yet another episode in South Africa's seemingly endless scourge of gender-based violence. It is both sickening and terrifying how frequent attacks on our country's women and children have become. That a police official allegedly perpetrated the attack, that the victim was a health worker, and that the crime occurred at a hospital add to this tragedy.

As the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA), we continue to express our concern over the frequency of violent attacks in our country. It is also disturbing to note that violence and murder seem to have become a part of our daily life, and that such types of news are no longer as startling or unexpected as they should be in a peaceful society. This is a worrying state of affairs and we need urgent change, to avoid future generations perceiving violence as a regular part of life, for girls and women to start feeling safe, and for boys and men to be respectful of the rights of women. As we have done previously, PsySSA again calls on government to embark on meaningful efforts to address the levels of violence in our country, to prioritise the safety of women and children, and to increase safety in health care facilities and all public places.

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