

PROJECT: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WOMEN'S MONTH AUGUST 2023 (PART 2)



As children, we were taught to protect ourselves from strangers, observe our surroundings, and lock up behind us. The constant reminders from our parents about "stranger danger" embedded in us the idea that we are safe with the people in our inner circle. Unfortunately, statistics paint a much grimmer picture, and the scale tips much more heavily towards the side of violence committed by people known to the victim.

A recent study showed that 76% of female murders were perpetrated by someone known to the victim. About 16% of female murder victims were killed by a nonintimate family member - parent, grandparent, sibling, in-law, and other family member.

For only every 1 out of 5 female murder victims, the relationship between the victim and the offender was unknown.

The statistics paint a very disturbing picture. It shows that 8 out of 10 violent crimes against women are committed by those they trust and those they hold nearest and dearest.

WELL-KNOWN CASES OF VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN THAT RECEIVED WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE:

- Reeva Steenkamp
- Anni Dewani
- Susan Rohde
- Yolandi Botes
- Annika Smit
- Gill Packham
- Minentle Lekhatha
- Leigh Matthews
- Jayde Panayiotou
- Karabo Mokoena
- Hannah Cornelius
- Tebogo Ndlovu

The sad fact of these tragedies is that there are thousands more women whose names are not on this list, who were also victims of extremely violent crimes, most of whom were betrayed by those they trusted.

If you ever find yourself in a situation where you feel controlled, abused or you feel that you may be in physical danger:

REMEMBER:

- You need to reach out for help; you do have options available.
- In extreme circumstances, seek emergency assistance and remove yourself from the situation.

IF YOU CAN NOT LEAVE THE SITUATION IMMEDIATELY:

- Tell someone close to you about your situation.
- Keep a record of events in writing, recordings, photos, videos etc.
- Always report physical abuse to the SAPS; having an official record of events is important.
- Always have at least 2 emergency contacts on standby.

TRAVELLING ALONE:

- Always try to carry a backup phone or backup charger for your phone with you.
- Always inform at least one trusted contact of your travel plans and progress.
- Always ensure that you have sufficient airtime on your mobile device before leaving home.
- Avoid travelling alone at night.
- Avoid travelling alone on secluded or unfamiliar roads.
- Most mobile devices have a "find my device" setting; it is recommended that you always keep that setting turned on and that you have at least one trusted contact who can access your device's location in the event of an emergency.

In Part 1 of our women's month project series, we outlined the risks and signs of toxic relationships that often lead to gender-based violence, we urge the public to read and distribute the projects and to give the women who were victims in the past the respect they deserve by preventing more women from becoming part of the statistics.

> Read part 1 of the project here: <u>https://mikebh.link/6MsuZE</u>

We encourage all women and children who find themselves in abusive situations to reach out to family, friends, and colleagues or call the National GBV Helpline on 0800 150 150.

VIEW OUR OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE FOR MANY SIMILAR WARNINGS REGARDING THESE ATROCIOUS INCIDENTS AND THE TRAUMATIC EFFECTS IT HAS ON THE VICTIMS.

CONTACT MR MIKE BOLHUIS FOR ADVICE, RECOMMENDATIONS, SECURITY, PROTECTION, OR AN INVESTIGATION IF NEEDED.

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY.

You may forward this document and share it with as many people as possible.

Regards,

Mike Bolhuis. Specialist Investigators into Serious Violent & Serious Economic Crimes PSIRA Reg. 1590364/421949 Mobile: +27 82 447 6116 E-mail: <u>mike@mikebolhuis.co.za</u> Fax: 086 585 4924 Follow us on Facebook to view our projects https://www.facebook.com/MikeBolhuisOfficial

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: All potential clients need to be aware that owing to the nature of our work as specialist investigators there are people who have been caught on the wrong side of the law - who are trying to discredit me - Mike Bolhuis and my organisation Specialised Security Services - to get themselves off the hook.

This retaliation happens on social media and creates doubt about our integrity and ability. Doubt created on social media platforms is both unwarranted and untrue.

We strongly recommend that you make up your minds concerning me and our organisation only after considering all the factual information - to the exclusion of hearsay and assumptions.

Furthermore, you are welcome to address your concerns directly with me should you still be unsatisfied with your conclusions. While the internet provides a lot of valuable information, it is also a platform that distributes a lot of false information. The distribution of false information, fake news, slander and hate speech constitutes a crime that can be prosecuted by law. Your own research discretion and discernment are imperative when choosing what and what not to believe.

STANDARD RULES APPLY: Upon appointment, we require a formal mandate with detailed instructions. Please take note that should you not make use of our services – you may not under any circumstance use my name or the name of my organisation as a means to achieve whatever end.

POPI ACT 4 of 2013 South Africa: Mike Bolhuis' "Specialised Security Services" falls under Section 6 of the act. Read more here: <u>https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/</u>

SSS TASK TEAM: https://mikebh.link/Task-Team-2023





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