



# Gender-Based Violence and Misogyny Analytics

## Fact Sheet - 1

### June 1 - 30

### Overview

- From 1 to 30 June 2024, nearly 300,000 mentions were returned by the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Misogyny dataset (see Figure 1). Of these mentions, 84% were retweets. This indicates that the conversation was driven through the resharing of content as opposed to original mentions. This may suggest that a core group of accounts produce content in relation to GBV and Misogyny, which other accounts engage with. As such, the top topics within the conversation may not represent a diversity of perspectives. More than 65,000 unique authors or individual accounts partook in the conversation.

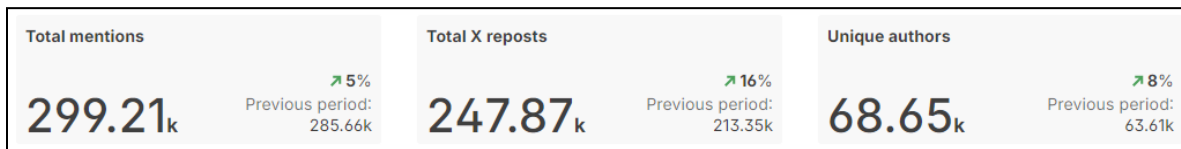


Figure 1: Key volume metrics

- The CABC has categorised conversations related to a variety of interest areas within GBV and Misogyny dataset (see Figure 2). Among these and in order of descending proportion: Parenting & Fatherhood (34%); GBV & Bodily Autonomy (14%); Male Ownership (12%); LGBTQIA+ (10%); Mental Health (5%); Trauma & Transfer (3%); HIV/AIDS & STI's (3%); Hate Speech and Misogyny (1%) and Representation & Stereotypes (1%).

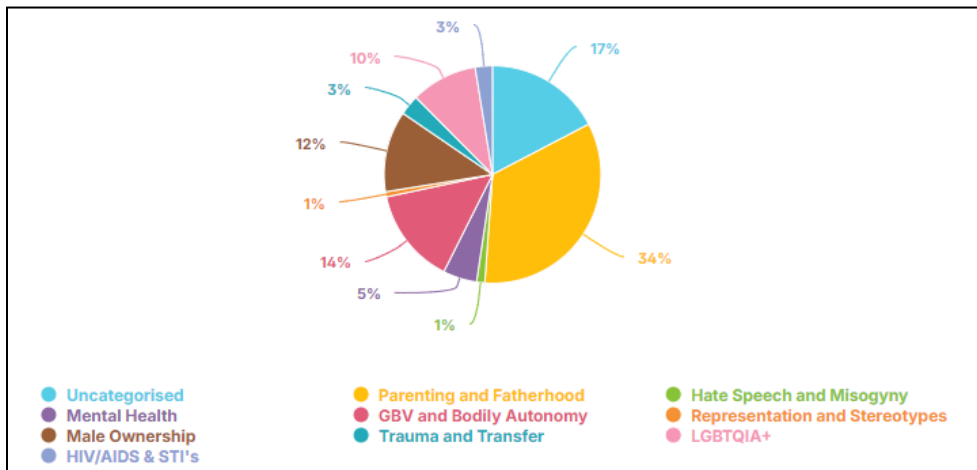


Figure 2: Categories of Interest Areas & Associated Proportions

## Topics of Interest

### Fatherhood

- On 16 June 2024, South Africans celebrated Father's Day, an occasion to honour fathers and father figures.
- More than 116 580 mentions were returned on the topic of Fatherhood during the reporting period, with a distinct peak on 16 June 2024.
  - Within the peak 4 892 mentions were prominent and included the hashtag #fathersday 1 609 mentions using the hashtag #monyaiyolandaxfathersday. The latter hashtag concerned a former Big Brother contestant turned social media influencer, who celebrated her late father.
  - The post with the highest number of reposts concerned an individual stating that deadbeat fathers should be shunned by their friends and the community (see Figure 3 below).

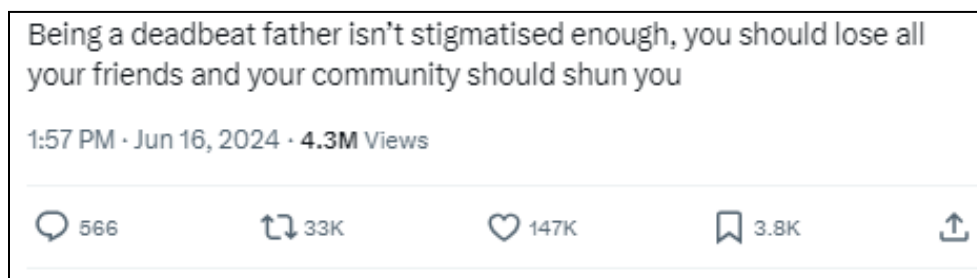


Figure 3: A popular international post during Father's Day

- Posts about Father's Day predominantly consisted of those made by organisations, government entities, businesses and influencers commemorating fathers day or advertising products, offers and giveaways. Researchers did however pick up conversations around the difficulties children face concerning fatherhood in South Africa such as deadbeat fathers and absent fathers leading to an increased propensity to commit crimes: (1) ; (2) ; (3).
- In order of highest to lowest engagement score, the [top post](#) concerned a statement that paternity testing should be compulsory. The engagement score represents...The post claimed that this would allow the system to identify fathers when other children are tested. It further claimed that this could be useful when rape tests are done and crime scene DNA is found. There was overwhelming support for the notion but from different angles:
  - Some claimed that this would allow men to have certainty around whether their children are actually their biological children. We have noted posts from several individuals expressing concern around paternity fraud, where fathers unknowingly raise children who are not biologically theirs (1) ; (2) ; (3).
  - Others expressed support for having DNA results available on the system for the tracking of crimes as well as the identification of fathers where such fathers are

missing or unknown. Some expressed concern around the focus being on males, and argued for the DNA database to also be extended to women: (1) ; (2) ; (3).

### Premier Ramathuba and Teenage Pregnancy

- In mid-June former MEC (Member of the Executive Council; i.e. Provincial Minister) for health in Limpopo, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba was elected as the province's Premier, the head of provincial government<sup>1</sup>. Dr. Ramathuba is the first woman to be elected to this role.
- Dr. Ramathuba's election was met with mixed reactions:
  - Positive perceptions centred on celebrating Ramathuba's entry as the first female premier in Limpopo: (1).
  - Negative perceptions recalled Dr. Ramathuba's [perspectives on teenage pregnancy](#), which has been likened to victim blaming, rape apologism and a misogynistic perspective: (1); (2).
- Dr. Ramathuba has previously been criticised for stoking [xenophobic sentiment](#) during her tenure as MEC for Health in Limpopo as she [berated a Zimbabwean patient](#), allegedly undocumented, who entered South Africa to seek healthcare.

### Thabo Bester

- The conversation around convicted rapist and murderer Thabo Bester, who rose to prominence as his escape from prison and subsequent recapture was documented, featured in the most retweeted content during the month<sup>2</sup>. This was prompted when Bester [made use of the media](#) to call for a public referendum on granting him the death penalty, ostensibly due to his perception of being treated unfairly within the correctional system.
- Responses to renewed attention on the case saw accounts sharing and remembering Bester's victims and drawing attention to his crimes: (1) ; (2) ; (3) ; (4)

### Men, Mental Health and Masculinity

- June marked Men's Mental Health Month, dedicated to bringing awareness to and encouraging outreach by men experiencing mental health difficulties<sup>3</sup>.
- During the analytics period, Researchers grouped mentions about mental health together to create what is called a category Categories seek to segment conversation related to a topic. Using this categorisation, 17 475 mentions were returned from the dataset. One relevant spike in activity was noted among these posts. Figure 4 below contains one of these posts.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/limpopo-legislature-elects-first-female-premier>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.citizen.co.za/news/thabo-bester-timeline-bonnie-and-clyde/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.za/news/events/health-awareness-events/mens-health-month>



Figure 4: A popular international post during Men's Mental Health Month

- Another theme that features amid this content is that there are no safe spaces for men to open up and speak about their experiences and mental health. On the one hand, there was awareness being created of the issue (1), while on the other hand some accounts referred to the role of the women in supporting men's mental health: (2) ; (3)
- One of the comments above is based on a post made by celebrity broadcaster Tbo Touch who recorded a video requesting that parents who raise boys, [as per his perspective](#), ensure that:
  - They are "honest" and let their sons know when they are not "good enough". As the world was not designed for boys who are raised "soft" but for those who are "militant". He further states that the reason men are on antidepressants and depressed is that they are unable to handle the pressures of life as they were raised soft.
  - Sentiments such as these, particularly during Men's Mental Health Month, when time is dedicated to raising awareness and encouraging agency for men are worrying. Responses to the post varied with important rebuttals to the celebrity's claims being noted: (1) ; (2).

### Dr. Tshepo Motsepe

- On 19 June 2024, Cyril Ramaphosa was inaugurated as South Africa's President for a second term. In attendance with him was the first lady Dr Tshepo Motsepe. An image of them entering the Union buildings circulated where an individual claimed that men should take younger wives because, according to the post, Dr Motsepe looks like the President's mother. This post received over 1,300 comments and more than 6,200 likes.
- Reactions to this post were mixed:
  - On one hand, individuals agreed with the individual with some noting that women age faster than men, and that men should not marry their "age mates": (1), (2), (3).
  - Overwhelmingly on the other hand, the post was labelled as bad taste with some noting that Dr Motsepe deserves respect for her accomplishments and that the focus should not be on age or appearance of women, but the relationship: (1), (2), (3).

## LGBTQI+ Narratives

- It was reported that former president Jacob Zuma made homophobic remarks at a uMkhonto we Sizwe rally, where Zuma stated that “Who made the law that a man can date another man? Who will women be left with?”. In response to a post which claims that Zuma is hated because he is Zulu, one individual responded that they hate him because he is also allegedly a homophobe due to the remarks made at the rally as well as prior statements made. This response received 234 comments and more than 8,100 likes.
  - Many came out in defence of Zuma, questioning the veracity of the claims made and labelled the individual who posted the claims as a homophobe instead, or supporting his stance on the issue: (1), (2), (3).
  - Other individuals supported the claims made, with one claiming that he is a heavy homophobe: (1), (2).
- Researchers further picked up a post with 795 likes and 301 reposts which called out MK Party’s ‘Scrap the Constitution’ policy, with the commentator stating that the Constitution is the reason for abortion rights and gay rights: (1).



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