

# Fighting Back!

## A Pragmatic Consideration Of Policy Implementation At Community Level

Chiedza Chagutah  
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# ABSTRACT

- Disproportionate impact of alcohol on women in consumption value chain.
- Women invisible in the alcohol discourse.

## Key issues

- Licensing and monitoring of alcohol trade.
- Local level interventions.
- Regulation and enforcement.
- Alcohol as a driver of IPV.
- Prioritisation of vulnerable key populations in enforcement.

# INTRODUCTION

- Link between GBV and alcohol is well established.
- Effective regulation ought to consider areas such as; manufacture, wholesale, retail distribution, sale, consumption and advertisement.
- Exploration of ways women can participate in policy making and implementation.

# METHODOLOGY

- Participants convened by Hlanganisa Community Fund and SAAPA-SA.
- Data collected in July & August 2020.
- Five focus group discussions with 90 women across 9 provinces in South Africa.
- All participants are involved in a community-based organisation or grassroots movement.
- All dialogues and individual interviews were conducted virtually.

# FINDINGS

- Absence of alcohol in communities for the first time.
- Motivating factors that fuel consumption of alcohol by both women and men.
- Impact of alcohol on self, relationships and family.
- Unregulated availability of alcohol intersecting with lack of basic services.
- System failures - poverty, unemployment, corruption, police complicity.
- Levels of GBV increased during lockdown period.

# FINDINGS

- Culture, patriarchy and gendered social roles as enablers of violence.
- Definite link between alcohol and violence (intimate partner violence).
- Proliferation of alcohol outlets, some unlicensed.
- None of participants involved in any public processes related to the regulation of alcohol.
- Poor implementation of policies during lockdown.
- The role and capacity of law enforcement agents.
- Weak accountability and enforcement of recommended actions

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Further research on barriers to women's participation in alcohol policy making, mapping strategic entry points.
- Strengthen the protection of vulnerable populations from abuse by those with power.
- Facilitate for local-level multistakeholder platforms.
- Funding of grassroots movements and organisations dealing with 'toxic waste' of alcohol consumption.
- Capacity building aimed at enhancing social accountability through active citizenry.
- Innovative ways of inclusion – leverage on technology.
- Strengthening service points & optimize services for those exposed to harm through abuse of alcohol.

**END**

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