



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND GENDER MATTERS

ON THE

**ANTI-GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B. NO. 18 OF
2026**

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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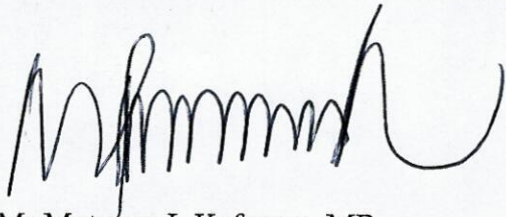
FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on National Guidance and Gender Matters has the honour to present its Report on the Anti-Gender-Based Violence (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 18 of 2026, for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 206 (g) and 207 of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

The Committee held five sittings to consider the Bill. To gain insight into the ramifications of the Bill, the Committee sought both written and oral submissions from various stakeholders. The list of stakeholders is at Appendix II of the Report.

The Report is in three Parts. Part I contains the salient provisions of the Bill. Part II highlights concerns raised by stakeholders, while Part III contains the Committee's observations and recommendations.

The Committee wishes to pay tribute to all stakeholders who appeared before it and tendered both oral and written submissions. It further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it an opportunity to consider the Anti-Gender-Based Violence (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 18 of 2026. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly during its deliberations.



Mr Mutotwe L Kafwaya, MP
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026
LUSAKA

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1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Mr Mutotwe L Kafwaya, MP (Chairperson); Mrs Mirriam Chonya, MP (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Gystave Chonde, MP; Ms Chrizoster P Halwiindi, MP; Ms Brenda Nyirenda, MP; Mr Harry S Kamboni, MP; Mr Mulenga F Fube, MP; Mr Kabwe T Chewe, MP; Mr Bernard Kamengo, MP; and Mr Lufeyo Ngoma, MP.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Anti-Gender-Based Violence (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 18 of 2026, seeks to amend the *Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, Cap. 67 of the Laws of Zambia*, so as to revise the composition of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Committee.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of the Bill is to:

- a) revise the composition of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Committee; and
- b) provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

PART I

3.0 SALIENT PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The provisions of the Bill are as set out hereunder.

Clause 2: Amendment of Section 2

Clause 2 seeks to amend section 2 of the principal Act by revising the composition of the Committee to consist of seven part-time members appointed by the Minister, comprising representatives from the Gender Division, the Attorney-General's Chambers, a non-governmental organisation, two civil society organisations and two persons from the private sector with relevant knowledge and experience. The clause further proposes to amend the quorum requirement by providing that five members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Committee.

PART II

CONCERNS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders who appeared before the Committee supported the Bill. However, in doing so, they raised the concerns outlined below.

i) Duplication of members on the Committee

A concern was raised regarding the representation of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). It was argued that the two groups often champion similar causes, resulting in potential duplication of roles on the Committee. It was proposed that the Bill should streamline this representation by providing for a single, unified category to represent both NGOs and CSOs to avoid duplication, enhance efficiency, and ensure balanced representation of other stakeholder groups.

ii) Inadequate representation by the public sector on the Composition of the Committee

Some stakeholders were concerned that the composition of the Committee was dominated by representatives from civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, and the

private sector. They contended that this imbalance in representation towards civil society organisations at the exclusion of the public sector and statutory bodies had the potential to undermine inclusivity, objectivity, and the diversity of perspectives required for effective deliberations and decision-making.

They, therefore, suggested that the public sector and statutory bodies be included in the Committee to ensure broader representation, enhance institutional balance, and strengthen the effectiveness of the Committee's work.

iii) Adequate Representation in Decision-Making

Some stakeholders submitted that while the Bill provided for a fixed quorum of five members, the more critical issue was whether those present adequately represented the diversity of stakeholder interests and expertise on the Committee. They argued that a quorum, in itself, did not guarantee balanced decision-making if key stakeholder groups were not represented among the members present.

It was, therefore, proposed that the Bill should provide for the inclusion of representatives from key stakeholder categories during meetings, in order to enhance inclusivity, credibility, and the quality of the Committee's deliberations.

iv) Strict Gender Parity

Some stakeholders submitted that in its current form, the Bill does not provide for 50/50 gender representation. They contended that this could pose a challenge, particularly if most of the organisations represented on the Committee were male dominated thereby undermining gender balance and inclusivity.

PART III

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee makes the observations and recommendations outlined below.

i) Duplication of members on the Committee

The Committee observes that the separate representation of NGOs and CSOs may lead to duplication of roles, as the two categories often champion similar causes, thereby affecting efficiency and balanced stakeholder representation.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Bill should be amended to provide for a single, unified category to represent both NGOs and CSOs to avoid duplication, enhance efficiency, and ensure balanced stakeholder representation.

ii) Inadequate Provision on the Composition of the Committee

The Committee observes that, while clause 2 of the Bill provides for the constitution of the Committee, its composition does not comprehensively cover the required balance of stakeholder representation.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the composition of the Committee should be reconstituted under clause 2 to ensure balanced representation of all relevant stakeholder groups. These should include public sector institutions such as the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit and statutory bodies such as the Human Rights Commission. This will enhance inclusivity, accountability, and effective functioning of the Committee.

iii) Adequate Representation in Decision-Making

The Committee observes that the Bill does not adequately provide for the representation of key stakeholder groups during the Committee's meetings, which may undermine the inclusivity and balance required for effective decision-making. The Committee is of the view that ensuring the presence of diverse stakeholder interests is essential to enhancing the credibility and quality of the Committee's deliberations.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Bill should be amended to provide for the inclusion and participation of representatives from key stakeholder categories during meetings, so as to ensure balanced representation, enhance inclusivity, and promote informed and credible decision-making.

iv) Strict Gender Parity

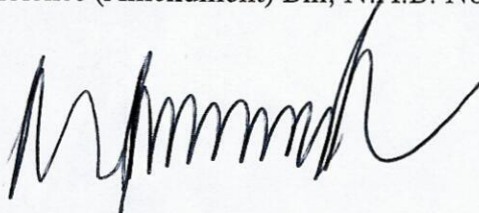
The Committee observes that the absence of an explicit provision for gender parity in the composition of the Committee may result in unequal representation and limit the diversity necessary for effective deliberations and decision-making.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Bill should be amended to provide for a 50/50 gender representation in the composition of the Committee to promote equality, enhance inclusivity, and ensure balanced participation in its deliberations and decision-making processes.

CONCLUSION

The proposed amendments to the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, Cap 67 of the Laws of Zambia are progressive. However, the concerns highlighted in the report must be addressed to enhance governance, strengthen institutional coordination, and improve the effectiveness of Gender Based Violence prevention and response mechanisms.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee supports the enactment of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 18 of 2026, into law.



Mr Mutotwe L Kafwaya, MP
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I - List of National Assembly Officials

Mr Charles Hamboote, Director (Social Committees)
Mrs Chitalu C Mumba, Deputy Director (Social Committees)
Ms Chitalu R Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk (FC2)
Ms Carol Ndoti, Committee Clerk
Ms Vivian Macho, Administrative Assistant
Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant
Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II - List of Witnesses

Network on Ending Child Marriage in Zambia
Office of the President, Gender Division
Ministry of Justice
Non-Governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council
Zambia Council for Social Development
Zambia Law Development Commission