

The first campaign event, which was held at MUT's Anniversary Lane on the main campus between 12h00 and 13h00, focused on filling the knowledge gap on GBV, reporting cases to the police, and identifying what kind of evidence would be required from the person reporting. The event, which was themed "You are not forgotten", saw Anniversary Lane transformed into a memorial lane with pictures of victims of GBV on either side of the walkway.

The second session, themed "In her shoes", required participants to wear women's shoes or bring a pair. This session, held on Thursday, 20 February, took place at the Natural Sciences Campus on account of bad weather conditions making it impossible to use Anniversary Lane. Facilitated by MUT Events Coordinator, Jade Mthiyane, the session created a platform for staff and students to discuss how GBV impacts their lives, while others opened up about their experience of surviving GBV. To get the audience talking, Mthiyane carefully detailed various incidences and invited a panel of speakers to comment on cases as a starting point for discussions. Students and staff were quick to seize the opportunity and talk about the issues they face.

"We wanted to create a space where staff and students felt comfortable to talk about these issues without fear of being judged. We are also cognizant of the fact that many of our students come from homes where discussions about abuse, and sexual abuse in particular, are not encouraged," said Mthiyane. "It was fulfilling to see how participants embraced the opportunity we have created and were participating fully. The fact that we had a diversity of panellists who have extensive experience in various sections of GBV made the discussions richer."

The third session was devoted to tackling GBV from the perspective of members of the LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex) community. For this session, members of the LGBTQI shared their struggles with an audience that filled up the Anniversary Lane on Thursday, 27 February.

Leticia Sishi, Miss Gay Durban, and a Durban University of Technology Public Relations student, emphasised the importance of having the correct knowledge about the LGBTQI community. Sishi also highlighted some of the aggressive actions directed at LGBTQI people: "You get killed for who and what you are. GBV has been with us for a long time. But it's getting worse." Sishi, a transgender woman, once had



MUT Clinic's Gebi Nkosi addressing students at the Faculty of Natural Sciences

- ◆ *"Universities as knowledge*
- ◆ *leaders in our society have an*
- ◆ *important role to play in raising awareness and equipping staff and students with the necessary information to bring GBV perpetrators to book."*

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a gun pointed at her because of her sexuality. Sishi explained that members of the LGBTQI community do not owe anyone an explanation. "All you need from other people is respect," she said.

After all this internal campaigning, it was now time to take the "Black Thursday against GBV" campaign outside MUT to the streets of Umlazi Township. This was done through a silent protest on Thursday, 5 March. MUT students in all-black attire and tape over their mouths, in solidarity with the eight out of nine victims of abuse who are unable to report their cases, took the campaign to the traffic lights in Umlazi's V Section and Megacity. The campaign capitalised on the lunch hour traffic, raising awareness among passing motorists.

"The war against GBV is far from over. The statistics on reported cases are scary," said Mkhize. "The University will continue to raise awareness and do its part in fighting the scourge."