



# Empowering Victims of Gender-Based Violence to Establish Their Independence

South Africa suffers from some of the highest gender-based violence in the world. In the Johannesburg township of Diepsloot, 2016 research revealed that 56% of men surveyed admitted to committing acts of physical or sexual violence, but only 9% of these abuse cases go to trial.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the failures of the justice system to address gender-based violence, many victims and their families are reliant on their abusers for financial support.

## SITUATION

To address these issues by providing legal and psychological support to the victims of gender-based violence, the local nonprofit [Lawyers Against Abuse](#) (“LvA”) set up its home office in Diepsloot. In order to best serve the community, LvA partnered with FTI Consulting professionals to develop various training modules on soft skills for supporting victims of abuse. Led by women in the Forensic and Litigation Consulting and Strategic Communications segments, the workshops intended to empower women to gain financial independence by securing employment or starting their own businesses.

## OUR ROLE

- FTI Consulting professionals hosted a range of workshops throughout 2021 and 2022 that addressed critical topics like CV writing, interviewing, workplace rights, financial management and small business development.
- Professionals in the Strategic Communications segment helped LvA obtain a critical digital advertising grant to increase visibility online for potential funders and women in need.
- FTI Consulting professionals continue to dedicate pro bono time to managing and supporting LvA's digital advertising grant.

*“We have a responsibility to make a meaningful contribution to the communities we serve and operate in, and it is a wonderful privilege for our FTI Consulting colleagues to engage in pro bono work. Not only does it instill excitement amongst our employees and motivation through a sense of purpose, but it is also a way to provide highly skilled expertise and top-rated services to areas that really need it. Our work with LvA gives us a sense of purpose and a sense that we are contributing to the greater good in the fight against gender-based violence in South Africa.”*

*Busi Skosana, Senior Consultant, Forensic and Litigation Consulting*

## OUR IMPACT



To date, FTI Consulting professionals have contributed more than 100 hours of pro bono services.



As a result of the two training sessions, three participants secured employment, two participants started their own business and one participant was able to take a workplace dispute to labor court.



Through the digital advertising support, LvA's website has achieved 31,600 impressions and 1,300 clicks. This traffic has generated the equivalent of more than USD\$2,000 in advertising.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lva.org.za/the-problem/>

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