



4 February 2020

To whom it may concern,

Response to the Department of Justice, Evidence Amendment Bill 2020

Engender Equality is pleased to see the draft Evidence Amendment Bill 2020 allows for the publication of identifying information about a victim of sexual crimes. It is critical that people who have experienced sexual assault are able to represent themselves and their experiences as they choose.

The critique that Engender Equality offers in regards to the Amendment Bill is that its wording is very hard to read and interpret. It misses an opportunity to educate and guide people who have experienced sexual assault.

Engender Equality asks that mechanisms be put in place to make the meaning and the content of the law accessible to people who have experienced sexual assault as well as the bodies who are able to publish identifying information about sexual assault survivors and the support organisations and individuals who work with sexual assault survivors.

Engender Equality highlights the role of the law as an educative and guiding tool that sets and reinforces community standards. As such the law needs to be accessible to all members of the society it is written for.

Yours sincerely,

Alina Thomas
CEO