

Keeping Justice in the Public Eye

GlobalGiving Project #72638 | Help MDNtv Fight for GBV Survivors' Justice

Progress Report - October 2026

Across South Africa, court cases involving gender-based violence continue to remind us why responsible courtroom journalism matters. Since launching this project, MDNtv has continued its commitment to covering the justice system and helping communities understand what happens inside courtrooms.

Our commitment remains simple: survivors should be treated with dignity, identities should be protected where required, and court proceedings should be reported accurately rather than sensationalised. This remains at the centre of the project.

Justice can take months or even years. For survivors and their families, this can mean repeated court appearances, postponements, complicated legal arguments and long periods of uncertainty. For the public, the legal process can also be difficult to understand.

This is where responsible journalism can make a difference. Our journalists work to translate complicated proceedings into reporting ordinary people can understand while respecting the dignity of those at the centre of these cases.

The project was designed not simply to report individual hearings, but to increase understanding of legal rights, strengthen transparency and contribute to greater accountability.

Our biggest challenge remains resources. GlobalGiving currently reflects only \$36 raised toward our \$150,000 goal. Yet the need for this work has not disappeared.

Court coverage requires journalists to travel to hearings, sometimes repeatedly as matters are postponed or continue over several days. Teams need reliable transport, communication tools, recording equipment and editorial support. These practical needs remain central to our ability to expand responsible GBV court reporting.

With limited funding, expansion is difficult. But we remain committed to the mission.

Our next goal is to strengthen this work by expanding our ability to deploy trained journalists to courts, improve legal and court reporting skills, increase the geographical reach of our coverage and make complex court proceedings easier for communities to understand.

We also want to continue developing a newsroom culture in which the pursuit of a powerful story never comes at the expense of a survivor's dignity.

To the donors who have already supported this project: thank you. The amount raised may appear small beside the size of the challenge, but your contribution tells us something important: someone believes this work matters.

We are asking more people to stand with us. A survivor's story should not disappear simply because a courtroom is far away, a case takes too long, or a newsroom cannot afford to send a reporter.

Justice deserves witnesses. Survivors deserve dignity. Communities deserve to know. Together, we can help keep justice in the public eye.