



**Sonke Gender
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HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality, Human Rights

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Press Statement: Sonke Calls on COSATU To Proceed Fairly - Remove Complainant's Name From Website

Sonke Gender Justice notes with concern media reports over the weekend, in which the Secretary General of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (COSATU) has been accused of rape by an employee of the organisation.

As in all cases where sexual violence may be involved, we note that media and institutional ethics are key. We are deeply concerned that the name of the complainant has been released to the media - and that the source of this release was COSATU itself. As of today - 29th July, Mr Vavi's statement - containing the complainant's name - remains on the COSATU website.

We urge the union to redact her name from the organisation's website. Whereas the name of COSATU employee alleging rape is already in the public domain, we think this important symbolic gesture would demonstrate the union's commitment to fighting gender based violence.

We are further concerned that a number of media outlets have also repeated the name of the COSATU employee alleging rape, despite the fact that this is not permissible in terms of the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) Media Ethics Code.

We are also mindful that the issues reported in the media cannot provide the basis for any conclusions about the guilt or innocence of any party. As an organisation committed to gender justice, we call for the speedy and fair resolution of this matter, and an appropriate handling of the case by COSATU, the media and the police.

For more information, or further comment, please contact:

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