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UCT Chancellor urges everyone to pledge to take action against Gender-Based Violence

The University of Cape Town Chancellor Mrs Graça Machel has urged everyone to pledge to take action to ensure that South Africa is a safe country for women and children.

Speaking at the memorial service of the late Uyinene Mrwetyana on Wednesday, Mrs Machel expressed the collective pain experienced by all across campus following the passing of the first-year film and media studies student.

"I stand here as a grandmother to Uyinene. A grandmother in pain. And I can see, and feel, in every one of us here there's so much pain. We are all wounded. Some of us are extremely angry, others are confused, others are asking questions. One thing is common – we all are in pain. This child has left us and... she took a little bit of each one of us. It's not only pain, it's not only anger, it is also a sense of loss and of feeling that we are no longer who we were before she was taken from us," she said.

Mrs Machel urged everyone to pledge to do something to make this country a safe place.

"Uyinene was not abducted in the campus. She was at the Post Office. She could have been in a mall, she could have been simply walking, she could have been anywhere in public space or even in private space. Our reality is we are a society where women – and children by the way – are not safe anywhere. Something absolutely deeply wrong is happening in our society. Yes, the university will take all the measures to ensure that all students and faculty – everyone at the university – is safe. We will do that, it's our responsibility. Yes, the [deputy] minister was saying we will do everything we can as government, and as police, and the judges, etc. But the problem is not the consequences of that's happening – it's the root cause of why and how we got to the point where we are as a society," said Mrs Machel.

[Watch the full video.](#)

[Download the video.](#)

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