Project proposal

GBV Reporting App

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Problem domain

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a widespread and detrimental problem in South Africa that affects people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. It includes things like physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse, and usually happens in relationships, families, work, or public places. South Africa has one of the highest rates of GBV in the world, with daily reports of attacks, harassment, and femicide making the news and showing up in national statistics.

Despite the high occurrence, GBV is very underreported. In many cases, it is hard for survivors to report the crime due to a number of barriers, such as:

* Fear of retaliation from the abuser, with power and proximity playing a significant part.
* Shame and stigma, with victims keeping quiet because they fear being condemned by society.
* Distrust in police and judiciary systems, as a result of delayed case resolution, insensitivity, or corruption.
* Geographical isolation, especially in rural areas where police stations and refuges are a distance away.
* Lack of knowledge on the support services provided.
* Conventional reporting mechanisms — e.g., physically going to a police station or dialling a helpline — are typically unavailable, not safe, or inconvenient during emergencies. Further, systems in place rarely ensure opportunities for anonymous and safe reporting, leaving survivors at risk and afraid to report.
* Existing reporting system, such as the police or helplines, are usually unsafe, unavailable, or inconvenient in times of urgency. There is also the aspect of systems in place being careless with the anonymity of the survivor – leaving them feeling at risk and not reporting the crime.

This means that we indeed require a safe, confidential, and friendly online platform where people can make reports of GBV incidents without intimidation or fear. This kind of system would assure anonymity and safety but would also:

* Allow real-time reporting of cases using GPS tagging to map out high-risk areas.
* Give immediate access to support infrastructure, including legal assistance, refuges, health clinics, and helplines.
* Form recommendations based on data to help legal professionals understand GBV and its trends, enabling them to provide better services.
* Offer consensual follow-ups or case tracking to bridge the gap between survivors and services.

This project would be able to aid problems in already existing GBV reporting systems, using a mobile first approach with end-to-end encryption which would enable more cases to be reported and a safer, more private way to access aid. The nature of project is very important because it addresses a serious issue that needs careful attention in both its design and technology.

Proposed solution

The proposed solution is a GBV reporting mobile platform designed to enable anonymous, secure, and accessible reporting of gender-based violence incidents in South Africa. The application will utilize modern mobile technologies and robust security measures to address the shortcomings of existing reporting systems.

The platform will enable users, including survivors and witnesses, to log incidents anonymously using end-to-end data encryption. Reports will include optional GPS location tagging. This will allow for the real-time mapping of high-risk areas. The platform will also supply users with immediate access to a resource directory that lists shelters, legal aid providers, helplines, and health clinics.

The system will provide optional user accounts with case tracking and secure two-way communication with verified support professionals for the purpose of improving accountability and case follow-ups. Anonymous data will be used to generate analytics dashboards for NGOs, policymakers, and law enforcement. This will help identify GBV trends and allocate resources effectively.

This system will be mobile based for primary access, with a supporting web dashboard for administrative and analytical functions. Key technologies will include:

* Frontend: React Native
* Backend: Node.js
* Database: MySQL
* Security: CryptoJS
* APIs: Google Maps API for GPS-based location tagging and mapping

Key screens and functions will include:

* Login/Registration (optional for anonymous users – ‘Guest Login’)
* GPS Location Tagging
* Access to Support Services (directory with search and filter)
* Case Tracking
* Offline-first capability
* Incident Reporting Form
* Stealth mode UI
* Multilingual Support
* Incident Reporting Form
* Help and Guidance section for user assistance
* Setting and Privacy options.
* Analytics Dashboard for admin

This system aims to empower survivors and witnesses with an accessible, confidential, and safe way to report GBV, bridging the gap between crisis and support.