

## Monthly Archives: October 2012

# TEARS Programme

Development of **A NATIONALLY ACCESSIBLE HELP AND SUPPORT NETWORK** for survivors of rape and sexual abuse

*The terms "victims" and "survivors" are interchangeable as referred to in the following document.*

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### Program Objective

**In South Africa, someone is raped every 17 seconds.**

Rape and Sexual Abuse is a worldwide epidemic, but South Africa boasts the shameful honour of having the highest statistics in the world. Every day, hundreds of men, women and children suffer some form of sexual abuse or violence, with little or no recourse due to lack of resources, social stigma and ignorance.

### TEARS Program

Our program seeks to address this by creating a comprehensive directory and information portal that will specialize in data collection and referrals to related health and welfare support services. It will provide information and advice for survivors and their families, links to stories of survivors, legal advice etc. These resources will initially be available online through a web and mobi-site. However, we aim to expand this product range over time to include a 24hour hotline manned by specially trained counsellors, and a complete and comprehensive data-based network of safe places for support, medical, legal, psychological services, counselling etc, for referral. Should we receive sufficient funding, our aim is to present educational material in the vernacular languages, in the form of simple, clear animated video clips, for ease of understanding by all sectors of the population.

In a nutshell, our aim is to be the conduit between the survivors of rape and sexual abuse and a place where they will receive treatment, support and counselling, as well as assistance with all legal procedures (from the initial report to the police through all subsequent legalities to final resolution), in a non-threatening, supportive environment.

Secondly, we hope to make a meaningful difference in helping to transform social values and norms, by increasing awareness through media campaigns and educational school programmes. We will strive to create a culture where sexuality, and the right to choose if, and when, to have intimate relations with another person, is treated with dignity and respect.

*We have branded our programme with the acronym "TEARS" – Transform Education About Rape and Sexual Abuse. We have originated a logo, based on the image of a teardrop, a symbol of weeping for the violence and degradation suffered by rape survivors, but also a symbol of cleansing, healing and ultimately hope.*

The international symbol of breast cancer awareness is a perfect example of what we hope to achieve. <http://www.pinkribbon.com> Like the pink cancer ribbon, we envisage the teardrop becoming an international symbol that people will embrace in solidarity against rape and sexual abuse. We will create lapel pins, jewellery and other items that people can buy and wear to show their support and help to raise funds and awareness for this growing international human rights violation.

## **Business as a Force for Good**

The influence of corporate funding is recognized now more than ever as having a major positive impact on society. Given the political history of our country and the youth of our democracy, corporate social responsibility plays an even more vital role in helping to improve the lives of South Africans.

In turn, a healthy society creates a healthy environment for economic growth, making Corporate Social Investment a sound business strategy. The TEARS project will provide life-changing assistance not only to rape survivors, but also to their families and communities, and it is these communities who are the life-blood of the future economy of South Africa.

**Mara Glennie says,** *"My motivation comes from a deeply personal space. I myself was a survivor of violence and tried to report it at the Randburg Police Station. I was told to come back on a Monday between 8.00 and 16.00. It was 18.00, Friday! I felt helpless and desperate and did not know where to turn. The memory of that feeling has never left me. "*

Each of the women involved in this initiative or someone close to them, has had their own experience, and understands how it feels to be powerless and hopeless. Rape/Sexual Assault survivors need understanding and counselling in order to recover. They also need to be able to report such acts of violence and heal from them in an environment that is non-threatening. While it is unrealistic to believe we can eradicate this type of violence completely, by **increasing awareness** we hope to significantly reduce it, and at the very least, with your help, provide the resources to ensure that future sons and daughters of South Africa will never have to feel the same desperate sense of isolation and

abandonment along with the inescapable physical, psychological and emotional ravages of such a trauma.

## Evidence of Need

It is estimated that ***a woman born in South Africa has a greater chance of being raped than learning to read***, but Rape is neither gender nor age specific. According to a survey carried out in

1 200 schools across the country, and published in BioMed Central's International Journal for Equity in Health, two out of five male South African learners say they have been raped.

A series of high profile baby rapes in recent years has highlighted the fact that the greatest increase in sexual violence has been against infants and children under the age of seven. The case of an 8-month-old infant, reportedly gang raped by four men, is one of many. Only one of the men has ever been charged. While infant rape cases such as these have shone a spotlight on the need for increased prosecution, there is still a dearth of information and specialist support services for women, men and children trying to recover from the devastation of sexual assault.

In a survey conducted among 1,500 schoolchildren in Johannesburg's Soweto township, a quarter of all the boys interviewed said that *'jackrolling'*, a term for gang rape, was fun. There is increasing recognition of links between sexual abuse and high-risk attitudes to sexual violence and exposure to HIV, compounding the existing problem and hampering efforts to combat the spread of AIDS in a country at the very centre of the global pandemic.

As the problem of teenage and date rape escalates worldwide, the British Government has launched a hard-hitting campaign in March 2012 targeting young adults, highlighting awareness and prevention.

According to police statistics released in recent weeks, (published in "The Times" Sept. 21, 2012) 64 514 rapes were reported in South Africa last year. We know that rape is grossly under-reported. It is estimated that 1 in 25 cases is actually reported to the police. Talking to people on the ground, as we have during our research, we realize that these numbers of sexual assaults *could be as much as 10 times higher*. We estimate that there are between 5 and 10 million sexual crimes in South Africa each year. The perpetrator is often a family member or someone known to the victim. 97% of rapists will never see a day in jail and will go on to rape again and again and again" *unless we do something to change this now*.

## Who will we help?

Sexual Violence does not discriminate, affecting children and adults from all walks of life. There is no doubt however, that where economic hardship and lack of education exist, it is all the more prevalent.

By far the largest segment of the population in South Africa falls into this category (9 144 000 households have an average monthly income of R2 800), with many living in under-developed township and rural areas (JLL South Africa Socio-Economic Survey 2011).

According to *The South African demographic and health survey (SADHS)* conducted by the Medical Research Council and the Department of Health, as a proportion of all rapes reported by women to the police, the demographic breakdown is as follows:

- **African: 66.7%**
- **Coloured: 19.5%**
- **White: 11.4%**
- **Indian: 2.3%**

**Awareness and education are the best ways to prevent rape.** However, we face the challenge that the very people most in need are the ones hardest to reach through traditional media. We have come up with an integrated media system in order to address this.

## Multi-Platformed Website and Integrated Media

Through strategic use of an integrated media system, utilizing a website and mobile phone applications which will include a USSD interface and a mobi-site, in addition to other more traditional media, we believe that we will be able to reach a far wider and more targeted audience, including those previously inaccessible to us.

USSD is Unstructured Supplementary Service Data. This interface is available on mobile phones making this an essential product focus area for the TEARS project. It is therefore not surprising that in South Africa, more websites are accessed via mobile phone than computers. South Africa has one of the highest uses of mobile phone per capita in the world, with deep penetration into the lower income sectors of the population. In fact, low income sectors make up the highest proportion of cell phone users in the country, especially in respect of SMS, "please call me's" and internet/e-mail usage.

The TEARS mobile platform will be fully interactive, meaning that not only will we be able to tailor communications to our target audiences, in their own languages; we can also collect specific information and data. This gives us a powerful reporting tool in order to monitor and evaluate our effectiveness as well as provide on-going research to help us create better and more effective ways of helping those in need.

## Some interesting facts about Mobile in South Africa:

- There are more mobile phone in SA than Taxis + TV's + Radios combined

- 84% of the population has access to cell phones
- 80% of the population will have smart phones by 2016
- SA is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the world for mobile data usage (1<sup>st</sup> is Russia, 7<sup>th</sup> is USA)
- In 2009 there were 2.8billion "please call me's" (USSD)

### Benefits of Mobile linked to website:

- High penetration equals maximum accessibility
- There are 3 tiers of mobile internet access locally (approximate figures): 3 million have full web access, 11 million have access through Apps (Mixit, e-mail etc), 13 million have access through WAP
- Cost effective (for user and organization)
- Mobile can play an integral role in profiling users by location, gender and language
- Mobile can help in measuring the effectiveness of selected media and the traction of a campaign
- Mobile can be integrated with any traditional media
- Brands can generate interaction with audiences across any mobile handset or platform to address any communications objectives

Our mobile media partners have worked closely with Mara Glennie for more than two decades. In recent years they have pioneered the move towards mobile marketing, winning numerous international awards along the way for their ground-breaking mobile campaigns.

There is currently no consolidated database of this nature in South Africa. The little information available is scattered and hard to come by. Accuracy, constant monitoring and on-going updates are vital.

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## Recovering from Sexual Assault

### UNDERSTANDING RECOVERY

For most survivors, rape is probably the most traumatic event to ever touch their life. How you react and recover will be dependent upon many factors including: the relationship between you and the perpetrator, the level of violence and time duration of the attack, other life crisis experiences, your support system, your self-esteem, and your ability to ask for, and receive, appropriate professional help.

Recovery does not mean that you forget what happened. Instead, recovery is being able to understand and believe that the victimization was not your fault. Recovery is accepting the reality of what has happened, while moving beyond the immobilizing emotions which can dominate your thoughts, words, and actions. If no one has ever told you before, you need to know and believe the following statement: "A survivor of rape or sexual abuse will probably never fully forget what happened" . However, survivors can and do recover. The process of recovery can be confusing and painful. Throughout the process, remember that recovery can be a powerful and positive step in your life.

All crisis events effect your emotions. Emotional memories NEVER just "go away." Therefore, your first step in recovery is to admit to yourself that you may be living with some aspects of the attack forever. The good news is that through recovery you CAN grow and become stronger. You can resume your same lifestyle. You can regain control over your thoughts, memories, and feelings. Recovery begins at different times for each survivor, but a general statement would be that recovery begins the moment that a person chooses to begin the process involved in taking control back from the perpetrator. For some, recovery may begin moments following the attack while others may not begin the process until years later. There is NO normal time line for recovery, everyone is different, and every person should be able to move through the recovery process at their own pace and without pressure or judgments.

Recovery involves time, strength, and courage. Recovery is believing in your future goals and your day to day achievements. Recovery means celebrating the "positive" aspects of your life. Recovery is being able to enjoy sleeping, eating, and sexual pleasures as you did before the assault. Recovery is being able to trust and believe in your choices and own judgments. The road to recovery can be long and emotional. You may at times want to quit the fight. You may want to bottle everything up inside or stop going to counselling or your support group. Please be patient with yourself.

Remember that no one is born with the knowledge needed for recovery. You must learn by working either with someone who knows or by trial and error on your own. Whatever you choose, be gentle and understanding with yourself. Know that recovery takes time and persistence. Recovery takes commitment. The decision to begin a recovery process will be one of the most important decisions you ever make. Please remember that you will be better able to deal with this process through the acceptance, support, and comfort of friends and/or family members. Counsellors and other community professionals can also be of great benefit throughout the days, months, and even years following the assault. Talking to someone who will listen, support you, and offer other information will help you far more than remaining alone and silent. Allow people to help you. Believe in your goodness and your strengths. Look to the future with hope.

## **WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?**

You are probably wondering why this happened. Let us start with this fact: It was NOT because of anything you did or said. You did not deserve it and you did not "ask for it". The act of rape is the responsibility of the rapist. Why, then? Why do men rape? As you can probably guess, there is not one clear answer. Rape is an act of violence. For some men, it is a way to humiliate, to gain power and control over someone, to express rage or hatred. For some, it may be a way of getting back at women for a perceived wrong, a way of getting revenge.

Men who rape come from every social class, occupation, background, race, religion, and region. Over 80% of the time, a woman knows or has seen the man who raped her. Most rapists appear to be perfectly normal men. Some men who rape are often found to have been sexually abused or traumatized themselves as children. For some, violence is a behaviour that they learned from their parents. One very common factor among sex offenders is that they tend to have very low self-esteem. They are insecure about their masculinity and feel that they have to prove themselves.

Another common factor is that they seldom take responsibility for their violent actions. They tend to blame the victim and often contribute to her feeling of guilt, while feeling very little guilt himself. Rapists have much to gain by perpetuating the lie that the victim is responsible.

## **FEELINGS AND REACTIONS**

It is our belief that anyone who has lived through a sexual assault, or attempted sexual assault, deserves to be called a survivor of the crime. A rape or sexual assault can be compared to a life-threatening situation. Every person would respond differently if his or her life were threatened. In addition, every survivor of rape reacts differently. Every survivor will feel, respond, and recover in unique ways. The following is a list of general feelings that some survivors may experience:

**DENIAL:** Wanting to believe that the assault never really happened. That there is no reason for anyone to talk about it, and that somehow it will all "just go away."

**POWERLESSNESS:** Feeling that someone has taken away all control in your life. Having little or no say over anything around you. Feeling that something has invaded your personal space.

**HELPLESSNESS:** A loss of all self-reliance. Feeling incompetent and having a need to depend on others.

**LONELINESS:** The feeling of being alone, even in the company of others. No one else could ever understand or feel what you are feeling. Wondering if you are the only person in the world who has ever been victimized.

**GUILT:** Wanting to believe that "this could have been avoided if only I would have done..." . "This would not have happened if I would have..." These feelings stem from the belief that it is the victim's fault that the assault occurred, that "I should have known better".

**SHOCK:** Numbness may first set in, causing a survivor to feel calm and unable to cry. This can be normal and feelings will surface slowly as you find the strength to deal with the reality of the rape.

**ANGER:** This may be directed at yourself, the assailant, friends, or relatives who do not understand the sexual assault experience. Survivors and family members often vent their anger towards hospital personnel, social workers, police officers, crisis centre volunteers, detectives, or the complex legal system. Anger must come out and should be channelled appropriately, but this often takes time to understand.

**FEAR:** The survivor may experience fears from many things: the fear of being assaulted again, people finding out, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, men, all people, physical contact, nightmares, being alone, or being with others. The fears are as varied as the survivors are.

**DEPRESSION:** This is more than a "mood" of sadness. The depression may be strong enough to immobilize the survivor. Some signs of depression may be abnormal sleep patterns, change in eating habits, inability to maintain responsibilities (i.e. job, family, self-care), lack of concentration, and general lack of energy. Depression can cause some assault survivors to have stomach pains, loose hair, feel constantly tired, totally hopeless and all alone. It is important to know that other people can help you and will support you. It is very important to remember that depression can come and go for many months following the attack

**ANXIETY:** Great amounts of anxiety can cause a survivor to panic, even in safe surroundings. Feelings may surface of being crowded, rushed, unable to make decisions and unable to "take one day or one step at a time" . Reactions may cause a person to want to be alone, while at the same time feeling fearful of being alone. Survivors may have breathing difficulties, feel nauseated, and possibly experience nightmares. During these anxiety-filled times, a survivor needs to take a deep breath, think slowly, and plan only the next fifteen or twenty minutes. Anxiety will lessen if a person can rationally think through or talk about the immediate feelings or fear.

**EMBARRASSMENT:** The survivor may be embarrassed to discuss the physical details of the assault. Our bodies and sexual activity have always been regarded as private. The rapist has violated that privacy. Telling anyone at all about the attack, including medical personnel and law enforcement, may be difficult for the survivor.

**LOSS OF CONTROL:** The rapist has forced the survivor to submit to something that she did not want to do. Since the rapist overcame her resistance by force or fear, the survivor may no longer feel sure of anything about herself or her self-determination. Sometimes even small decisions, such as what to have for breakfast, may become difficult decisions.

**SHAME:** The destruction of self-respect, the deliberate efforts by the attacker to cause the survivor to feel dirty and disgusting, may cause feelings of shame. Society's attitudes toward sex and different sexual acts are all reflected in these feelings of shame. The survivor who feels violated need not feel ashamed where no choice was involved.

All survivors have experienced a trauma, a crisis. Some survivors will blame themselves and become depressed. Some will want to be alone. Some will want to be in the company of others. Some may feel in constant danger and a need to be protected by others. Many of these feelings will cause a decrease in self-esteem, a feeling of worthlessness.

It is during this time that survivors must remember that they did nothing to provoke the attack. They are not responsible for the actions of the assailant. Nor, are they responsible for the reactions of friends, relatives and others who may, or may not, support them. Survivors must realize that they may never completely "forget" the attack. They must also realize that they can learn to live with the incident as a part of their past. People who have been victimized are much more than "survivors" , they are the same people they were before the attack and they can become self-confident and self-reliant again. The victimization will definitely affect their life. There will be changes. However, it is important to understand that although the victimization will always be a part of their life, they can work on putting the experience in a manageable light and, with the support of others, go on.

## **STAGES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS**

Crisis Stage

Shock and denial, strong emotions, no emotions,  
fear, physical reactions

Denial Stage

Minimize effects, make major life changes,  
turn to harmful things

Suffering Stage

Depression, no sense of security or control,  
anger, guilt, shame, flashbacks

Resolution Stage

Integration of sexual assault, move from victim to survivor

Not everyone goes through these stages at the same pace or in the some order. It is common for survivors to vary in their experience of these stages

## **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

It is our hope that this site will support you, in some way, throughout your recovery process. Please remember the information that we have presented is very general. Your life, your victimization, and your recovery will be very personal and individual. Do not expect to think, feel, or act as other people tell you that you should. Do not expect to feel the exact feelings of any other rape survivor. You are an individual and will move through stages and feelings at your own pace and when you are ready. If you are a co-survivor, do not allow yourself or others to tell you that you are only a co-survivor. Stages of recovery are not unique only to the survivor; loved ones also need and deserve support and patience. The events that have touched your life are dramatic, emotional, and will probably be very confusing and painful. You are only human and therefore, should not try to "handle" everything alone. Unfortunately, thousands of individuals and families are victimized each year. You may feel very isolated and alone but there are agencies and organizations ready and able to help you and your loved ones.

Although this may seem like a very difficult time to think about family and friends, you should try to develop or identify your support network. Which members of your family or friends can you talk with and trust? Do you have friends, co-workers or significant others in your life to whom you can turn with safety and confidence? Think about the people who love you. They probably want to help but do not know how. Recovery will be an ongoing part of your life and if you can identify people who will share in the process, it can seem somewhat easier. If you truly do not want to confide in a family member or friend, that is fine. That is your decision. However, you still need a support network. The TEARS website has a 24-hour crisis line with victim advocates who are prepared to answer your questions or give you information regarding service agencies within the community. As feelings and emotions surface, use your support network. You may want to read and re-read sections of this website or you can go to the library or local bookstore to find other supportive material. Share this information with your support network.

No one will ever know exactly what you experienced or what you are now feeling. No one should try to tell you they know what you are going through. You are the only one who fully understands the thoughts and emotions through which you must now sort. Other people do not need to feel for you or think for you, they only need to listen and offer support. Although you will do the work involved in your recovery process, you should not hesitate to use others for help, support, and honest caring. Do not try to get through this by yourself.

**Remember that you are not alone.**

## **Reporting the Crime to the Police**

*64 514 Rapes reported to police in South Africa last year*

Abusers frequently seek to control their partners by actively interfering with their ability to work, including preventing their partners from going to work, harassing their partners work, limiting the access of their partners to cash or transportation, and sabotaging the child care arrangements of their partners.

### **What to do if someone has raped you.**

#### **Straight after the rape**

Many women blame themselves after someone has raped or sexually assaulted them. Some of the people who you tell your story to might believe the same thing. However we believe that you are not to blame. It is the rapist who is wrong and who has in fact committed a violent crime. Male rape survivors don't tend to blame themselves as much but have other fears not shared by women.

#### **Checklist of steps to take after being raped:**

**a.**Go to a safe place as soon as possible.

**b.**Tell the first person you see and trust about what has happened. The first person you tell is sometimes asked to go to court to support your story – this person is referred to as the first contact witness. If the person you tell is a stranger, write down or try and remember their name and address. This is important if you decide to report the rape so that the police can find them and talk to them.

**c.**If you are badly hurt go straight to a hospital or a doctor. They can call the police to the hospital if you want to report what has happened to you. The police can also take you to a hospital if you are hurt, or you can summon an ambulance.

**d.** If you are not HIV+ and fear that you have been exposed to HIV, you need to receive medical attention within 72 hours (3 days) of exposure. Some studies show that you are better protected if you receive PEPs (antiretrovirals used to prevent HIV infection) within 6 to 8 hours of exposure, so the sooner you receive medical attention the better.

**e.**If you were drunk at the time of the rape, don't let this stop you from reporting the matter to the police or from getting medical treatment "" being drunk is not a crime; rape is. Remember that the law says that you can't give consent if you're drunk.

**f.**Decide whether you want to report the attack to the police. You may not feel like making this decision so soon after being raped. However, the sooner a doctor examines you, the more chance there is that she or he will find strong proof like blood or semen on your body, or on your clothes, from the person who attacked you. Bruises and cuts will stay on your body for a while, but semen, hair and blood can be lost. Women often find it difficult to go to the police. Men find it even more difficult. Deciding whether to make a report to the police, or not, can affect you in many ways and you should consider it carefully.

**If you do wish to make a case, you need to preserve evidence of the rape.**

**To do this:**

**a.** Do not throw away your clothes or wash yourself, no matter how much you want to.

This is because there may be proof like hair, blood, or semen from the perpetrator and what he did to you on your body or clothes. This is important evidence if you decide to report the attack to the police.

**b.** It's better not to drink anything, even water, or take any medicine before a doctor examines you.

However, if you do, it's important to tell the doctor who examines you what you have taken.

**c.** Put your clothes into a paper bag or wrap them in newspaper. Do not put them into a plastic packet because this can destroy the evidence.

**d.** Keep any toilet paper and other sanitary material if you need to use the bathroom (these must be air dried and be placed in an envelope or brown paper packet)

**e.** If the rapist drugged you in order to rape you, you should have a blood and urine test within 24 hours if you have decided to lay a charge or if you want to know what drug was used.

### **Reporting to the police and/or laying a criminal charge**

There is no time limit on reporting rape or laying a charge. However, the sooner this is done, the easier it is to get evidence needed for the court case. If the sexual crime was sexual assault rather than rape, you need to lay a charge within 20 years of it happening. Delays in reporting may no longer be used against you in court but forensic evidence (physical evidence such as semen and hairs left on your body after the rape) may be lost. It's preferable to go to the police station nearest to where the rape took place.

### **No survivor may be turned away simply because of laying a Charge:**

Reporting the crime that has been committed so that the police can begin a thorough investigation of the facts and collect evidence in support of these facts

### **Evidence:**

The physical material (documents, statements, clothing, injuries, bodily fluids and so on) produced in court in an attempt to prove or disprove the facts of a crime.

### **Statement:**

The first piece of evidence that is collected is everything that you tell the police about what happened. This is written down, given to you to read and then sign if you agree that it's a true reflection of the event.

**Community Service Centre:**

The reception area of a police station where you go to lay a charge (previously called the Charge Office)

**Station Commissioner:**

The police officer in charge of a police station

**Investigating Officer:**

The police officer that gathers all the evidence relating to a crime and prepares the case for trial

**FCSU:**

Family Violence, Child Abuse and Sexual Offence Unit, this is the unit in the police that investigates rape cases

## Statistics

### Interpol has named South Africa the *“Rape Capital of the World”*

- Rape and Sexual abuse affects Men, Women and Children from all Walks of Life
- In South Africa someone is raped or sexually abused every 17 Seconds
- It is estimated that a Woman born in South Africa, has a greater chance of being raped than learning to read – Interpol
- 2 out of 5 South African Male learners say they have been raped according to a survey carried out in 1200 schools across the country

## Child Abuse and Rape

- Rape and sexual assault figures indicate a steady increase
- Almost 16 000 cases of child rape were reported in 1998
- The Child Protection Unit investigated 35 000 cases of child abuse in 1997. Given low levels of reporting, these are conservative estimates
- Thorpe (1994) estimates that 500 000 female children are sexually victimised annually
- Gender based partner violence, including rape, places girl children at risk of HIV Infection. The fear of violence presents a major barrier to the negotiation of safer sex
- Poverty makes children vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation

## Gender

- In South Africa's patriarchal society, girl children are particularly vulnerable to gender based violence such as rape, femicide, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation

- Girls are made responsible for household chores and care giving, often at the expenses of their home work and further education
- Teenage pregnancy is one of the major reasons why girls leave school. 1 in 8 girls is forced out of the education system as a result of pregnancy – *Children’s Rights and the Media*
- 2 out of 5 South African male learners say they have been raped according to a survey carried out in 1 200 schools across the country
- 20 (1+2) = 3 The number of children raped every minute
- 13 800 child victims per year
- 45% of rapes reported to police in South Africa are child rapes
- 50% of South Africa’s children will be abused before the age of 18.1
- 85% of them will be by perpetrators known to them

***“When a Community allows children to be traumatized, it is essentially compromising it’s future, because traumatized children are less able to contribute to social survival” –Susan Greener (Celebrating Children)***

## Homicide

- Homicide is the leading causes of death for women on the job
- Husbands, Boyfriends and Ex-Partners commit 15% of workplace homicides against women
- Approximately 11% of all rapes occur in the workplace
- 35 and 56% of employed battered women surveyed were harassed at work by their abusive partners
- On Study of female domestic violence victims found that 44% were left without transportation when their partner hid the car keys or disabled the car

## Men

- More than 25% of a sample of 1,738 South African men from the KwaZulu- Natal and Eastern Cape Provinces admitted when anonymously questioned to raping someone; of those, nearly half said they had raped more than one person, according to a non-peer reviewed policy brief issued by the Medical Research Council (MRC).
- The humanitarian news organization IRIN claims that an estimated 500,000 rapes are committed annually in South Africa, but does not provide a source for this figure.
- South Africa has the highest number of HIV-positive citizens in the world. According to official figures, circa 11% of South Africans are infected with the virus.

## [Find a Counselling Centre](#)

**Charlene Smith, rape survivor and campaigner believes solution to combating sexual violence lies in:**

- The way mothers bring up sons
- Greater community responsibility for members' actions
- Better policing
- Harsher sentences
- Reform of criminal justice system

## **Counselling**

- When a sample group of 40 abused employees at the factory began using the domestic abuse counselling services, their average absence rate was higher than the factory's average absence rate. After using counselling services, the abused employees reduced their absenteeism rates to normal.
- After being trained on domestic violence, 91% of employees said they were more likely to know where to refer someone who is abused, 89% said they were more likely to be supportive of a colleague who is abused, and 86% said they were more aware of what to do if there is a threat of domestic violence at work.

***Distribution of employed women and men aged 15 - 65 years in each population group, by employment sector, 2001.***