Speak Out

Youth Report Sexual Abuse

A Handbook for learners on how to prevent sexual abuse in public schools

basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Speak Out

Youth Report Sexual Abuse

A Handbook for learners on how to prevent sexual abuse in public schools

Department of Basic Education

222 Struben Street, Pretoria

Tel: 012 357 3000

Fastline: 0800 202933

Fax: 012 323 0601

Co-written by Dr Patricia Watson, Rolaball Eduscript and Julia Grey

Designed and typeset by Rizelle Hartmeier

Illustrations: Alistair Findlay

Proof-reader: Pat Tucker

July 2010

Contents

Foreword	4
Stop Abuse	5
Agony Auntie	6
What is sexual abuse?	8
School rules to protect you	10
Signs of sexual abuse	12
Teachers have a duty to stop sexual abuse	14
SPEAK OUT! Report abuse to the police	16
SPEAK OUT! Report abuse at school	18
SPEAK OUT against rape!	20
Be smart: Protect yourself	22
SPEAK OUT! Power in group action	24
Contacts	26
Words to know	30

Dear Learners

Sexual harassment and violence is currently far too common on our streets, in our homes, and in our schools. Government is fully committed to changing this. Our goal is to eliminate this unacceptable behaviour. Men and women, boys and girls, should be treated as equals and with respect and the caring they each deserve.

This **Speak Out! (handbook)** has been written specially to help you, our precious youth, handle any sexual abuse you may encounter while at school or at home. It will help you understand what Sexual Harassment and Violence is so that you are quickly able to recognise it. It will also guide you to the steps you must take so that the person guilty of sexual abuse is forced to stop and to face the consequences of his/her unacceptable behaviour. An extensive list of useful contacts will also help connect you to people specially trained to assist you handle sexual harassment or violence.

As the Department of Basic Education (DBE), we promise each one of you to honour our duty to protect and respect you while you are at school. Likewise, we promise you our full support in seeking justice if you have been the victim of sexual abuse. We invite all our school-goers to join this call to make our schools the places of safety and learning that we all want them to be. One way to do this is to speak out about any sexual harassment or violence you may know of or have experienced at school so that action can be taken to stamp out sexual abuse altogether.

Mrs AM Motshekga
Minister of Basic Education
May 2010

If a **teacher** has **sex** with a learner it is a very **serious** offence.

Sex between an **educator** and a **learner** is **NEVER OK.**

STOP ABUSE

It **doesn't matter** if the learner is **over 16 years** old.

It doesn't **matter** if the **learner agreed** to have sex with the **teacher.**

The law says: the teacher **MUST** be fired and should **NEVER EVER** teach again.

Teachers: Hands off us learners

Agony Auntie

Q: Dear Auntie. I have a big problem at home. My uncle lives with us, and when my mum's not home he puts sex movies on TV and says I must watch with him. Sometimes he touches his penis and yesterday he made me to take off my shirt. He doesn't touch me or rape me, but I still feel very bad.

Confused, Clarens

A: Dear Confused

Whenever someone makes you feel that way, trust your instincts and run, yell and tell! No-one can force you to watch pornography against your will. In fact, kids shouldn't watch porn at all. What your uncle is doing is called sexual harassment and it is against the law. You need to report him to a trusted adult, especially because you may be at risk of further sexual abuse – even rape. Take care of yourself and listen to your own alarm bells.

Q: Dear Auntie. I am feeling very upset because a boy in my class is always touching me, sometimes even on my boobs. I've asked him not to but he just laughs at me and does it again. What can I do?

Harassed, Thembisa

A: Dear Harassed,

You are right to feel upset. Nobody has the right to touch you. What he is doing is called sexual harassment. You have done the right thing by speaking to him first. Now it is time to report him to a trusted teacher, or another adult. Teachers have a responsibility to support and protect you, and to deal with him.

Q: Dear Auntie. My teacher asked me to stay after school to help him in his classroom. We were alone. He asked me to sit on his lap and before I knew it his hands were in my pants. He raped me. He told me not to tell anyone. I don't know what to do. I'm so ashamed and scared and angry. Please help me.

Raped, Madibane

A: Dear Raped

I am so sorry about what has happened to you. Believe me, it is not your fault. You have nothing to feel ashamed about. Your teacher is the one who should be ashamed. You need to find the strength to tell a trusted teacher or adult about the rape, because they have a duty to help you to report the incident to the Department of Basic Education and the police. Keep your courage and find caring people to help you get through this.

Q: Dear Auntie. I'm in a very bad position. I fell in love with my teacher and now I am pregnant. My teacher is married and keeps our relationship a secret, and won't help me. I feel like leaving school.

Pregnant, East London

A: Dear Pregnant

You may feel like you love him, but having a relationship with any teacher is against the law. Once he is reported, he will be fired from his job and could even go to jail.

I advise you to break off the relationship with him at once. If you decide to have this baby, you will have to take some time off school before and after the baby is born. This is to make sure that both you and your baby are healthy. It is very important that you go back to school as soon as you can to further your education. Seek support from parents and teachers to keep up with classwork. While still at school, take steps to prevent a second pregnancy. Your future depends on it!

What is sexual abuse?

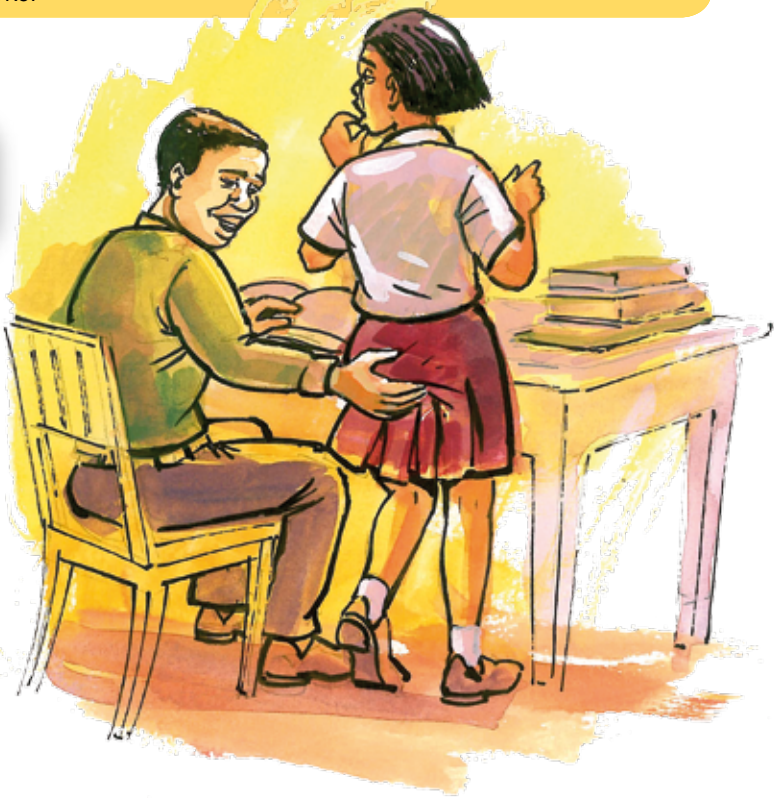
Sexual abuse refers to sexual harassment and sexual violence.

What is sexual harassment?

You are being sexually harassed if someone:

- Talks to you about sex when you don't want them to.
- Touches, pinches or grabs parts of your body you don't want touched.
- Sends you sexual notes, SMSs or pictures.
- Writes rude graffiti about you, or spreads sexual rumours about you.
- Makes sexual comments or jokes
- Calls you rude names, like "bitch", "moffie", "slut", etc.
- Demands sex in return for a bribe, like higher marks.

Sex between an educator and a learner is NEVER OK. It is a CRIME.



GO!

You have Rights!
Don't keep quiet.
Report sexual abuse.

How do you draw the line between flirting and sexual harassment?

Flirting or good-natured joking between two learners can be fun, if you both want it.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome and unwanted behaviour which makes you feel embarrassed, threatened, afraid, humiliated, angry, or trapped.

Where can sexual violence or sexual harassment occur?

Sexual harassment can happen anywhere, like in the classroom, or on the playground.

Sexual violence usually happens in a quiet place when few people are around. Common places are the toilets, corridors, empty classrooms, empty offices, or deserted parts of the school grounds.

What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence is any sexual act, or attempted sexual act, using threats or physical force.

It involves the sexualised touching of your intimate parts, or forcing you to touch another person's intimate parts. Intimate parts include the mouth, vagina, penis, inner thighs, bum and breasts.

Who sexually abuses learners?

A learner can be sexually abused or harassed by a teacher, other learners or other adults in the school and community.

Both boys and girls can be the victims of sexual abuse.

School rules to protect you

Here are examples of sexual misconduct to include in your school's code of conduct.

We should all treat each other with dignity and respect. If we all work hard to do the right thing, one day we will be living in a much better place.

Rules exist to help us all clearly understand what kind of behaviour is acceptable, and what kind of behaviour is not acceptable. The rules are written in your school's Code of Conduct, and all learners and teachers are supposed to sign the Code to show that they will respect the rules.

These rules set out:

a. The level of seriousness of the offence.

b. Examples of misconduct (unacceptable behaviour).

c. The procedures/ corrective actions (ie the punishments) for the different levels of offences.

a. Level of offence	b. Examples of misconduct
Level 1	• Making rude jokes. • Graffiti of a sexual nature.
Level 2	• Threatening assault and intimidation of a fellow learner. • Verbal threats or name-calling.
Level 3	• Pornography distribution. • Sharing photos of naked people. • Improper suggestions of a sexual nature. • Sexual harassment.
Level 4	• Persistent harassment despite previous corrective measures. • Public indecency. • Sexual assault and rape.

c. Procedures/corrective actions

- Verbal warning by the educator or principal.
- Give a public apology.
- Made to scrub the toilets clean, provided that the parents are informed and the security of the leaner is assured.
- Replace and fix damaged property.
- Temporary suspension from some school activities, like sport or cultural activities.

- Supervised schoolwork that will contribute to the learner internalising values of respect.
- Verbal or written warning from the educator or principal.
- Conflict resolution in a peer education group for a specified period.
- Temporary suspension from some school activities, like sport or cultural activities.

- Disciplinary hearing.
- Detention with an assignment on values.
- Detention with community service.
- Detention and work with the leaders of a peer education group for a specified period.
- Temporary suspension from some school activities, like sport or cultural activities.

- The learner's parents/care givers must be informed that the child is being charged with sexual violence.
- All cases of sexual violence must be reported to the police within 72 hours.
- The school governing body may recommend to the provincial education Head of Department that the learner be expelled from school.

Fear of being touched

Guilty

Not eating/eating a lot

Signs of sexual abuse

There are many signs that a person has been sexually abused.

- **The person's behaviour changes.**
- **He or she can go from being outgoing to being withdrawn, from being full of fun to being full of fear and sadness, from being open and sharing to being secretive and closed.**

The words bordering this page describe some of the feelings and signs of sexual abuse. This story shares a learner's personal experience of these feelings and the family's journey to justice.

Our journey to justice

I was raped by my teacher when I was in Grade 9. At first I couldn't say anything about it. I just felt sick inside all the time. I started biting my nails and just wanted to be left alone.

My parents didn't understand what was happening with me. They tried to cheer me up by telling me jokes, but I just couldn't laugh any more.

Then one night I just burst out shouting and crying. My dad was in the room with me. He was so shocked when he heard me screaming that my teacher had raped me. But he was so strong, and so kind. He held me in his arms until I had cried out all my pain and screamed out all my anger.

Then my mum, my dad and I sat down and talked about what to do. I just wanted to kill the stupid teacher who did this. But my mum said there's a better way of getting justice: we should report the rape to the school principal, and we should lay a charge with the police.

Can't concentrate

Disappointed

Bad dreams

Depressed

Not sleeping/sleeping a lot Shocked Frightened Angry

The next morning, we did just that. It makes sense to report things like this as early as possible, because it can help the doctors and police with evidence. I can't say it was easy. I had to relive the terrible experience over and over. But every step of the way my parents were with me. They held me when the emotional pain or anger just became too much. And they paid for me to get counselling.

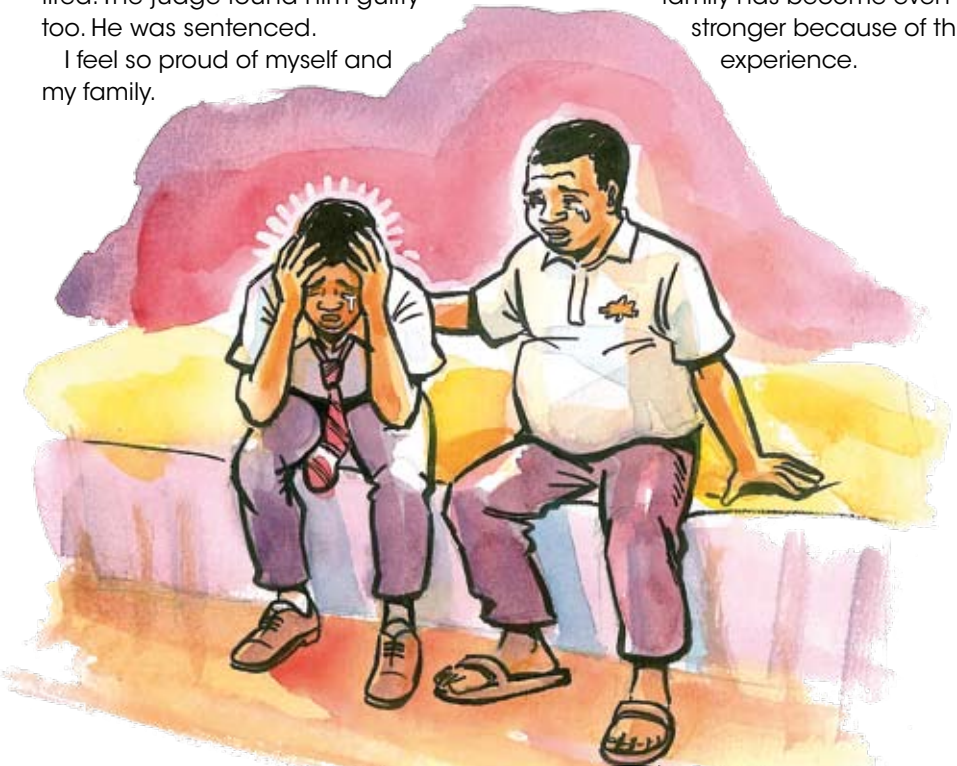
The teacher was found guilty by the education department and he was fired. The judge found him guilty too. He was sentenced.

I feel so proud of myself and my family. We stood together with such courage. We just said NO! to abuse, and we said YES! to our rights.

Now the rapist is behind bars. He will never again be able to hurt anyone like he hurt me.

I don't know if I will ever totally get over it. But I can feel that the pain in my heart is starting to heal. And I know I have a bright future to look forward to.

Best of all, I now know that I have the bravest, most loving parents anybody could ever wish for. Our family has become even stronger because of this experience.



Struggles to make simple decisions Disbelieving Withdrawn

Teachers have a duty to stop sexual abuse

While learners are at school, teachers must make sure that all learners are safe, and are treated with dignity and respect.

The law also says teachers must inform the police or a social worker if they think that a child may be being abused.

Teachers have a responsibility to investigate all learners' complaints of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence.

Teachers must help all learners to report sexual abuse and to receive counselling.

TEACHERS: What they must NOT do

Sexual relations between any educator and any learner at any school are totally forbidden.

It doesn't matter if the learner consents to sex and is over 16 years old.

If a teacher is having sex with a learner, that teacher must be reported, and will be fired.

Sex between teachers and learners is always ILLEGAL

Reporting teachers who break the law

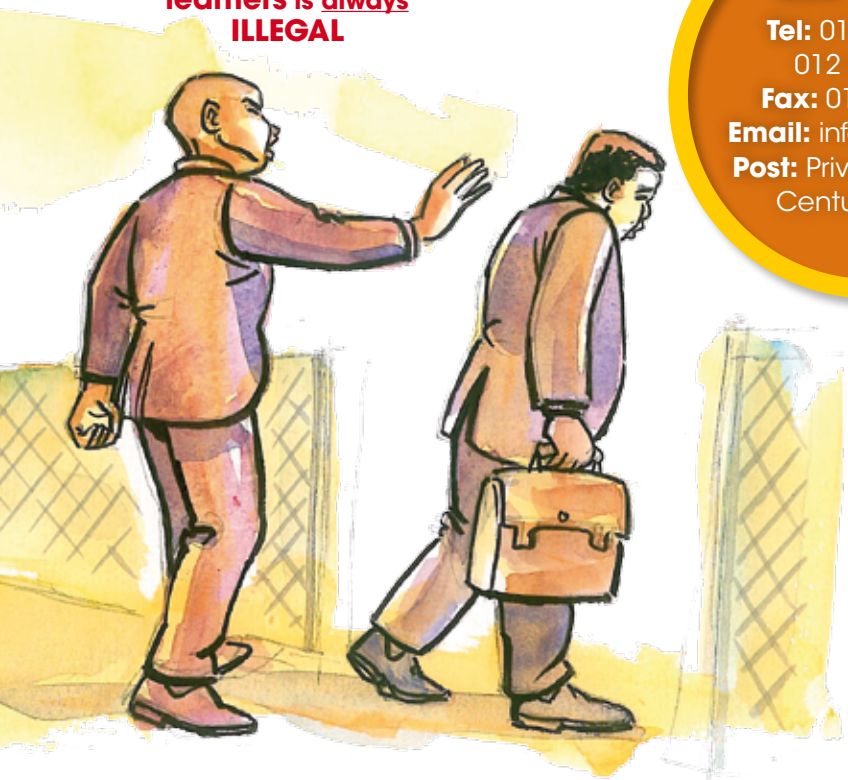
You can report a teacher to the **South African Council of Educators (SACE)** for sexual abuse, or for having sexual relations with a learner.

You don't have to tell them who you are. But you need to give enough information so that SACE can start an investigation.

The information you should include is the name of the school; the school's address and telephone number; the name of the educator; and the name and grade of the learner.

SACE contacts:

Tel: 012 663 9517
012 679 9728
Fax: 012 663 3331
Email: info@sace.org.za
Post: Private Bag X127, Centurion, 0046



Speak out!
Report abuse to the police

Sexual harassment and sexual violence are crimes.

Here's what to do if anyone – whether an educator or a learner or someone else you know – sexually abuses you.

- If you are **under 18**, an educator or social worker must report the matter to the police.
- If you are **over 18**, you have a choice whether or not to lay a charge. If you're not sure whether you want to lay a charge or not, still make a statement to the police. If you later decide you do want to lay a charge, they already have a record.

Keeping track of your case

Make sure you keep records of the name and phone numbers of the investigating officer and your case number.

This will help you to track how your case is progressing.

Counselling and support

Counselling is known as a "talking cure" because it gives you a safe space to share how you are feeling about what has happened to you. This can comfort you and help you to heal.

Some people are specially trained to help those who have been sexually abused. See the contacts on page 26 for details of organisations that can help you.

Your rights at the police station

You have the right to:

- Counselling.
- Report sexual abuse at any police station.
- Be interviewed in a private room.
- Be interviewed by a female policewoman.
- Be accompanied by your parent or a trusted person.
- Get a copy of your statement.

What the doctor must do

If you have been sexually assaulted or raped, you must have a medical examination.

Turn to pages 20 and 21 for more information about this.

It is your right not to be INTIMIDATED!

If the police don't treat you well or follow the right steps, take action!

Report the police person who did not treat you well to the Station Commander.

If the Station Commander does not take action against this police person, report the problem to the Independent Complaints Directorate: 012 320 0431

Police investigation

The police will investigate the case. They will interview you, any witnesses, and the person accused. This process often takes quite a long time to complete.

Going to court

When the police have finished their investigation, they will hand the case over to lawyers who work for the government. These lawyers are called state prosecutors. If they think the case is strong enough, they will bring a criminal case against the accused. You don't need your own lawyer.

A date will be set for a hearing in court. You will need to give evidence, and so will the accused and any witnesses. If you are under 18, you will give evidence in a room that is separate from the court.

Those in court will be able to hear your evidence, but they won't be able to see you. This is to help make you feel safe and protected during this difficult process.

There is usually more than one court appearance, and the case can go on a long time before a decision is reached.

The TEDDYBEAR CLINIC helps you prepare for court. Phone them on 011 484 4554.

Speak out!
Report abuse at school

Ask the person to STOP!

If you cannot, or if he/she continues to harass or abuse you, it's time for action:

- Tell a teacher or other trusted adult at school. The teacher must believe you, comfort you, and provide you with counselling. If he/she can't provide counselling, he/she must organise counselling for you.
- The teacher will need to tell one or two other educators about the abuse. This is because they must form a team to investigate your complaint. But he/she must not tell anyone else.
- The teacher must inform your parents. If the abuser is a learner, his/her parents must also be informed.

If the sex abuser is an educator

The teacher you told about the sex abuse must:

- Report the abuse to the provincial Education department: Contact details are on pages 26 and 29. You can also get contact details through the DBE's hot-line: 0800 202 933
- Report the abuse to the South African Council of Educators (SACE): 012 663 9517 or 012 679 9728.

The provincial department, district and SACE will visit the school to investigate the charge. They will take statements about what happened from you, any witnesses, and the accused educator.

Make sure you get the correct name, contact numbers and email address of the investigators.

If the charge is serious, like rape, the educator will be suspended from school.

The accused educator will have a hearing at the DBE and SACE. Based on the evidence, they will decide if the educator is guilty or not guilty of the charge.

If the educator is found guilty of a serious offence, he/she will be fired and will never be allowed to teach again.

If the sex abuser is a learner

The teacher investigating team must:

- Take statements from you, any witnesses, and the accused learner.
- The accused learner will have to attend a hearing to answer the charges he/she faces.
- The teachers who investigate must let you (and the accused learner) know within 7 days of your complaint being made whether they find the accused learner guilty.
- If the accused learner is found guilty, he/she will be punished according to how serious the offence is. If the offence is serious, like rape, he/she can be expelled.

How to write a letter to report abuse:

To whom it may concern

Re: Sexual abuse at my school

I am writing for urgent help with an incident of sexual abuse at my school.

- ☐ Give the date when it occurred.
- ☐ Name the school and give its address.
- ☐ Name the victim.
- ☐ Name the abuser.
- ☐ Describe the incident of abuse.
- ☐ Name the person you reported it to and when you reported it.
- ☐ Describe what those who you reported it to have done.
- ☐ Explain why you are unhappy with what they have done.

I therefore ask you to take action urgently in this matter.

- ☐ You don't have to give your name or identity.
- ☐ But if you do want to be contacted, include your name and phone number.

If the teachers do not follow these steps properly, it's time for more action.

Report the problem to:
The National Department of Basic Education: 0800 202 933;
South African Council of Educators: 012 663 9517 or 012 679 9728;
or to the Gender Equity Directorate in the DBE 012 357 3373.

Speak out! against rape!

Rape is when someone forces a penis or an object into your vagina, anus or mouth.

Girls are more often the victims of rape, but boys can also be raped.

The rape victim must be supported, protected and given counselling.

Must rape be reported at school?

As a learner, you should always report a rape to a trusted teacher or other adult at school.

They should support and protect you as much as possible (see page 14 for more details on what school officials should do to help you).

Must rape be reported to the police?

- If you are under 18, the rape must be reported to the police. A teacher or trusted adult should help you report the rape to the police.
- If you are over 18, you have the choice whether or not to report a rape.
- It's not easy to report a rape. Sometimes police and social workers are not very supportive. You will need to talk about a painful experience that can also make you feel angry and ashamed.
- But reporting the rape is your only chance to get justice for the crime against you.

Reporting a rape to the police

A rape should be reported to the police as soon as possible. You should take a trusted friend or family member to the police station to support you.

It's best to report the rape within 72 hours. This is because you will be given tablets to prevent pregnancy and pills to reduce the risk of HIV infection; these tablets work best within 72 hours.

When you report a rape to the police, you will:

- Need to give a statement to the police telling them what happened.
- Have a medical examination. This is to gather medical evidence of the rape. Evidence of the rape may be on your clothes, in your mouth, and on other parts of your body. This means that you must not change your clothes, shower, bath, wash out your mouth, and do not eat or drink before you have been examined.
- The medical evidence will be very important in a court case.
- Lay a criminal charge against the rapist. The police will then investigate the case. Based on what they find out, a decision will be made whether or not to have a criminal trial in court.

Information you need to get from the police

After you've reported a rape, make sure you get:

- A copy of the statement you gave the police.
- The name and contact numbers of the police person who dealt with your case.
- The case number.

This information will help you to track how your case is progressing.

The police must also inform you about the progress of the investigation, including the suspect's arrest; if the suspect is released on bail; and the date of court appearances.

It's against the law:

- To force a person to have sex. Forced sex is always rape. Rape is a crime.
- For an adult person to have sex with someone under the age of 16. This is called statutory rape.
- For any teacher to have any sexual relations with any learner.
- For a person who is not yet 16 to have sex.

There are people trained to support rape survivors. Call **Lifeline** 0861 322 322 and **Childline** 0800 05 55 55

Be smart: Protect yourself

You can't always stop abuse from happening. But there are actions you can take to keep yourself as safe as possible.

Always be alert to your environment and be aware of how it makes you feel. If you feel you may be in danger, listen to these warning feelings and get help.

- ✔ Always walk to and from school with a friend or in a group.
- ✔ Never accept a lift from someone you don't know or don't trust.
- ✔ Avoid areas of the school grounds where there are few people, especially after school hours.
- ✔ Behave appropriately when you are with your teachers. Give respect and demand respect.
- ✔ Never flirt with someone you don't want sexual attention from.
- ✔ Never give your phone number to someone you don't want to call you.
- ✔ Never give your friends' phone numbers without permission.
- ✔ Avoid being around known school bullies. If they harass you, get help from a trusted adult immediately.
- ✔ Don't walk on your own at night.
- ✔ Never open the door to a stranger.
- ✔ Always tell a trusted adult if you go out anywhere, even if you're going with someone you know.
- ✔ Never accept drinks, gifts or promises that can lead to a person expecting sexual favours.
- ✔ Never keep it a secret if you experience sexual abuse.

Keep your self-esteem in tip-top shape.

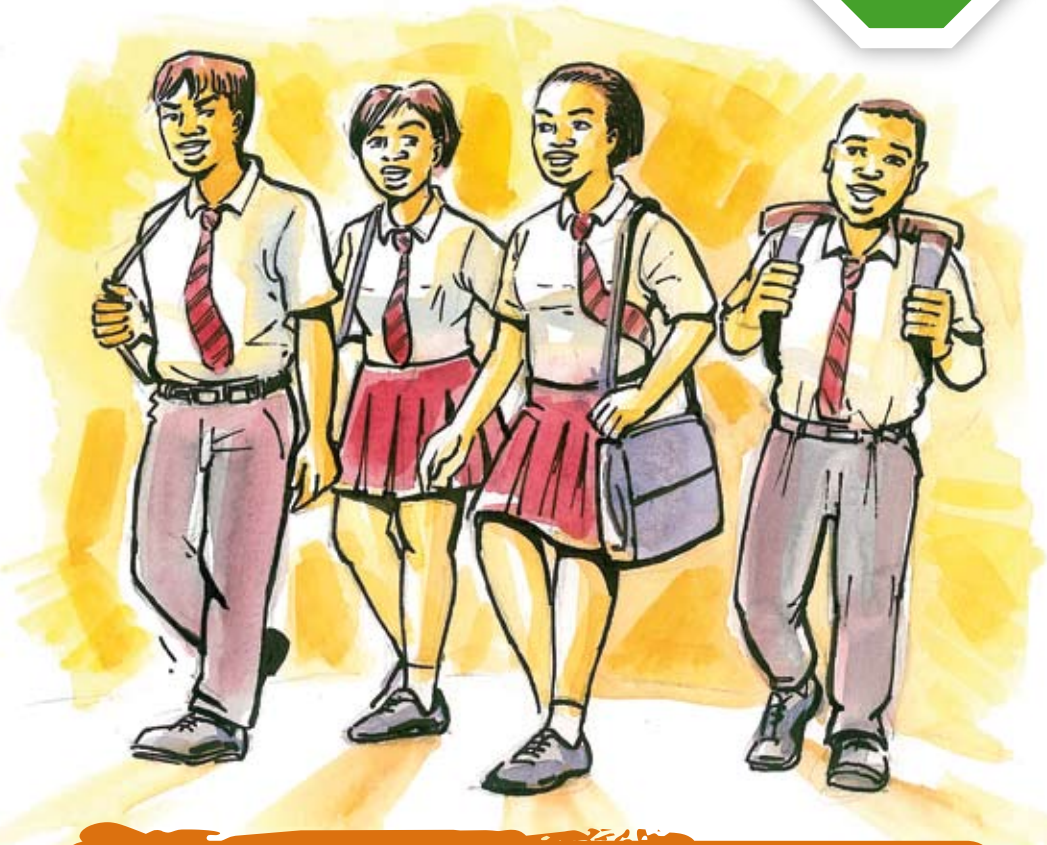
Good self-esteem gives you the power to have the world at your feet. Give yourself the chance to be the best you can.

Everyday, tell yourself:

- I'm happy.
- I'm important.
- I keep myself safe.
- I'm in control of my own life.
- I treat others with respect.
- I'm treated with respect.

If you feel in danger, RUN, YELL and TELL!

Walking in a GROUP makes it HARDER for you to become a VICTIM of ABUSE.



Be wise!

If you are 16 years old think before you agree to have sex.

Wait to have sex! You have your whole life ahead of you, study now to have a better life.

Wait to have sex! Avoid getting pregnant. A baby costs money, wait till you are earning a living.

Wait to have sex! Protect yourself from HIV and STDs. Condoms prevent the spread.

The law says: sex between learners is also forbidden if they are 16 years or younger.

Avoid drinking alcohol and taking drugs.

Speak out!
Power in group action

Form a club so you can all stand together and say NO! to sexual abuse and YES! to rights and responsibilities.

- **Youth clubs (or action groups) play an important part in making the changes we want for a better society.**
- **Your role in a youth action group can also help your future career prospects, as it looks impressive on your CV.**

Stand together
Understand
Protect
Persevere
Organise
Report
Take action

Club together to stop abuse

Give your club a name.

Decide on a regular day, time and place to meet.

Write a club pledge. The pledge says what your club stands for, and how you're going to have fun building a better society.

Sign your club up to join the efforts of other youth action groups.

You can join:

- **Girls and Boys Education Movement Clubs (GEM/BEM):** 012 357 3373
- **SoulBuddyz:** 011 341 0360

Here are some examples of club activities

Ensure everyone understands the procedures for getting help and reporting sexual abuse.

Make sure your school's Code of Conduct includes preventing sexual abuse.

Organise school debates to bring the issue of sexual abuse out into the open.

Make posters: Design posters that help raise awareness about sexual abuse.

Prepare a speech to inform your peers about the issues at a school assembly.

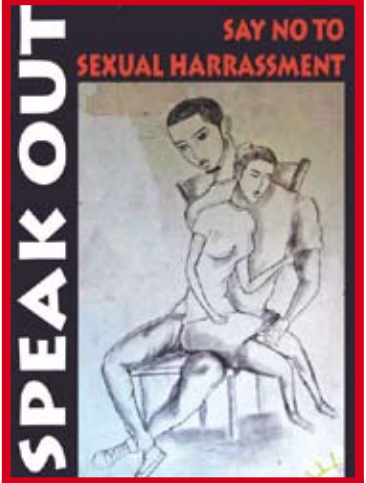
Write and perform a socially conscious play, song or poem.

Volunteer your time and energy to help solve the problems in your community.

Non-racism Generosity Non-sexism

The Girls and Boys Education Movement (GEM/BEM) clubs are school-based clubs supported by the Department of Basic Education which are open to all girls and boys. With support and guidance from adults such as educators, members organise and manage the clubs as much as possible by themselves, giving them valuable experience of working in a team and organising activities. Besides important training and fun opportunities offered through GEM/BEM clubs, all members work proudly to promote equal human rights and dignity for all.

For your copy of the guidebook to starting a GEM/BEM club at your school, contact the National Department of Basic Education - **012 357 3373/ 312 5420**



Kindness Friendship Tolerance

Contacts

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NATIONAL
222 Struben Street, Pretoria,
012 357 3365/3373/3357/3374/3000
(hotline) 0800 20 29 33

EASTERN CAPE
Steve Mukile Tshwete Complex,
Zone 6, Zwelitsha, Central Bisho,
040 608 4200/4205/4230

FREE STATE
CR Swart Building, 55 Elizabeth Street,
Room 2103, Bloemfontein,
051 404 8000/8430/4911/8434

GAUTENG
African Life Building/Arcade,
Room 1009, 111 Commissioner
Street, Johannesburg,
011 355 0000/1510/1518/0597

KWAZULU-NATAL
Administration Building, 1st Floor,
247 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg,
033 392 1000/846 5000,
031 392 1000/0800 204 353

LIMPOPO
133 Biccard Street, Polokwane,
015 290 7702/7061/7661/7600

MPUMALANGA
Department of Education, Ext 5,
Government Boulevard, Nelspruit,
013 766 5462/5300/5552

NORTHERN CAPE
Perseverance Building, 156 Barclay
Street, Homestead, Kimberley,
053 839 6500/6683/6696/6619

NORTH WEST
First Floor, Garona Building, Executive
Block, East Wing, Dr. James Moroka
Ave, Mmabatho,
018 387 3428/29/24/25/32

WESTERN CAPE
Room 924, 9th Floor, Grand Central
Building, Lower Parliament Street,
Cape Town,
021 467 2000/2535/2577

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Child Line – 0800 05 55 55
Child line is a crisis help line, but also participates in training, therapy, court preparation and advocacy in children's rights.

SAPS Crime Stop – 086 0010 111
The SAPS Crime Stop line is a call line where you can tip off the police anonymously about crimes you know to be happening.

SAPS Emergency Number – 10111
This telephone number is the one you can use in case of a police emergency. For general enquiries, you should phone your local police station as this number is to be used in emergencies only.

Child Protection Unit – 012 393 2359/ 2362/2363
The Child Protection Unit is a division of the South African Police Service specifically charged with combating crimes against children. It also assists with public education.

Child Welfare South Africa – 0861 424453
This organisation deals with all issues of child welfare and cases of abuse can be reported to it directly. It assists children, family members and care givers.

Lifeline – 0861 322 322
This is a national call line which offers advice on all life issues and provides people with emotional support to help them deal with problems. You can also visit the website at www.lifeline.org.za and submit an email online.

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Re-integration of Offenders – 021 462 0017
Also known as NICRO, this organisation focuses on crime prevention but can also help with victim support.

National Institute for Public Interest Law and Research – 012 328 5901/7434
This is a non-governmental research institute involved in providing information about gender rights issues.

National Network on Violence Against Women – 012 348 1231/1
This Network helps to deal with issues which concern acts of violence against women.

Rape Crisis – 021 447 1467/684 1180/361 9228
Rape Crisis, based in Cape Town, offers support through counselling to the victims of rape.

Stop Women Abuse Help Line – 0800 150 150
This is a confidential telephone help line to assist victims of women abuse. It is a special project of Lifeline South Africa.

The Family and Marriage Association of South Africa – 011 975 7107
Also known as FAMSA, this organisation provides counselling and community support to help people deal with family-related issues.

PROVINCIAL ORGANISATIONS

EASTERN CAPE

Masimanyane Women's Support Centre – 043 743 9169

Based in East London, this women's support centre focuses on gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health rights and HIV and Aids.

Network on Violence Against Women – 083 637 0202/043 643 3102

Rape Crisis – 041 484 3804

FREE STATE

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Re-integration of Offenders – 051 447 6678/0672

Bloemfontein – 056 215 1861
Kroonstad – 058 303 5386
Bethlehem – 058 713 0071 (Qwa-Qwa)

Network on Violence Against Women – 072 185 3453/082 637 0212

GAUTENG

Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training – 011 885 3305

Also known as ADAPT, it is involved with the training and rehabilitation of domestic-abuse offenders, and also provides support services to the abused.

Midrand Child Welfare Centre – 011 315 3522

People Against Human Abuse – 012 805 7416

Also known as PAHA, it provides victims of abuse with counselling and emotional support, and also engage in various types of outreach projects.

People Opposing Violence Against Women – 083 765 1235

Also known as POWA, this organisation has national and regional influence and gives telephonic, legal and counselling support.

Sexual Harassment Project – 011 403 0541

This group, known as SHEP, can provide legal advice over the telephone to assist you in knowing what to do about sexual harassment.

KWAZULU-NATAL

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Re-integration of Offenders – 031 304 2761

Network on Violence Against Women – 031 304 6928

LIMPOPO

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Re-integration of Offenders – 015 297 7538/83

Network on Violence Against Women – 015 291 3279

NGO Coalition – 015 295 3542

This organisation is an umbrella organisation of all the different NGOs that may be able to assist you.

The Family and Marriage Association of South Africa – 015 307 4833

MPUMALANGA

Greater Nelspruit Rape Prevention Programme – 013 752 5993/4407/4404

Also known as GRIP, this regional project assists in all possible ways in cases of rape.

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Re-integration of Offenders – 013 755 3540/3745

Network on Violence Against Women – 082 702 8298/013 947 2380

NORTHERN CAPE

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Re-integration of Offenders – 053 831 1715

Network on Violence Against Women – 053 831 4856/053 839 1715

NORTH WEST

ADAPT – 083 575 6222

Network on Violence Against Women – 014 565 3269

WESTERN CAPE

Ilitha Labuntu – 021 633 23 83/ 633 30 48

Originating in Gugulethu Township in Cape Town, this organisation provides support, practical advice and education about the problem of violence against women.

Network on Violence Against Women – 021 448 6180/021 633 5287

MINISTERIAL CONTACTS

Minister: Basic Education

Mrs A (Angie) Motshekga, 120 Plein Street, Cape Town, 012 357 4036, 021 465 7350

Deputy Minister: Basic Education

Mr ME (Enver) Surty, 120 Plein Street, Cape Town, 012 357 4014, 021 465 2648

Director-General: Basic Education

Mr Bobby Soobrayan, 103 Plein Street, Cape Town, 012 357 4019/12, 021 486 7000

Words to know

A hearing: This is an official meeting that is held to hear the facts about a crime or complaint. The hearing could take place at your school, or at the offices of the Department of Basic Education, depending on the kind of crime or complaint being heard.

A statement: A written account of facts about a crime that is made to the police. Making a statement is not the same as laying a charge, but it is an official record of the crime, which may be used if legal action does follow.

Bail: Once a person has been arrested for a crime, he/she usually appears in court for a "bail hearing". His/her lawyer will argue that an amount of money will be paid (the "bail") which will allow the accused to go free until the trial begins. If the accused fails to appear in court for the trial, he/she loses the bail. Otherwise that money is refunded to the accused once the trial is over.

The judge may not agree that the accused should be allowed out on bail at all. This is usually if the accused is thought to be a danger to society, or if he/she may try and run away instead of going to trial. If the judge does not allow bail to be paid, the accused will remain in jail until his/her trial begins.

Case number: Every crime reported to the police is given a case number. The "case" is the matter which will be investigated by the police, and the number shows when and where the crime was reported. Knowing your case number is important so that you can follow the progress of the investigation.

Evidence: These are the facts, signs or objects that are gathered by the police to help them investigate the case. In cases of sexual violence, such as rape, medical evidence will also be collected.

Graffiti: Pictures or writing, painted or written on public walls, or sometimes on toilet doors. Graffiti can sometimes be sexually explicit, rude or indecent. At schools, writing or drawing graffiti is against the Code of Conduct, as it damages school property and can, in some cases, be seen as sexual harassment.

Investigating officer: The member of the police who is responsible for investigating a particular case.

Judgment: The decision a judge makes about a case. The judge will decide whether the accused is guilty or not guilty. If the decision is that the accused is guilty, the judge will also decide the punishment. This could be a prison sentence, or a fine, depending on the seriousness of the crime.

Lay a charge: This is an official claim that someone has committed a crime. It must be laid with the police.

Pornography: This refers to books, DVDs or SMSs that describe or show naked people and sexual acts. While some people find them sexually exciting, others find them offensive.

Public indecency: This refers to a number of activities that are considered to be illegal to do while in public, such as urinating, exposing one's genitals, or masturbating.

Sexualy assaulted: This is the same as sexual violence ("assault" means to attack someone physically). It includes crimes such as rape.

Suspect: When a crime has been committed, the police will identify people they suspect may be guilty of the crime. The proof against that person has to be gathered through a police investigation. If the proof the police gather is strong enough, the person will be charged with the crime, and will have to appear in a court of law.

The accused: In a court of law, the person who is on trial for committing a crime is called "the accused".

Witness: A person who saw or knows something about a crime, and is able to describe it so that his/her testimony (or evidence) forms part of the case. Witnesses may be asked to give their evidence in court.

Speak Out

Youth Report Sexual Abuse

basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA