



# #PositiveChoices

## Gender And Child Abuse In South Africa

Reflecting on the current South African situation provides an opportunity to move forward and make #PositiveChoices.

### Crimes Against Women

The SAPS Report for the 2017/18 financial year revealed the following:



**177,620**

reported crimes against women.

These are reported crimes, many go **unreported**.

#### Of these reported crimes:

- › **36,731** were sexual offences, including rape, assault and murder.
- › This had increased by **11%** in one year.
- › **2,930** women were murdered in this timeframe.



Only a small number of reported cases make it to court.



Conviction rate for perpetrators is **74.4%** - the highest in five years.

A report from Stats SA says that:

“51,1% of men thought it was appropriate to hit his wife if she behaved in a manner deemed inappropriate to her husband and 33,8% of women had been conditioned to think they deserved it.”

### How Do We Overcome Gender Violence Or Abuse?

By standing together with women, and by making #PositiveChoices in the face of violence and abuse so that we can have a positive impact on the future of our country.



If you or someone you know is being abused, **speak out**. Talk to a friend, family member or professional.



If you see it happening, **report it**.



If someone tells you they are being abused, **listen** to them without judgment, or ridicule. Believe their story and take it seriously.



Let your friends and family know that you are a **safe space** for them if they need it.



Contact your Employee Wellbeing Programme to speak to a counsellor for more information, advice and support: SMS WELLBEING to 43821 or email [golife@healthchoices.com](mailto:golife@healthchoices.com).



# Child Abuse In South Africa

41%

of reported rape cases from **2015 - 2018** involve children.

2600

children were murdered between 2015 - 2018.



Tens of thousands of babies born are abandoned across South Africa



1 out of 3 babies survive

The Optimus Study on Child Abuse, Violence and Neglect in South Africa revealed statistics as reported by **15 – 17 year old** South African children.

› By the age of 15-17 years, many young South Africans have already **experienced sexual, physical or emotional abuse, neglect**, or have been exposed to **high rates of violence**.

› **1 in 5 children** have been victims of sexual abuse.

› **1 in 3 children** have been physically abused.

› **16,1%** reported emotional abuse.

› **1 in 5 children** reported neglect (whether physical, emotional or living in conditions that were unsafe and unhealthy).

In addition to the above, the following trauma was also experienced:

23.1%

reported exposure to family violence (by an adult caregiver)

21.4%

reported having been threatened with violence

19.2%

had been attacked without a weapon

15.9%

had been attacked with a weapon

## How Can Child Abuse And Violence Be Overcome?

By knowing what the risk factors are, we can make #PositiveChoices for our children and create safer environments for them to thrive.



### RISK FACTORS FOR ABUSE:

- › Little or lack of **parental involvement**
- › Children with **poor relationships** with their parents are at higher risk for sexual abuse
- › Children sleeping in **densely populated bedrooms**
- › Children staying **home alone**
- › Parents **working late**
- › Children with **disabilities** are at higher risk for sexual abuse
- › Children **walking home** from school or relying on public transport
- › Children of parents suffering from **substance abuse** are at higher risk



### HOW TO SUPPORT A CHILD THAT MAY NEED HELP:

- › Make sure that your child **understands** the difference between what is okay and what is not
- › Ask them how they **feel**
- › Make sure they have someone to **talk to** if they need it
- › **Be that person** that they can talk to
- › Be a **safe space** for them
- › Ask them if anyone is **hurting them**
- › Ask them if they would like to speak to a **professional** about anything
- › Make sure they have a safe space that they can **retreat** to when they need it

Let us all stand together against abuse and violence.  
**Not only for 16 days, but for 365 days a year.**



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