

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Khumbhekani Victim Empowerment Community Newsletter – 19 February 2026

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Introduction to the Awareness

On 19 February 2026, Khumbhekani Victim Empowerment (VEP) hosted an Awareness Campaign on Human Rights and Children's Rights at Kurhula-B village. The engagement brought together community members and key stakeholders to strengthen understanding of rights, responsibilities, and the protection of vulnerable groups-especially women and children.

The awareness aimed to educate, create and encourage collective responsibility in safeguarding human dignity and equality within families and the wider community.



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Stakeholder Participation

The event was supported by representatives from:

- South African Police Service (SAPS)
- Community Policing Forum (CPF)
- Department of Health (Psychologist)
- Pastors and faith-based leaders
- Traditional leaders

Their presence ensured that discussions were informative, balanced, and grounded in both legal and community perspectives.



Brief on Human Rights and Children's Rights

The session opened with an overview of human rights, emphasising that every person is born with rights as per chapter 2 of the South Africa's Constitution, here are some of Human Rights were discussed:

• Equality

9. (1) Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
- (2) Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. To promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken.
- (3) The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.
- (4) No person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds in terms of subsection (3). National legislation must be enacted to prevent or prohibit unfair discrimination.
- (5) Discrimination on one or more of the grounds listed in subsection (3) is unfair unless it is established that the discrimination is fair.

• Human dignity

10. Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected.

• Life

11. Everyone has the right to life.

Men were cleared from the confusion where they blame the government that it gives Rights to women not knowing that both men and women are covered by the same Human Rights as per chapter 2 of the South Africa's Constitution, the Bill of Rights.

Men were also reminded that children's rights exist must always be prioritized, and that protecting children is a shared responsibility between parents, caregivers, communities, and authorities.

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Children's Rights:

28. (1) Every child has the right—
- (a) to a name and a nationality from birth;
 - (b) to family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment;
 - (c) to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services;
 - (d) to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation;
 - (e) to be protected from exploitative labour practices;
 - (f) not to be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that—
 - (i) are inappropriate for a person of that child's age; or
 - (ii) place at risk the child's well-being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development;
 - (g) not to be detained except as a measure of last resort, in which case, in addition to the rights a child enjoys under sections 12 and 35, the child may be detained only for the shortest appropriate period of time, and has the right to be—
 - (i) kept separately from detained persons over the age of 18 years; and
 - (ii) treated in a manner, and kept in conditions, that take account of the child's age;
 - (h) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the child by the state, and at state expense, in civil proceedings affecting the child, if substantial injustice would otherwise result; and
 - (i) not to be used directly in armed conflict, and to be protected in times of armed conflict.
- (2) A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.
- (3) In this section "child" means a person under the age of 18 years.

Questions for clarity:

1. What happens when children's rights are violated at home?

Participants explained that abuse, neglect, or extreme punishment can cause long-term physical and emotional harm to a child. Stakeholders emphasized that such cases must be reported so that children can be protected and families assisted.



2. Is disciplining a child the same as abusing a child?

It was clarified that discipline should guide and correct behavior, not harm or endanger a child. Beating a child severely or causing injury is abuse and can lead to legal consequences. Parents were encouraged to use positive and safe forms of discipline.

3. Why are some parents afraid to report abuse or seek help?

Community members shared that fear, shame, and lack of information often prevent reporting. Stakeholders reassured participants that services such as SAPS, social workers, and victim empowerment offices exist to support—not punish—those seeking help.

4. What role do men play in protecting children's rights?

The discussion highlighted that men play a crucial role as fathers, guardians, and role models. Men were encouraged to protect, nurture, and speak out against abuse, and to create safe environments for children.

5. Where can families go when they are struggling?

Participants were informed that support is available through social workers, health professionals, community leaders, churches, traditional leaders, SAPS, and Khumbhekani Victim Empowerment.

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Guidance from Stakeholders

SAPS emphasized that violence, abuse, and neglect are serious offences and that the law exists to protect victims, especially children.

The Department of Health psychologist spoke about the emotional and psychological impact of abuse on children and the importance of early intervention.

CPF and community leaders encouraged collaboration between families and law enforcement to prevent harm.

Pastors and traditional leaders highlighted moral responsibility, values, and the importance of nurturing children with love, guidance, and respect.



Key Messages from the Awareness

- Human rights apply to everyone, including both men and women
- Children's rights must always be protected
- Discipline must never turn into abuse
- Reporting abuse saves lives and futures
- Communities must work together to protect the vulnerable

Conclusion

The Human Rights and Children's Rights Dialogue held on the 19th February 2026 strengthened community awareness and cooperation. By educating, guiding, and supporting one another, Khumbhekani Victim Empowerment continues to play a vital role in protecting dignity, promoting justice, and ensuring safer environments for children and families.

Thank you for going through our newsletter... "YOUR PAIN IS OUR CONCERN!"

