



CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 29 MAY TO 5 JUNE 2022



Child Protection Week (CPW) is commemorated in the country annually to highlight the plight of children with regards to children's rights as stated in Section 28 of the Constitution of South Africa. The campaign began in 1997 and it aims to mobilize all sectors of society to ensure that children are cared for and protected¹. The fact that the coronavirus is our focus does not mean we must lose sight of the violence against children². It is our collective duty as members of society to protect and promote the rights and welfare of children.

Safety and security do not just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear. During the week of child protection, **schools as centers of care and support** have a role to play in raising awareness of child abuse, implementing prevention programmes and providing support to learners who are abused. **In doing so, we will contribute to efforts aimed at creating safer and healthier communities so that our children can thrive⁴.**

Schools are encouraged to focus on the issues of child abuse and learner pregnancy when planning activities for the awareness week. Information flyers on preventing and managing child abuse and prevention of learner pregnancy are attached. Schools are requested (i) to bring the contents of these flyers to the attention of their learners, (ii) to inform them of the medical, emotional, educational, and social risks of learner pregnancy and (iii) of child abuse, safety, and reporting. Schools are encouraged to undertake some of the activities on the attached table⁵ to celebrate the value of children and raise awareness of child protection during May-June. For further assistance, schools should contact the Psycho-Social Services component in their District.

Members of the public can report cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation on the Department of Social Development GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428/ *120*7867# or Childline: 116 or Lifeline: 0861 322 322. Alternatively, cases could be reported to SAPS on 10111. Let us stop the cycle of child abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.

1. South African Government
2. Lindiwe Zulu, MEC Social Development
3. Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa
4. Nkosinathi Siphi, Former KZNDOE HOD
5. Mariëtte Jacobs in partnership with Valcare and the Drakenstein Child Protection Steering Group



Activities	
1. Go green for awareness	Let your staff wear green ribbons and tie green material or ribbons around the fences and trees of your school. The Green Ribbon symbolizes life and growth associated with children as well as the nurturing of children.
2. Teach children their rights	Awareness and information talks to learners on child abuse, safety and reporting (KZNDOE Prevention of Child Abuse Flyer).
3. Empower your teaching and non-teaching staff	Organize child protection training to equip your staff to manage and support incidents of child abuse and to make child protection a priority (KZNDOE guidelines for the management of child abuse, neglect and exploitation for public schools in Kwazulu-Natal).
4. Visible protests	Display child protection posters in your school to raise awareness for child protection (KZN Child Abuse Poster).
5. Join forces for greater impact	Partner together with organizations in your community to launch child protection initiatives.