



## National Working Group on Sexual Offences

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In 2004 organisations from around South Africa came together to form the National Working Group on Sexual Offences. The National Working Group now consists of 26 organisations which collectively aim to promote the development and implementation of legislation and policy that ensures women and child survivors of sexual offences receive the optimal legal, medical and psycho-social support, treatment and care.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The overall aim of the Working Group is to advocate for sexual offences legislation and policies that as far as possible reflect the best interests of adult and child survivors of sexual violence; and to evaluate and monitor the implementation of such laws and policies on an ongoing basis.

The objectives of the Working Group are:

- To increase awareness and understanding of sexual offences legislation and policies amongst the general public, relevant government departments, the media and civil society organizations concerned with sexual violence;
- To build capacity within the Working Group in order to enable members to engage with and advocate around the Sexual Offences Bill and related policy;
- To advocate around key aspects of the proposed legislation that will best advance the rights, interests and needs of sexual violence survivors;
- To employ advocacy strategies that include lobbying key role players, mobilizing community members and organizations, and engaging with the media; and
- To monitor and evaluate the implementation and application of sexual offences legislation and policies.

### **Activities of the Working Group**

- Workshops in 2006 in each province around the Sexual Offences Bill
- Two conferences, one in 2005 and another in 2006, around the criminal justice system's response to rape, as well as that of the healthcare sector
- Written submissions to Parliament around the Sexual Offences Bill
- Developing fact sheets around aspects of the Sexual Offences Bill
- Written and oral submissions to the South African Human Rights Commission's hearings on rape survivors' access to health care.
- Campaigns organised by individual members of the Working Group calling for the Sexual Offences Bill to be passed

## **Member Organizations**

The following organizations are currently members of the Working Group:

- Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention And Training (ADAPT)
- AIDS Legal Network
- Childline SA
- Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS)
- Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)
- Greater Nelspruit Rape Intervention Project (GRIP)
- KwaZulu-Natal Network on Violence Against Women
- Masimanyane Women's Support Centre
- Molo Songololo
- Mosaic Training, Healing and Service Centre for Women
- Nisaa Institute for Women's Development
- OUT LGBT Well-being
- People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)
- Port Elizabeth Rape Crisis Centre
- Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust
- Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN)
- Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task Team (SWEAT)
- Sonke Gender Justice
- Teddy Bear Clinic
- Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme (TVEP)
- Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre (TLAC)
- Thusanang Advice Office
- Western Cape Network on Violence Against Women
- Women and Men Against Child Abuse (WMACA)
- Women's Legal Centre.
- Women'sNet

## **Useful Contacts within the Working Group**

c/o Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre (011) 403-4267 /lisa@tlac.org.za

**Please do not hesitate to contact the Working Group for information, comment, analysis or enquiries.**