



COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

SAHRC has revealed that there is a shortage of skills, training and resources when it comes to mental healthcare in the country

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi requested the commission to investigate the sector after the Life Esidimeni tragedy. JOHANNESBURG - The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) says that its hearings on the status of mental healthcare in the country has revealed a shortage of skills, training, resources.

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi requested the commission to investigate the sector after the Life Esidimeni tragedy.

The SAHRC says thta it's received nationwide complaints about access to healthcare services(Source: EWN) [Read more.](#)



Stakeholders from the health sector providing SAHRC with status on mental health in the country.

- Chairperson Bongani Maiola says hearings on the status of mental health care in the country has revealed a

shortage of skills, training and resources. (Source: EWN)

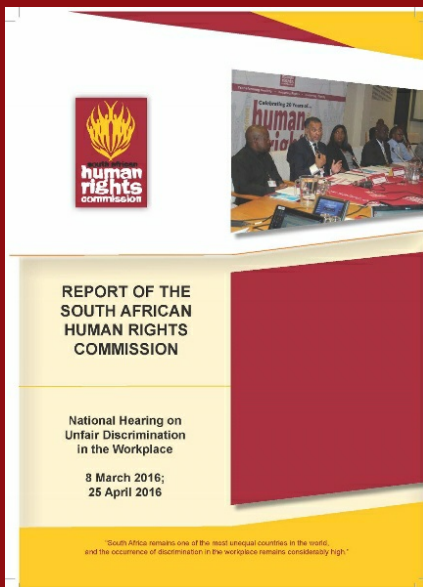
- Commissioner Angie Makwetla says it's become apparent that many mentally ill patients are not heard (Source: EWN)
- SAHRC Spokesperson, Gail Smith on the national investigative hearings into the state of mental healthcare in the country Source: EWN

SAHRC launches report on Discrimination in the Workplace

The launch follows the National Hearings that were held under the guidance of Commissioner Bokang Malatji to investigate human rights challenges of discrimination in the workplace.

Despite South Africa being hailed as having one of the most progressive Constitutions in the world and having adopted a comprehensive legal framework which is aimed not only at prohibiting discrimination but at actively enhancing the attainment of equal opportunities, South Africa remains one of the most unequal countries in the world. The occurrence of discrimination in the workplace remains considerably high, emphasising that the enactment of legislation and policies alone is not enough to prevent and eliminate discrimination in practice. In considering the far reaching implications and the prevalence of substantial inequalities, the South African Human Rights Commission hosted a national hearing on unfair discrimination in the workplace between March and April 2016.

[To access the report click on the image below.](#)



Communications Coordinator Gushwell Brooks on ENCA on the Launch of *Discrimination in the Workplace* report





ZHRC Leads Human Rights Monitoring Preparedness Ahead of 2018 Polls

A three-day dialogue session on human rights came to a close on 17 November 2017 with a call to protect and promote human rights as Zimbabwe prepares to hold the 2018 elections. Conducted by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, the highlight of the workshop was on the need to revisit with a perspective to review, reform and align Section 133H of the Electoral Act which create Special Investigative Committee that mandates the ZHRC to collaborate with duty bearers such as the ZRP, Political parties who may be in some instances perpetrators of electoral violence. Consensus was noted that the above provisions compromise the independence of the ZHRC. Stakeholders also commenced the development an election strategy to ensure that the elections are conducted in an atmosphere that protects and promotes the human rights of all citizens.

Participants were drawn from different stakeholders such as Government departments, Zimbabwe Republic Police, Parliament, Civil Society Organisations, Independent Commissions ZEC and ZGC, as well as the South African Human Rights Commission, Malawi Human Rights Commission for the sharing of regional South-South experiences. (Source: UNDP) [Read more](#)

SAHRC attends Strategic Planning Session

Commissioners together with Senior Managers attended Strategic Planning Session from 30 October - 03 November 2017 to deliberate on organisational strategic path.



Back Row: Commissioner Andre Gaum; Commissioner Mohamed Ameerma; Chairperson Bongani Majola; Commissioner Jonas Ben Sibanyoni.

Front Row: Deputy Chairperson Priscilla Jana, Commissioner Bokankatla Malatji and Commissioner Angie Makwetla.



World Cities Day to address challenges of urbanisation

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World Cities Day to address challenges of urbanisation

Analysis
MICHAEL MCHUGH

THE World Cities Day is being celebrated in 2017 on the 15th of October. The day is a global celebration of the urban environment and the challenges of urbanisation. It is a day to reflect on the role of cities in the world and to share ideas and experiences on how to make cities more sustainable and resilient.



World Cities Day is a particularly important day for South Africa because it is a day to reflect on the role of cities in the country's development. It is a day to share ideas and experiences on how to make cities more sustainable and resilient. It is a day to reflect on the challenges of urbanisation and to share ideas and experiences on how to make cities more sustainable and resilient.

Introduction: Cities play an important role in the context of sustainable development. They are the engines of economic growth and innovation. They are the centres of culture and education. They are the places where we live and work. They are the places where we must make our cities more sustainable and resilient.

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The World Cities Day is meant to galvanise efforts among different role players to address the challenges posed by urbanisation and contribute towards sustainable development. The general theme of World Cities Day is Bet- ter City, Better Life, while each year a differ- ent sub-theme is selected, to either promote successes of urbanisation, or address specific challenges resulting from urbanisation. The 2017 theme for World Cities Day was Innova- tive Governance, Open Cities. World Cities Day is particularly important in the South African context where more than two thirds of the country's population will dwell in cities by the year 2030. However, as the country and the world at large commemorates World Cities Day, the South African Human Rights Commission (the SAHRC or commission) as a national human rights institution, mandated with the responsi- bility of promoting, protecting and monitoring human rights in the country, will continue to engage with the government in an attempt to deal with challenges increased urbanisation poses. Some of these challenges are inherited from our divided past such as apartheid spa- tial geography and urban inequality whereas evictions and homelessness still continue to confront urban dwellers in most cities today. (Source: The New Age) [Read more](#)

Battle for rights in traditional rites

Nonconforming people are protected by the Constitution in a complex tug-of-war

By Gift Gkomosotho, Research Advisor for Deputy Chairperson Priscilla Jana

Comment & Analysis

Battle for rights in traditional rites

Nonconforming people are protected by the Constitution in a complex tug-of-war

REPORT BY
GIFT GKOMOSOTHO

RECENTLY, I had an opportunity to see a screening of the award-winning film Inxeba: The Wound, which explores, in an incisive fashion, the complex ties involving oppressed sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. This is done provocatively against the backdrop of the Xhosa rite of ulwaluko — a practice that has always been masked in secrecy and is intended to prepare young men for adulthood.

The film challenges the intersection of the perspectives of gender-nonconforming persons who find it difficult to navigate this space because of how they may disagree with the values, traditions, and practices of the community.

I was immediately struck by the imagery of the film. In the opening, the complex ties involving oppressed sexual orientation, gender identity and expression are explored in a way that is both powerful and provocative.

With a metaphorical nod to the role of the film, the film's title, Inxeba: The Wound, is a reference to the film's title, Inxeba: The Wound, which explores, in an incisive fashion, the complex ties involving oppressed sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.



Delicate: Initiation or ulwaluko prepares young Xhosa men for adulthood.

So what is the article to transgender people? Photo: Open Media

needs to have — not only about this immediate intersection between gender people and traditions, but also about the role of the community in the process of change.

Is there space for trans persons? Or does this question make the controversy more personal?

The film, in my opinion, invites a dialogue that South Africa urgently

needs to have — not only about this immediate intersection between gender people and traditions, but also about the role of the community in the process of change.

For people, a Xhosa man (and 12 women) the story for a Xhosa transgender man) would have the conventional rite of ulwaluko.

as a Xhosa man and a transgender man, I can attest to the fact that the rite of ulwaluko is a complex and often controversial practice. It is a practice that has always been masked in secrecy and is intended to prepare young men for adulthood.

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and is intended to prepare young men for manhood.(Source: Mail & Guardian) [Read more](#)

SAHRC IN THE MEDIA

Lawsuit starts over 2014 pit-toilet drowning in Limpopo school

The civil lawsuit against the State over the death of a six year-old Limpopo boy who drowned in a pit latrine got underway at the High Court in Polokwane on Monday.

The parents of Michael Komape, a Grade R pupil from Chebeng Village, filed a R3-million lawsuit against Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga, after their son was killed on 20 January 2014.

In recent years, Michael's death has drawn attention to the plight of pupils in rural schools subjected to poor sanitation standards. The South African Human Rights Commission also dedicated its 2014 report on "The Right to Access Sufficient Water and Decent Sanitation in South Africa" to Michael.(Source: SowetanLive) [Read more](#)

To access the SAHRC Report on the Right to Access Sufficient Water and Decent Sanitation in South Africa click on the image below.



Report
and Recommendations
on the Right to Access
Sufficient Water and
Decent Sanitation in
South Africa

We are all responsible for children

Like the rest of the nation, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is shocked by recent reports of sexual violence directed against children in schools across South Africa.

We are all responsible for children

OPINION / 5 NOVEMBER 2017, 7:47PM / LETTER



SAHRC looks into Emfuleni mayor's sexual assault claims

The South African Human Rights Commission is instituting its own investigation into Emfuleni Mayor, Simon Mofokeng.

He's accused of sexually grooming a 14-year-old girl.

The politician's relationship with the girl became public after he'd apparently accidentally shared semi-nude photos of her on a WhatsApp group. (Source: ENCA) [Read more](#)

SAHRC looks into Emfuleni mayor's sexual assault claims

SOUTH AFRICA Wednesday 8 November 2017 - 2:41pm





File: The South African Human Rights Commission is instituting its own investigation into Emfuleni Mayor, Simon Mofokeng, who's accused of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old. Photo:

Catholic Bishops decry dysfunctional mobile clinics

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) has asked the SA Human Rights Commission to investigate the breakdown of mobile clinic systems in KwaZulu-Natal, North West and Limpopo. SACBC chairman Bishop Abel Gabaiza said in a statement on Tuesday that the health department had done a good job introducing mobile health services in remote rural areas.

"However, in some rural areas, the mobile service system is dysfunctional and ineffective in addressing health needs of rural communities," he said. (Source: Times Live) [Read more](#)

SAHRC Eastern Cape Office has been inundated with complaints relating to a whole range of issues affecting the delivery of quality basic education in the province

The South African Human Rights Commission's [SAHRC] Eastern Cape Provincial Office has been inundated with complaints relating to a whole range of issues affecting the delivery of quality basic education in the province. To this end, the Eastern Cape Commission's office will be hosting a Provincial Indaba on Education with a particular focus on School Infrastructure. Advocacy and Research Officer, Aubrey Mdazana spoke to Umhlobo Wenene. Source: Umhlobo Wenene. [Click here to access the audio](#)

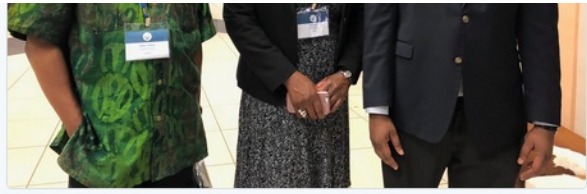
SAHRC in Limpopo says it has received a complaint from the DA asking them to investigate the alleged deaths of 68 pregnant women in various hospitals across the province

The South African Human Rights Commission in Limpopo says it has received a complaint from the DA asking them to investigate the alleged deaths of 68 pregnant women in various hospitals across the province. **Source: Capricorn FM**

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

SAHRC ON TWITTER @SAHRCommission





NANHRI: In-country meeting on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) - 29 & 30 November 2017



SAHRCCommission @SAHRCCommission · Nov 29





SAHRC Deputy Chairperson Adv.Priscilla Jana opening the SAHRC In-Country Meeting on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGGIE)



SAHRCCommission @SAHRCCommission · Nov 29

SAHRC Head of Legal Service Mr Pandelis Gregoriou on SOGIE- based discrimination in South Africa and complaints received by SAHRC based on SOGIE #SOGIERights





SAHRCCommission @SAHRCCommission · Nov 29

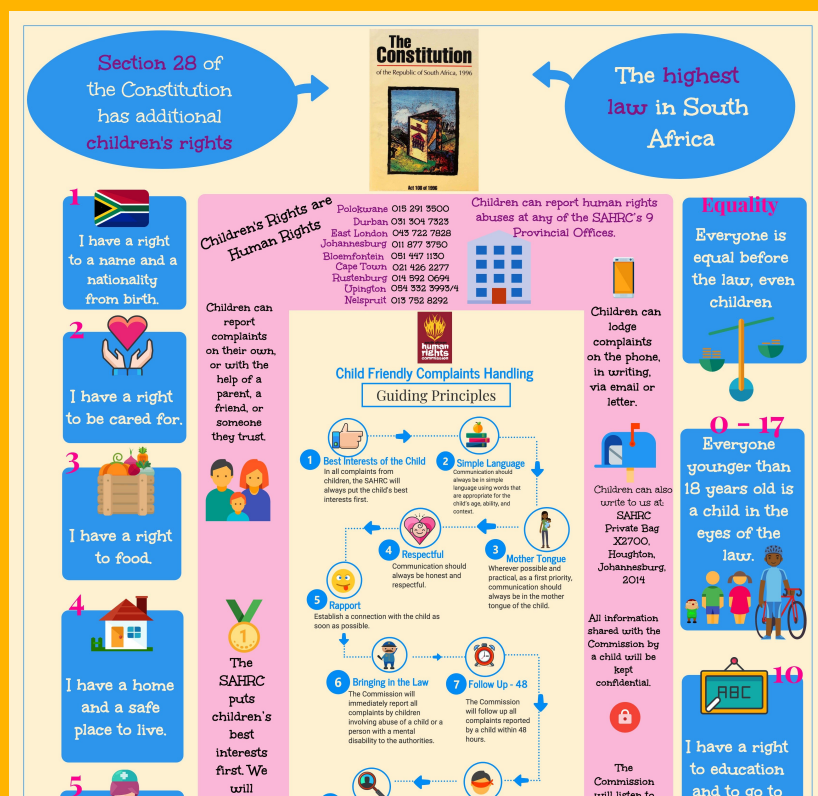
Next to present on regional strategies to tackle SOGIE-based violence and discrimination is Wendy Isaac from the Human Rights Watch #SOGIERights



Launch of Child Friendly Campaign Materials

The South African Human Rights Commission's provincial offices launched its Child Friendly Campaign Materials.

The Child Friendly Campaign Materials is aimed at raising awareness amongst children about their rights and responsibilities; empowering children with information that will enable them to identify human right violations and to popularize the SAHRC Child Friendly Complaints Handling Procedures.



1 I have a right to health care.

2 always try to do what is best for you.

3 **Investigate**
The Commission will make a decision on investigating complaints from children as soon as possible after reporting abuse to the authorities.

4 **No Rejection**
The Commission will not reject a complaint from a child if the child does not have all the information they need.

5 you talk to you about your complaint, and keep you informed of progress.

6 I have a right to a grant and other social support.

7 I have a right to be protected from neglect and abuse.

8 I have a right to be protected from work that is bad for my health, that stops me from going to school, or that harms me in any way.

9 I have a right to get legal help if I am in trouble with the law.

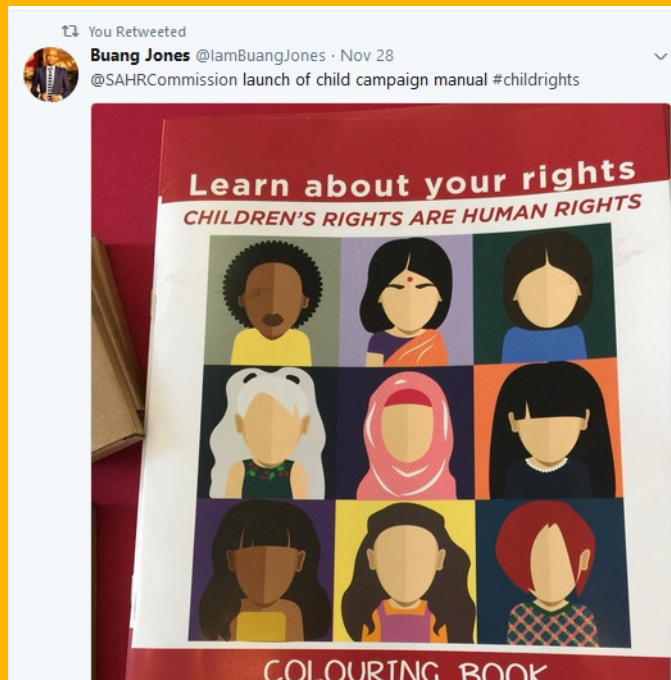
10 school.

11 The SAHRC has a special Human Rights Commissioner just for children.

12 All the SAHRC offices have special rooms just for children, where children can feel safe.

13 The SAHRC is concerned about the violation of children's human rights and is committed to protecting children and to investigating human rights violations subject to children. The SAHRC has adopted special measures and guidelines for complaints subject to children.

14 You can download this poster from www.sahrc.org.za





REPORTS ON THE WEBSITE

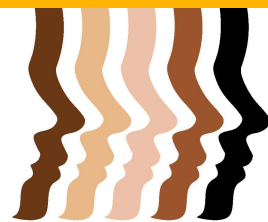
SAHRC International and Regional Report 2016.

As an institution established to support constitutional democracy and an internationally recognised national human rights institution (NHRI), the South African Human Rights Commission's (SAHRC) 2016 Annual International and Regional Human Rights Report (report) complements the institution's constitutional, statutory and international mandate. The report seeks to provide a snapshot of key human rights developments at the international and regional level during 2016, and to connect these with developments at a domestic level. In doing so, the report highlights the inextricable link between South Africa's international human rights obligations and their application domestically.

To access the reports click on the relevant images.



Research Brief on Race and Equality in South Africa



RESEARCH BRIEF ON
RACE AND EQUALITY
IN SOUTH AFRICA
2013 - 2017



Research Brief on Gender and Equality

RESEARCH BRIEF ON
GENDER AND EQUALITY
IN SOUTH AFRICA
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HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

World Braille Day, 04 January

World Braille Day is celebrated yearly on 4 January around the world to commemorate the birthday of Louis Braille. Louis Braille is credited with inventing the Braille language which helps blind people to read as well as write.

BIRTHDAYS

Dineo Pushuli (HO) & Abongile Sipondo (EC) - 01st

Pamella Pango (HO) - 03rd

Sonto Mndebele (HO) - 05th

Thabang Kheswa (EC) & Thandeka Magwenyane (KZN) - 07th

Penny Carelse (WC) & Tatenda Muranda (HO) - 10th

Dr Shanell Van Der Berg (HO) - 11th

Nokuthula Ntantiso (GP) - 21st

Nomakaziwe Dephane (EC) - 22nd

Hlamalani Ngobeni (HO) - 23rd

Ntombenhle Ngwane (HO) - 24th

Ayanda Nene (KZN) - 25th

Xolisa Mjekula (NC), Joyce Tlou (HO), Nomvuyiseko Mapasa (WC) & Alexandra Fitzgerald (HO) - 26th

Bahia Sterris (WC) - 27th

Siphelo Mbeki (HO) & Seokoang Seane (EC) - 29th

TALK TO US...



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Forum 3 Braampark Offices,
33 Hoofd Street,
Braamfontein, 2017**

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