



## **16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM**

### **AGAINST THE ABUSE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN 2021**

The role that schools play in the socialization of our South African children cannot be over-emphasized. Character nurturing through shared core values should be at the top of the agenda of all South African schools.

Crime statistics recently released by the South African Police Service (SAPS), leave much to be desired. Are we a society that runs campaigns and events but completely miss out on the essence raising young people and nurturing positive character traits. Do we have a set of shared core values that we live by as a people? If we did, why would our children and women in our country still suffer at the hands of men?

South African Principal's Association (SAPA) encourages schools to place character-nurturing at the top of the agenda in our schools. This includes both girl and boy child education. We encourage shared core values aligned with the Constitution of the country to be the focus of what we do in schools. We must be intentional in having conversations in our schools that highlight the plight of children and women in our country, and most importantly, conversations that bring us to act against such abuse. This must not be an event, it must be a way of life.

Transformation of our society for the better starts in our classrooms. It will require positive role modelling by school leaders and teachers. It will require character-nurturing as a key feature in our schools. SAPA supports 16 days of activism campaign, but we call for action on a day to day basis.

Let us continue to lead values-based schools.

**LINDA SHEZI (MR)**

**SAPA NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY**

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