

Soul city reaching out for society

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Gender based violence is an epidemic that has been inherited in societies across our continent which has and will always have a negative impact in the transformation of human kind into civilized humans. Often perpetrators of this tendencies are known to the victims, and in a cruel



mode, often it makes it difficult to report such matters hence the re-occurring crimes. Soul City an NGO that assist in social mobilisation and are in fight against rape, HIV and Aids held a two day seminar at Nazareen church at Mokgareng village in Taung Friday the 4th of June 2015. The aim of the seminar was to educate both elderly and young people in the village about Thuthuzela centres and the scourges of gender based violence within our respective communities. Mr Mpho Mogapi, Soul city Provincial Manager

who facilitated the programme, indicated that gender based violence is a cruel crime that should be reported and victims should know where to go and what to do as well as not what to do. "The reason for this awareness campaign is to teach people about issues relating to gender based violence as in most cases these people do not know how to react to these crimes." She further added that one factor that also makes it difficult for perpetrators to be brought to book is because in most cases,

the person is known to the victim. "What makes these prevalent crime re-occur is because you find out that the rapist is somehow related to the victim and this makes it difficult for victims to report the matter. Mpho advised the community about Thuthuzela centres around the country that deals directly with rape cases and gender based violence. In Taung the centre is situated at Taung Hospital and victims are encouraged to go there immediately after attack. The centres are well equipped

with trained personnel that deal with rape and gender based violence. This include a police officer, who assists in opening a formal rape charge or relevant charge, a psychologist who assists in counselling, and a doctor who obviously examines injuries sustained by the victim. Compared to a police station where one is subjected to waiting a longer time and being questioned by police officers who sometimes don't have compassion, Thuthuzela becomes very remarkable.

Though these centres open at seven in the morning and close at 5 afternoon, victims are advised to break the silence around rape and other gender based violent crimes and look out for signs suggesting violence in small children as in most cases are victims because of vulnerability and innocence.

Pic (Left) Learners participating in Gender Based Violence Workshop
Pic (Right) Community Members