

# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABUSE

This is a campaign that opposes Violence against women and children, its aim is to raise awareness of the negative impact that violence and abuse has on women and children.

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, 10 December Human Rights Day. Conceptualise if for 16 days, there was no rape, no child abuse and no women molested and ultimately never hear of violence again. It's so sad that 2-4 million children endure violence in their development and 9 out of 10 women become abused by their intimate partners or close people in their lives.

The underlying fact is that rape and violence against women is a greater epidemic than that shown by statistics provided by the South African Police Services because a lot of cases are unreported. A number of factors, including intimidation of the survivor by the perpetrator, fear of not being believed, of being blamed and shunned, of being interrogated, re-traumatised, labelled and pitied, contribute to the silence of victims.

Violence takes many forms, for example:

- Physical violence in the form of domestic violence, terrible violent crime such as murder, robbery, rape and assault.
- Emotional violence and trauma at many levels caused by many factors. Women and children in their homes, at work, at schools, on our streets, in our communities suffer this form of violence.

- Another terrible blight of our democracy is poverty, starvation, humiliation and degradation, especially against women and children. Poverty, inequality and unemployment are conditions under which violence thrive.

We need to invest in prevention not treating the symptoms. There is a need for men to be educated in how the violence affects everyone and how important it is for them not to become perpetrators but rather protectors of our communities from violence.

Not only social and religious leaders ought to challenge the bad practice but each and every one of us is, we are all called to help report violence for the betterment of our communities. This year marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year, in partaking in 16 days of activism against violence.

'We take a Stand and ACT' campaign is to be launched in December at the ACTS Leadership Conference with the aim of running throughout the year across the country to combat violence.

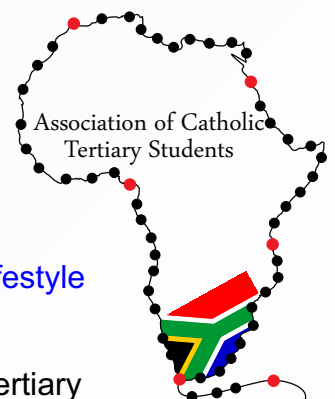
Show God's Love through ACTS of mercy, protect women and children against violence.

**Lucky Molo**

Social Awareness and Lifestyle  
Officer

Association of Catholic Tertiary  
Students 2015/16

[acts.sacbc.org.za](http://acts.sacbc.org.za)



**ACTS**