

Annual Review 2007

SAARTJIE BAARTMAN CENTRE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Violence ends here ● one stop



Silent No More, We're Hanging Out Our Dirty Laundry

On 26 November 2001, the Centre participated in the launch of the South African Clothesline Project on Robben Island. The aim of the project is to provide otherwise voiceless women with an opportunity to tell their stories of abuse by writing them in paint onto T-shirts. The shirts are then hung on a clothesline for 'all to see', which serves to raise public awareness around the plight of gender-based violence.

Vision

The vision of the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children (SBCWC) is the creation of a safe and secure society and a human rights culture where women and children are empowered to exercise their full rights.

Mission

The mission of the SBCWC, as a human rights-based, non-governmental organisation, is to provide a comprehensive range of services that are accessible and safe to women and children by:

1. Working in partnership with organisations that advocate ending violence against women and children
2. Providing 24-hour emergency shelter, short and medium term residential care, and childcare services
3. Prioritising awareness of women's rights around issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, legal and socio-economic rights.

Objectives

Developmental objective:

We have established an integrated and comprehensive **one-stop centre** for women and children who are survivors of gender-based violence.



Immediate objectives are to:

1. Manage an effective and co-ordinated one-stop centre partnership that provides a comprehensive **range of services** for abused women and children.
2. Establish, through **research**, a best practice intervention model to challenge and end violence against women and children.
3. Provide effective **community outreach** work to end violence against women and children through preventative and awareness programmes.
4. Develop an effective **networking relationship** with other organisations, networks and tertiary institutions that advocate and seek an end to violence against women and children.
5. Promote research and advocacy around gender-based violence in order to influence policy makers and society in general.



The Western Cape Government is proud to be associated with the Saartjie Baartman Centre because of the important work that this Centre does to assist women, children and youth who have been the victims of violence.

Our vision for the Western Cape is that it must become a **Home for All**. But our mortuaries, hospitals, courts, police stations and the silence in our homes tells us that the Western Cape is not yet a home for women. Women in our province do not feel safe, they are not equal, they are not recognized, they are denied education and denied opportunities. Women are sometimes even denied the opportunity to have their voices heard and their faces seen. If we

want to make the Western Cape a **Home for All**, we have to deal with those issues related to the rights and unequal status of women in this province.

We must therefore make a call to men: put yourself in the shoes of women, try to imagine the pain and humiliation they feel with every abusive act, with every incident of emotional blackmail. Try to imagine the loss of confidence, the feelings of inequality, the pain and the suffering when women are subjected to violence.

The starting point must be to assert that women in South Africa are not asking men for favours, they are not asking us to be kind to them. **Women have earned the right to be free, equal and safe** – they have earned the right to dignity.

Our province cannot become a **Home for All** until it becomes a **Home for Women** and the Saartjie Baartman Centre is helping us to achieve that.



Ebrahim Rasool
Premier of the Western Cape

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