

ONE TOO MANY

**SIGN THE PLEDGE AND LET US END
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Go to www.ilithalabantu.org.za & join the movement
to
End Violence Against Women and Girls**

#OneTooManySA

“One Too Many”

Who Is Killing the Women in our Communities?

Sign the Pledge and let us end violence against women and girls.

As an organisation that fights against the gross violation of human rights and violence perpetrated towards women and girls for over 28 years, we are deeply concerned with the countrywide increased incidents of violence against women and the girl child. As an organisation we shall not sit back whilst our young women are abducted, raped and murdered at pandemic rates.

The brutalization of our women should spark a concern to all citizens of our nation and a call for action to address this scourge of senseless violence because not a day goes by without hearing of the ruthless murders and rape of young women and girls. Since January 2017 a number of young women and girls have been abducted, raped, and murdered in some of these horrific acts their hands tied or their hair cut or their breasts mutilated.

Here are recent cases

Lindokuhle Kota, 2, from Khayelitsha - murdered in May

Iyapha Yamile, 4, from Khayelitsha - murdered in April

Natalie Baartman, 5, from Syferfontein - murdered in February

Stacha Arendse, 11, from Tafelsig - murdered in March

Franziska Blöchliger, 16, from Kalk Bay - murdered 2016

Following the murder of 22 year old Karabo Mokoena, 3 year old Courtney Pieters was raped and murdered, a pregnant woman was gang raped and 4 young women were abducted, raped, murdered and their bodies burnt beyond recognition.

These gruesome acts of violence paint a picture of a nation which preys on the woman and girl child.

It is in our silence as a nation, where we normalize these acts perpetrated on our women, when we need to break this culture of silence which helps breed men who abuse women. We are sceptical, noting that dozens of suspects had been arrested over the years several of them detained and sent to prison but the killings had never stopped.

As an organisation it is deeply saddening that our justice system continues to fail our women because far too often the perpetrators of violence perpetrated on women are given light sentences or are acquitted or the case continues to be prolonged to such an extent that victims fail to see its end and wish it to end by dropping the charges, as for years they have to return to court to relive and reopen wounds which they wish to heal from or even forget, and as a result these offenders go out in society and repeat the very same or similar offense, this is an endless cycle where justice is not served.

As a country we should ask ourselves where did we go wrong, as from a legislative perspective there are laws in place to protect our women but the problem lies in whether these laws go far enough, are they meant to serve as a deterrent, is there a lack of enforcement of these laws or do we need to relook at whether legislatively we have been too comfortable on these laws. We need to challenge aspects of our society in order to get to the answers, we need to ask ourselves what is it about the culture of hyper-masculinity that helps to breed men who gang rape and murder women and children, and why do particular sectors of our society choose to remain silent in light

of the gruesome acts of violence and abuse of our women when addressing this scourge is the responsibility of us all, as no one is exempt from taking action.

It is rather concerning that as a nation we have lost the sense of Ubuntu, we should not be selective about whom we choose to care about because irrespective of one's race, class or gender the pain of my fellow citizens becomes my pain because violence against women is a crosscutting issue which affects us all. Every week we hear another rapes, murder in our communities, but each of them is invariably portrayed as an isolated incident. We have dots so close they're splatters melting into a stain, but hardly anyone connects them. Furthermore an interest group like **#SaveSA** were able to mobilise all sectors of society in a national shut down for economic and state capture concerns, as an organization our concern lies in the fact that such groups don't show the same sense of vigour and urgency towards the brutalization and murders of our women and girls, surely the livelihood of our women and girls should spark a national outcry far greater than that of any economic concerns.

Ilitha Labantu, believe that we can disarm and eliminate rape and murder of our women and girls as a weapon of war in our lifetime. To do so, we call on our government to build on the solutions created decades ago by Charlotte Maxeke, who championed the potential of African people, especially women, to stand up and take control of their own affairs and solutions created decades ago by women's organizing worldwide.

In response to these increased incidents of violence perpetrated on women and children Ilitha Labantu calls for a nationwide campaign to end all violence perpetrated on women and girls, no longer can we wait for the "16 Days of Activism Campaign" to voice our grievances or to have a call to action on such matters when violence perpetrated on women and the girl child is a daily occurrence, even as we speak a woman and girl child is being victimized.

As an organisation we are saying it is a human rights issue, it's everyone's problem, it's not isolated, and it's never going to be acceptable again. It has to change. It's your duty to change it, and mine, and ours **"don't be a standby, your child is my child"**

Our Pledge is as follows

I PLEDGE to stop the abduction, rape and killing of women and girls in our communities. Together we demand bold political leadership to prevent rape and brutal killing, to protect civilians and rape survivors, and call for justice for all including effective prosecution of those responsible.

The national Campaign to Stop Rape & Brutal Killing of our women and girls **Starts Now**. Every action and every member is important - so we also asked you to share your own pledge. A personal pledge of the action you will take within your own community for the Campaign.

Stop The Rape & Brutal Killing Of Our Women And Girls