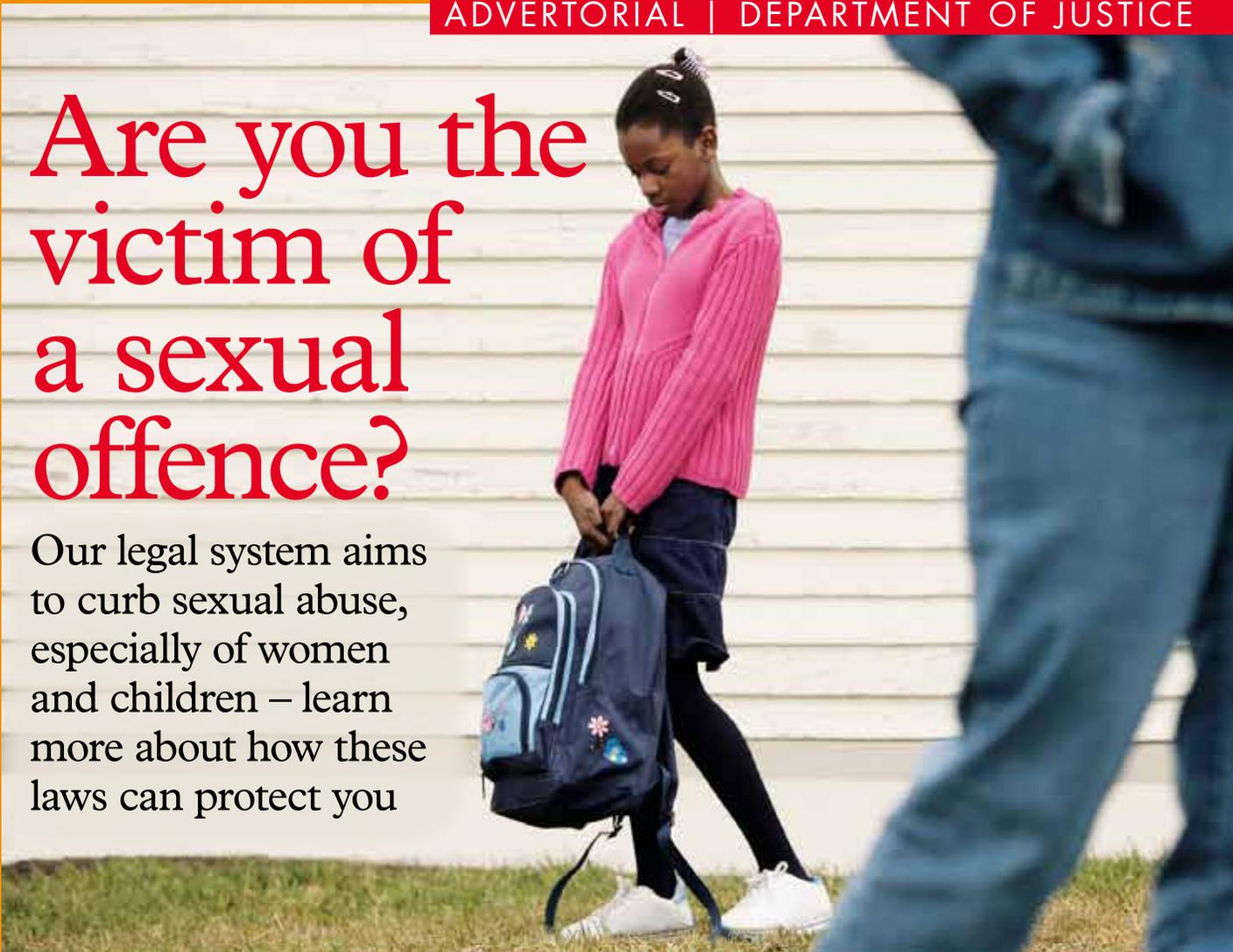


Are you the victim of a sexual offence?

Our legal system aims to curb sexual abuse, especially of women and children – learn more about how these laws can protect you



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THE government introduced a law to protect communities against rape and other sex-related crimes. This law is called the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007. It's also known as the Sexual Offences Amendment Act (SOAA) and it protects victims, especially women, children and people living with mental disabilities who've been raped or who've experienced sexual crimes.

There are three categories of sexual offences (or crimes):

- **"General" crimes:** rape, sexual assault, incest, compelled self-sexual assault, bestiality, sexual act with a corpse and trafficking for sexual purposes.
- **Crimes against adults:** compelled sexual act or masturbation, flashing (exposure of sexual parts), child pornography and

adult prostitution (where only the client is prosecuted).

- **Crimes against children and persons with mental disability:** statutory rape (sex with children younger than 16), child prostitution (sexual exploitation), sexual grooming of children (acts intended to facilitate sex), compelling children to witness sexual offences, sexual acts or self-masturbation, exposure or display of child pornography, and using a child for child pornography.

What are sexual offences (crimes)?

The Sexual Offences Amendment Act protects any person who has experienced rape, sexual assault, sexual grooming, incest, child pornography or prostitution.

- Rape occurs when a person forces another to have sexual intercourse without their consent.
- Sexual assault occurs when a person sexually violates another person without their consent.

- Sexual grooming occurs when a person educates, introduces or prepares a child to perform/witness any sexual act or to become sexually ready. A child is usually unaware that the person is grooming him/her for sexual acts because this person is often nice to the child.

In most instances, after realising the motive of the person, the child is scared to speak or report this because the incidents could have been taking place over a long period of time.

- Incest occurs when people who are related and aren't allowed to marry each other engage in a sexual act with each other even though they both agreed to do so. It's illegal and should be reported.
- Child pornography occurs when a person or company uses a child for a reward or money for the purpose of publishing pornographic material.
- Child prostitution occurs when a person uses a child or any person living with mental disabilities to expose or display them for



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



This article, the last in a series of five with important information that could make a difference in your life from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, is in support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Women and Children Abuse campaign.

prostitution, or engages him/her in sexual acts for a reward.

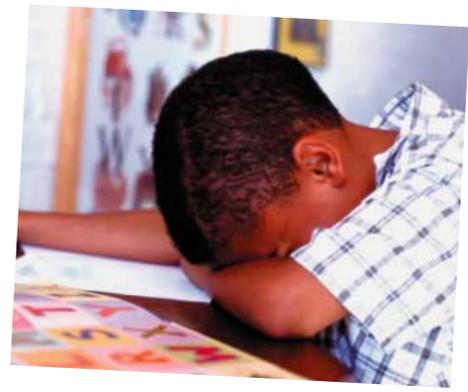
Reporting an offence to the police

- Go to the nearest police station with a family member or friend.
- Make a statement. The police will take down everything you tell them in the form of a statement.
- You're allowed to make changes to your statement.
- Don't forget to get a case number from the police officer.
- When reporting to the police, you may ask for a medical person to carry out an examination.
- These findings will be included in your case file.
- Don't forget to give the police officer your address and telephone numbers.
- If you move, inform the police so they can keep you informed.

Anyone who knows about a sex offence committed against a child or mentally disabled person must report the incident to the police, or else they could face a jail term or a fine.

The rights of victims of rape and related sexual crimes

- You're entitled to dignity and privacy when you report a case to the police, as well as at a public hospital or clinic. When you report to the police you'll be taken to a separate room where you can speak in a space you're comfortable in.
- Information: When you report to a public hospital you'll receive information on the procedures required to have the alleged perpetrator tested for his or her HIV/Aids status, and you'll have the right to receive post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Treatment: The courts will appoint a competent person to act as an intermediary in cases where a witness under the age of 18 would



DON'T LOOK AWAY
ACT AGAINST ABUSE



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

KWANELE: COMMUNITIES UNITED IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THIS CAMPAIGN
Wear a white ribbon for the 16 days from 25 November to 10 December

TOLL-FREE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE
Ladies: 080 132 2323
Crisis Line: 080 006 5004
AIDS Help Line: 080 001 2522
Crime Stop: 080 011 0111
Shop Gender-Based Violence: 080 011 4100
Rape Free Gateway Call Centre: 1300

If you are being abused, or know of someone who needs help, don't look away – get help.



suffer undue mental stress if he or she were to testify at such proceedings without the assistance of intermediary services.

What do "victim" and "offender" mean?

The Act uses the terms "complainant" and "victim". Both are defined in the Act and have a similar meaning:

- A complainant is the alleged victim of a sexual offence.
- A victim is any person who alleges that a sexual offence has been perpetrated against him or her.
- A victim of sexual offences can be any person, male and female.
- An offender is any person (male or female) who intentionally and knowingly commits a sexual offence.
- For more information call 012-315-1111 or go to www.justice.co.za. ■



STAND TOGETHER FOR RIGHTS

Juayela i Justice