



ITUC LABOUR RIGHTS FOR WOMEN CAMPAIGN PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 08 MARCH 2013

Labour Rights for Women calls for end to gender-based violence

The Labour Rights for Women (LRW) campaign in South Africa led by the Four Federations (COSATU, NACTU, FEDUSA and CONSAWU) supports the global call to eliminate violence against women and girls.

LRW, which aims to empower women with knowledge about their rights in the workplace, is equally committed to opposing all forms of violence and abuse directed against women. Violence against women is widespread and often socially tolerated. We need to challenge those who perpetuate this system of abuse, and change the way women are treated in this country. Women need to know what the laws are concerning violence and women –and ensure that these laws are actually implemented.

On March 8 2013, International Women's Day, organisations across the world will unite in their opposition to gender-based violence. Violence against women and children is also the topic of the 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) which is currently taking place in New York.

Violence against women and girls is a human rights issue that affects people of all nationalities, faiths and economic backgrounds. Ending this violence isn't just the responsibility of governments but also of every woman, man, boy and girl.

In the light of the recent rape and murder of Anene Booysen in South Africa, and in the face of horrific levels of abuse of women and children in a country which now has the highest levels of rape in the world, LRW joins the international call to fight against gender-based violence.

March 8 will be marked by marches and demonstrations across the world. In South Africa, some of the activities will include a "Ring the Bell" initiative in which people show their determination to halt the violence in their homes and communities by ringing a bell. There will be a mass ringing of bells at 12 noon across the city of Cape Town and public action in Adderley Street, coinciding with "Ring the Bell" events in Delhi, Rio de Janeiro and New York.

"Enough is enough"

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