

Children's Day Speech

given by Michele Danielle Uys (member of Junior Childline Management Committee)

Good Morning Friends

I'd like to start by introducing myself. My name is Michele Uys. I'm 15 years old and go to school in Polokwane. I am privileged enough to be a member of the Junior Childline Management Committee. I am here to tell you that there is hope. While there is life- there is always hope.

Many of you have been Abused, Abandoned, Tortured, Mistreated or Neglected. Yes, many of you may not have been treated with the respect and dignity every human being deserves; but are instead subjected to violence, poverty, racism and the ignorance of adults.

We are the future leaders of tomorrow. We are all equal and deserve respect, special care and protection.

Child abuse is so rampant in South Africa that the majority of entries to an art competition held by Childline, showed widespread killings, sexual abuse, beating, drugs and other related phenomena.

I was shocked to hear that in South Africa a child is raped every five minutes and child abuse has rocketed by 108% since 1993, according to the National Council for Child and Family Welfare.

These statistics are shocking and represent a National Disgrace.

I am here to tell you 'it's easy to be strong if you have someone to talk to'. Childline Limpopo has very qualified counsellors who are there to listen, support and help you. We are one phone call away -0800055555-
MEMORISE THIS NUMBER – 0800055555 -

The supreme law of South Africa, which is the constitution, guarantees that all people under the age of 18 has children's rights.

- You have the right to be a child
- You have the right to be cared for by your parents and family.
- You have the right to healthy food.
- You have the right to health care when you are feeling sick.
- You have the right to be protected and to feel safe.
- You have the right to education.
- If you have a disability you have the right to special care.

The tide has turned, we NEED to build a safer and more secure South Africa for all Children. You all have the right. Remember, preventing crimes against children is everybody's business.

If you are a victim or suspect one of your friends is being abused, call the South African Police Service -10111- or Childline.

'It's your right- SPEAK OUT-'

If you feeling threatened, tell someone you trust. Never allow abuse to become a secret between you and the abuser.

If you have already been abused, do not protect them- Report it.

We can no longer remain silent. We have rights. We must start speaking out. Even Shouting out if we have to!

Lets join hands, children of Limpopo. Lets stand up, we are the future leaders of this beautiful country. Let the Children of Limpopo lead by example.

Speak out and stand up for your rights.

As Kofi Annon says “There is no trust more Sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring their safety and rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their live are free from fear and that they grow up in peace”
“Peace be with you all”

Remember you are never alone. There is always someone willing to help you and listen to you-
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Childline is a friend, who comes in when it looks like the rest of the world is going out!

Thank you.