

## Victim Empowerment Programme

The Department of Social Development has established the Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) to support people who have suffered physical, mental or emotional harm through crime or violence. The support is extended to their families.

### What we offer

The Victim Empowerment Programme and our partners in the Western Cape offer a variety of services which include:

- emotional and practical support;
- assistance with the management of trauma;
- ensuring that people are trained to identify the symptoms of post-traumatic stress;
- referrals to professional services;
- promoting the rights and responsibilities of victims;
- ensuring that ongoing victimisation is prevented; and
- shelter service.

A shelter is a place where those affected by crime and violence are able to live for a period of one day up to approximately three months depending on their needs.

The shelter assists with meeting basic needs such as:

- a safe place to live;
- protection, food and clothing;
- emotional support services such as trauma debriefing and therapeutic counselling;
- information on developing skills, victim's rights and training;
- support in preparation for court procedures;
- programmes focused on alleged perpetrators; and
- gender-based violence prevention programmes.

A shelter for victims of crime and violence provides services to children who are accompanied by their parents/ legal guardians.

### Know your rights

The Victim's Charter says you have:

- the right to be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy,
- the right to offer and to receive information,

- the right to protection and assistance.

Your legal rights include: the right to equality and privacy, the right to dignity, freedom and security and not be treated in a cruel, inhumane or degrading way, and the right to not to be subjected to slavery, servitude or forced labour.

The Domestic Violence Act protects you against:

- abuse (physical; sexual; emotional; psychological; verbal and economic)
- harassment,
- intimidation,
- stalking,
- damage to property.

The Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act protects you if a sexual act has been intentionally committed against you without your permission.

The Prevention and combatting of Trafficking in Persons Act

- Human trafficking, also known as "trafficking in persons" affects men, women and children for a variety of exploitative purposes such as domestic slavery, debt bondage, illegal adoption and exploitation in the sex industry.

### If you have been a victim of a crime you should:

- get to a place of safety;
- report the incident to the relevant authorities;
- seek medical assistance;
- ask for help from a trusted person or social service provider.

### Slagofferbemagtigingsprogram



Die Slagofferbemagtigingsprogram (VEP) is daarop gerig om slagoffers en oorlewendes van misdaad en geweld en hulle gesinne by te staan om die impak van die insident wat hulle ervaar het, te kan hanteer.

### Dienste wat ons aanbied

Die Slagofferbemagtigingsprogram van die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling, gesteun deur die diensverskaffers in die Wes-Kaap, bied 'n verskeidenheid bystanddienste aan slagoffers, wat die volgende insluit:

- emosionele en praktiese ondersteuning,
- staan slagoffers by om trauma te kan hanteer,
- verseker dat slagoffers ingelig is om die simptome van post-traumatische stres te kan identifiseer,
- verwys slagoffers na professionele dienste waar nodig,
- verskaf nooddienste aan slagoffers,
- verseker dat die kriminele regsproses sy loop doeltreffend neem,
- verseker dat slagoffers bewus is van hulle regte,
- verseker dat voortgaande viktimisering van slagoffers voorkom word, en
- skulingsdiens.

'n Skuiling is 'n plek waar slagoffers van misdaad en geweld vir 'n tydperk van een dag tot so lank as drie maande kan woon, afhange van die behoeftes van die slagoffer.

Die skuiling bied bystand met basiese behoeftes soos:

- verskaf 'n veilige plek om te bly
- verskaf beskerming, voeding en klere,
- verskaf emosionele bystanddienste soos trauma- en terapeutiese berading,
- bystand in die voorbereiding van hofprosedures,
- programme wat op beweerde oortreders fokus, en
- geslagsgebaseerde programme vir die voorkoming van geweld.

'n Skuiling vir slagoffers van misdaad en geweld verskaf statutêre dienste aan kinders wat met hul ouers/ wetlike versorgers vergesel word.

## Wat is jou regte?

In terme van die handves vir Slagoffers het jy:

- die reg om billik en met respek vir jou waardigheid en privaatheid behandel te word,
- die reg om inligting te bied en te ontvang,
- die reg tot beskerming en bystand,

Die Wet op Gesinsgeweld beskerm jou regte indien jy aan een van die volgende onderwerp word:

- mishandeling (fisies, seksueel, emosioneel, sielkundig, verbaal en ekonomies)
- teistering,
- intimidasie,
- agtervolging,
- beskadiging van eiendom.

Die Wysigingswet op seksuele oortredings en verbandhoudende sake beskerm jou as 'n seksuele daad bewustelik sonder jou toestemming teen jou gepleeg is.

Die Wet op die voorkoming en optrede teen mensehandel:

- Mensehandel, ook bekend as die "handel in mense" raak mans, vroue en kinders wat vir 'n verskeidenheid redes uitgebuit word, insluitende huishoudelike slawerny, skuldbetaling, onwettige aanneming en uitbuiting in die seksbedryf.

## As jy 'n slagoffer van misdaad of geweld is, moet jy:

- na 'n plek van veiligheid toe gaan
- die voorval by die tersaaklike owerheid aan te meld
- mediese bystand te kry
- die hulp van 'n vertroude persoon of sosiale-diensverskaffer te vra.

## Who to contact? Wie om te skakel?

A complete list of contact details for victims of crime and violence is available at | 'n Omvattende lys met kontakbesonderhede vir slagoffers van misdaad en geweld is beskikbaar by die DMO se webwerf by:

[www.westerncape.gov.za/social-development](http://www.westerncape.gov.za/social-development)

Should you require any further information please contact | Skakel met die volgende instellings indien jy enige verdere inligting wil hê:

Provincial Department of Social Development  
| Provinsiale Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling:

# 021 483 5045

Any Regional Office of the Department of Social Development | Enige streekkantoor van die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling:

- Cape Winelands: 023 348 5300
- Eden Karoo: 044 814 1687
- Metro South: 021 763 6200
- Metro North: 021 483 7689
- Metro East: 021 812 0922 / 021 812 0930
- West Coast: 027 213 2096

Department of Social Development Toll Free Line  
| Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling  
Tolvrynommer

# 0800 220 250

Email: [GBV365DAYS@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:GBV365DAYS@westerncape.gov.za) /  
[SD.CustomerCare@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:SD.CustomerCare@westerncape.gov.za)

- Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (online trauma counselling 24hr/ 7 days trauma) : 0800 428 428
- Police: 10111
- SASSA 0800 60 10 11
- The Human Trafficking Resource Line: 0800 222 777

You may also contact your nearest court, clinic, or hospital. | Jou naaste hof of gesondheidsorginstelling (kliniek of hospitaal)



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# VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Protecting your rights  
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