



Empowering Survivors of Rape and Abuse

ARTICLE 1

READ THIS AND CRINGE

A rape occurs every 17 seconds! Shocking isn't it?

It is difficult to find the exact as well as true statistics for a crime like rape. Various institutions have various statistics and the real number might always elude us. It is a known fact that official police statistics do not reflect the reality. Why you may ask? The answer is simple, **not all cases of rape are reported.**

Africa check reported that 51 895 sexual offences were reported during 2015/2016 while other websites estimated over a 100 000 for the same period. The Medical Research Council provided the following after conducting interviews in the Gauteng area: only 1 in 25 women who have been raped reported to the police. The exact number should, therefore not be our focus. Our focus should be on the fact that South Africa is considered as one of the countries with the highest number of rape cases – being dubbed the rape capital of the world. **This statement alone should let your hair rise!!!**

Reasons for not reporting:

- Poor service and treatment of rape victims at our police stations
- The offender might be known to the victim and known to family members
- Fear of the victim that they will be intimidated by the perpetrator
- Many victims in SA do not have access to services
- Humiliation of being raped
- Extreme trauma following a rape
- Not wanting to cause pain to family and loved ones
- Myths and stereotypes about rape – placing the blame of the rape on the victim's behaviour

As stated above, true numbers don't deserve as much of our attention as we are currently wasting on it. We should rather change our way of thinking and adapt a policy of a **single rape incident is already one rape incident to many!!** Whatever the true number of rape cases actually are should be viewed as irrelevant. The relevant fact is, rape is a serious crime that violates a person's rights in more than one way. It is furthermore a crime that happens all too often. These estimates are a way for us to get a

glimpse of the real problem, to put this horrific crime in perspective. As a community we should focus on the issues why there are so many unreported cases, and so many people living with the trauma they have experienced without ever receiving healing or justice. What is needed in South Africa is a new system around reporting of rape and abuse. Instead of focusing on statistics we should focus on ways to make reporting easier. Part of this should include thorough training of the police and hospital staff in how to deal with rape survivors with processes and policies clearly in place, with a system of assessing the quality of service at stations, etc.

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READ THIS AND CRINGE.....

SOUTH AFRICA IS KNOWN AS THE RAPE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

- **A rape occurs every 17 seconds!**
- **1 in 2 women admit to being raped**
- **1 in 4 men admitted to having raped someone**
- **1 in 7 men admit to gang rape**
- **144 women report a rape everyday**
- **1 in 25 cases are reported to the police**
- **3 in 4 men said they perpetrate violence against women**
- **45% of rapes reported to police in SA are child rapes**
- **50% of South Africa's children will be abused before the age of 18**

SOUTH AFRICA HAS THE HIGHEST INCIDENCES OF CHILD AND BABY RAPE IN THE WORLD!

A WOMAN BORN IN SA HAS A GREATER CHANCE OF BEING RAPED THAN LEARNING TO READ!

IS THIS MY COUNTRY!!?

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IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION, OR WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE EPIC FOUNDATION, CONTACT:
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Also view our website for more information: www.epicfoundation.org.za