

Compassionate care to alleviate violence in children

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Can students get involved?
Students can get involved with therapeutic programmes, contact Prof Moen: melaniem@sun.ac.za.

For more info:
<https://www.avahealth.org.za>

Programme Information

South Africa is one of the most violent countries in the world. Social ills, such as poverty, inequality and inaccessibility to education, are some of the reasons UNICEF reports South Africa to be the worst country in the world in which to raise children between the age of five and 14.

Violence against children is one of the most pervasive and silent horrors of our times and jeopardises the right to education for millions of children around the world. South Africa furthermore has the highest percentage of child deaths in the world, which is double the global average. Children exposed to violence and adversity are at high risk of developing psychiatric and other disorders. Sadly, there remains a scarcity in research and interventions relating to the risks children are facing daily in South Africa.

Therefore, a group of national and international researchers are investigating the differential acts of violence children, aged six to nine years, are exposed to. Focus group interviews are conducted with Foundation Phase teachers to determine their views and experiences relating to the types of violence young children are exposed to.

This project aims to alleviate violent acts against young children through preventative measures such as an App <https://www.avahealth.org.za> and compassionate care program. The project is a collaboration between researchers, an NGO and schools from South Africa with the Zero Abuse Project in the USA. It is an interdisciplinary study and intervention, involving investigators in psychology, criminology, education and social sciences. The project is partly sponsored by the University of Stellenbosch's Division of Social Impact.