



12 February 2013

### **Silent Protest of Stellenbosch University on 14 February 2013.**

It is with the greatest sadness that our country has lost yet another innocent victim. The horrifying atrocity surrounding *Anene Booysen's* gang rape and murder in Bredasdorp a while ago has again shaken the foundation of our new South Africa to its core.

How can something like this and countless other instances of rape and murder happen in a country that prides itself on its human rights achievements? A country that is celebrated as having one of the most progressive and thorough Constitutions now stands bare in front of its people, having failed one of its born-free citizens, and clearly showing the deep divide between what is guaranteed on paper and what is practiced by its people.

In light of Bredasdorp and also the numbing statistics on rape and sexual violence in our country, the students of Stellenbosch University are uniting on **14 February 2013**, both Valentine's day and the Opening of Parliament, to ask the question, *where is the love and respect for our fellow South Africans?* And what are we doing to root out a culture of gender violence and the blatant disregard for human rights in our society?

In solidarity with Anene's family and countless other victims, we are holding a **silent protest** between **12:00** and **15:00** on **Thursday** on the *Rooiplein* to show our heartfelt support for all the silent victims, but also to send a very clear message that any sexual violence will be opposed with an unwavering unified stance.

The protest is inspired by Rhodes University's "1 in 9"-campaign of 2011 and we join our fellow students from other institutions like the University of Cape Town to not only convey our strongest support for the cause, but to also call upon other students and fellow South Africans to add their voices to the public outcry.

**Clinton du Preez**  
*SRC Chairperson,*  
Stellenbosch University

