

APPENDIX 1

VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES FOR CHILDREN AND FOR SOCIETY

1 *Violence in the home*

Violence in the home, including sexual violence, is at extraordinary levels in South Africa. Most sexual assault is perpetrated by offenders who are well known to the victim. South Africa has arguably the highest global rates of: rape (some 60,000 reports a year, with the best-case scenario being that only 1/9 is reported);ⁱ child rape (41% of reported rapes are perpetrated against children,ⁱⁱ and 15% of reported rapes involve children under 11);ⁱⁱⁱ domestic violence (the WHO estimates 60,000 cases a month);^{iv} intimate femicide (a woman is killed by her intimate partner every 8 hours);^v and a child homicide rate that is double the global average^{vi} (many child deaths arise from 'discipline gone wrong/too far'—corporal punishment in the home is still protected by the 'defence of reasonable chastisement'.^{vii})

2 *Violence in schools*

Violence in schools is rife: teacher-on-pupil, pupil-on-teacher and pupil-on-pupil. The problem is complex and multi-faceted, and manifests in bullying; sexual assault or harassment; physical violence; and psychological violence.^{viii}

Despite being prohibited since the 1996 Schools' Act, up to 73% of pupils are still being beaten at school in certain provinces.^{ix}

3 *Violence in communities*

Many of South Africa's township and informal settlement communities are bedevilled by gang activity, drug- and gun-running and high levels of substance abuse, including high alcohol consumption.

Violent service delivery protests are on the increase. There was one every second day, on average, in 2016.^x

Violence perpetrated by and against the police is rife: Marikana, Andries Tatane, the list is long and growing.

Xenophobia is also an increasing problem. At least 200 foreign nationals have been killed or maimed in xenophobic attacks in South Africa, since the dawn of democracy.^{xi}

4 *The violence of an unaccountable and corrupt government*

Corruption on a grand scale is taking place in South Africa. State capture has been facilitated by billions of rand paid in bribes and kick-backs for just about anything

you can think of.^{xii xiii xiv xv} This is feeding discontent, exacerbating poverty and fuelling violence.

5 The consequences of violence in the lives of children

Corporal punishment and exposure to violence in childhood has a number of serious negative consequences for individuals and for society.

These include:

- **Physical consequences**, including broken bones, internal injuries, cuts and burns; in the worst cases, they lead to death. Childline S.A confirms that many of the cases of child abuse which are brought to their attention involve discipline 'gone wrong' and corporal punishment that 'got out of hand'. The Medical Research Council (MRC) found that 45% of all child homicide was child abuse- and neglect-related, and estimates that 3 children are murdered a day in South Africa.^{xvi} Male children are almost twice as likely to be homicide victims. Although fatalities due to child abuse and neglect form a large part of the child homicide statistics, they are grossly underestimated.
- **Behavioural outcomes**, including increased childhood aggression, delinquency and antisocial behaviour as well as increased aggression, criminality and antisocial behaviour in adulthood.^{xvii} Children who had been spanked were also found to be at increased risk of abusing their own child or spouse in adulthood and at increased risk of being the victim of abuse.^{xviii} Several studies during the past decade have provided strong evidence that physical punishment is a risk factor for child aggression and antisocial behaviour.^{xix}
- Corporal punishment is linked to a range of **adverse emotional outcomes**, including decreased quality of relationship between parent and child. It also plays a clear role in decreased child and adult mental health.^{xx}

Corporal punishment is also linked to heightened levels of depression and suicidal tendencies,^{xxi} as well as increased likelihood of mood disorders, anxiety disorders, substance abuse/dependence, and personality disorders.^{xxii}

- Negative impacts on **intelligence and cognitive functioning**. One recent study found that children in the United States who were spanked had lower IQs four years later than those who were not spanked.^{xxiii} Furthermore, IQs of children aged 2 – 4 years who were not spanked were 5 points higher four years later than the IQs of those who were spanked.^{xxiv}

Research conducted in West Africa found that children in a school that used corporal punishment performed significantly worse in tasks involving "executive functioning" and psychological processes such as planning, abstract thinking, and delaying gratification than those in a school relying on milder disciplinary measures such as time-outs.^{xxv}

- Permanent **damage to the neural structure and function of the developing brain itself**.^{xxvi} Early childhood is the most critical period for brain development, and the stresses caused by pain and fear of spanking can negatively affect the development and function of a child's brain. It is precisely during this period of great plasticity and vulnerability that many children are subjected to physical punishment. The effect can be a derailing of natural, healthy brain growth, resulting in life-long and irreversible abnormalities.^{xxvii} In addition, physical punishment can cause alterations in the dopaminergic regions associated with vulnerability to the abuse of drugs and alcohol.^{xxviii}
- Evidence linking corporal punishment and **negative social outcomes** is strong and growing, and violence has been reliably linked to decreased moral internalisation and self-discipline.^{xxix}

ⁱ Rape Crisis Cape Town—see <http://rapecrisis.org.za/about-rape/>

ⁱⁱ LoBaido, A. 2001. *Child-Rape Epidemic in SA*, retrieved at <http://www.wnd.com/2001/12/12139/> on 27/08/2017

ⁱⁱⁱ [Kidnap, rape and murder of toddlers shocks Diepsloot](#). 2103. www.cnn.com. Retrieved 27/08/2017

^{iv} Bower C. 2014. The Plight of Women and Children: Advancing South Africa's Least Privileged in Rotberg R (ed.) *Strengthening Governance in South Africa: Building on Mandela's Legacy*. The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science

^v Abrahams N, Mathews S, Jewkes R, Martin L & Lombard C. 2012. *Every Eight Hours: Intimate femicide in South Africa 10 years later!* South African Medical Research Council Research Brief. Retrieved 27/08/2017 at <http://www.mrc.ac.za/policybriefs/everyeighthours.pdf>

^{vi} Bower, 2014. *Op cit*

^{vii} Mathews S & Martin L. 2016. Developing an understanding of fatal child abuse and neglect: Results from the South African child death review pilot. *South African Medical Journal*. 106(12): 1160-1163

^{viii} South African Human Rights Commission. 2006. [Inquiry into School Based Violence in South Africa 2006](#).

^{ix} Burton P and Leoschut L. 2012. *School Violence in South Africa: Results of the 2012 national school violence study*. Cape Town: Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP).

^x BusinessTech citing Africa Check. 2016. *This is how many protests there are per day in South Africa*.

Retrieved on 27/08/2017 at <https://businesstech.co.za/news/general/126243/this-is-how-many-protests-there-are-per-day-in-south-africa/>

^{xi} Kumolu C. 2017. *Xenophobic attacks: 200 foreigners killed, maimed since 1994 – Investigation*. Retrieved on 27/08/2017 at www.vanguardngr.com/2017/02/safrica-xenophobic-attacks-200-foreigners-killed-maimed-since-1994-investigation/

^{xii} Myburgh, P 2017. *The Republic of Gupta*. Cape Town. Penguin Rando House.

^{xiii} South African Council of Churches. 2017. *Report on the Unburdening Panel*. Retrieved on 27/08/2017 at <http://sacc.org.za/news/sacc-report-church-public-unburdening-panel-process-regina-mundi-church-soweto-may-18-2017/>

^{xiv} Swilling M. 2017. *Betrayal of the Promise: How South Africa is Being Stolen*. Retrieved on 27/08/2017 at <http://pari.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Betrayal-of-the-Promise-25052017.pdf>

^{xv} Scorpio and amaBhungane. 2017. #GuptaLeaks. See www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/scorpio/

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- ^{xviii} Ibid.
- ^{xix} See, for example, Mulvaney MK, Mebert CJ. Parental corporal punishment predicts behavior problems in early childhood. *J Fam Psychol* 2007; 21:389-97; Slade EP, Wissow LS. Spanking in early childhood and later behaviour problems: a prospective study of infants and young toddlers. *Pediatrics* 2004;113:1321-30; Taylor CA, Manganello JA, Lee SJ, et al. Mothers' spanking of 3-year-old children and subsequent risk of children's aggressive behavior. *Pediatrics* 2010;125:e1087-1065; Grogan-Kaylor A. The effect of corporal punishment on antisocial behavior in children. *Soc Work Res* 2004;28:153-62.
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- ^{xxv} PHYSorg.com. 26 Jul 2011. *Spare the rod and develop the child*. Accessed at <http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-07-rod-child-non-corporal-discipline-aids.html>
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