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@StellenboschUni

(Afrikaans onder)

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Enough is enough

Dear Student

I wish that my first letter to you could have been under more pleasant circumstances, but the violent deaths of Uyinene Mrwetyana, a female student at the University of Cape Town (UCT), and Jesse Hess, another female student from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), have again torn open the hearts our communities and the country at large. Unfortunately, these horrific incidents were just two of many that took place over the last few weeks. And what an indictment against our society that they happened in Women's Month. The women in our society have been, and continue to be, victims of what is often described as a "war on women".

I need to stress that Stellenbosch University (SU) is under no circumstances exempt from these horrific incidents of violence with the deaths of Robyn Pearce and Hannah Cornelius still fresh in our minds.

For now, our thoughts are with the families of the women affected by these violent incidents and especially with the UCT community. We mourn with you and I couldn't have put it better than Carli van Wyk, our outgoing Students' Representative Council (SRC) Chairperson: "Today our hearts are crying and bleeding for the life loss of our South African sister Uyinene. Our hearts are crying and bleeding for all our sisters, daughters, mothers and grannies whose dreams have been stolen. Too many tears have been shed, too much suffering has been endured and too many lives have been lost. We are crying out as one for justice and the freedom that all women deserve. Our cry, scream and shout will not stop until all our sisters are safe. Rest in peace our beloved sister."

The fact is, enough is enough! And while we will do everything in our power to educate, to train and to create awareness, I need to reiterate that SU has a zero-tolerance approach to gender-based violence and is committed to creating an environment free of gender violence and advancing equal rights for all. Violence on women must stop and we will not hesitate to act.

To the men in our communities, I want to urge you to step up. Not much is going to change if you don't take responsibility for the current situation we face in our communities. This is not a fight that women should fight alone. The saying is true: The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. So I am looking forward to see how the men in our university community are going to respond.

Part of taking action is healing. It is clear that our communities are deeply traumatised by these events and there is absolutely no shame in asking others to carry this load with you. Counselling services are available to students who feel the need to talk to someone. Please contact our **Centre for Student Counselling and Development at (021) 808 4994** (office hours) or the **24-hour crisis service at (010) 205 3032** (after hours).

Safety on campus and in town

In an ideal world, we should all be free to go where we want to when we want to. We should not be confined to certain spaces or certain times of day out of fear for maybe being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Unfortunately, the fact of the matter is that we live in a violent society with what seems to be only a few places that remain safe spaces for women. This is a societal ill, something deep in the psyche that needs to be corrected. For now, however, I don't have a choice but to encourage you to take the same kind of safety precautions that you would take elsewhere in our country (and this is applicable to men too):

- Never walk alone, especially not at night.
- Walk in groups, use the shuttle service or request security to escort you.
- Keep your phone and valuables out of sight.
- Choose the safest route, even if it is not the shortest.
- Avoid isolated areas, especially when you exercise early in the morning or late in the afternoon.
- Be conscious of your environment and the people around you, as criminals prefer to target someone not aware of his/her direct surroundings.
- Keep a safe distance if motorists asks for directions.
- If you suspect that someone might be following you, change direction.

If you need to move between campus buildings, or from a building to your transport alone after dark (20:00–05:00), a security officer can escort you. **Call (021) 808 2333 or alternatively (021) 808 4202 and please wait for the officer to join you. You can also WhatsApp the security office at 082 808 2333 to contact you.**

This all said, I want to assure you that I am in regular contact with Campus Security and that the University is continuously reviewing its safety and security arrangements. Being an open environment intertwined with the town, we need to understand that especially the Stellenbosch campus poses certain security challenges. This means that we all – staff, students and the public – should remain vigilant and take responsibility for our safety.

Classes at SU will continue tomorrow, amongst others due to a test series this week. But students who do want to participate in events, are encouraged to take up the matter with their respective Deans and Heads of Department. If you are able and would like to travel to UCT tomorrow to show solidarity with their Gender Based Violence initiatives, please contact Thembelihle Bongwana by clicking [here](#). Busses will depart from the corner Ryneveldt and Victoria Streets at 09:00/09:30 and leave UCT again at 15:00/15:30. Furthermore, on Thursday there is a Gathering against Gender Based Violence in South Africa at Parliament in Cape Town. If you are able and would like to attend, please [click here](#) for transport arrangements by the SRC.

I urge you to take care of yourself and of each other. Together we will fight against gender-based violence.

Kind regards

Dr Choice Makhetha
Senior Director: Student Affairs

Genoeg is genoeg

Beste student

Ek wens ek kon my eerste brief aan julle onder beter omstandighede skryf, maar die gewelddadige wyse waarop Uyinene Mrwetyana, 'n vroulike student van die Universiteit

Kaapstad (UK), en Jesse Hess, nog 'n vroulike student van die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland (UWK), die afgelope week gesterf het, het die harte van die gemeenskap en die land gebreek. En wat 'n aanklag teen ons samelewing is dit nie dat hier hierdie voorvalle in Vrouemaand plaasgevind het nie. Ons samelewing se vroue is en sal die slagoffers bly van wat dikwels as 'n "oorlog teen vroue" beskryf word.

Ek moet beklemtoon dat die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) onder geen omstandighede van hierdie aaklige voorvalle van geweld vrygeskeld is nie, met die sterftes van Robyn Pearce en Hannah Cornelius nog vars in ons geheue.

Maar nou dink ons aan die geliefdes en familie van die vroue wat deur hierdie gruweldade geraak is, en ons dink veral aan ook die UK-gemeenskap. Ons rou saam met julle en ek kon dit nie beter gestel het as Carli van Wyk, ons uittredende voorsitter van die US Studenterraad (SR) nie: "Vandag huil en bloei ons harte oor die verlies van die lewe van ons Suid-Afrikaanse suster Uyinene. Ons harte huil en bloei oor al ons susters, dogters, moeders en oumas wie se drome gesteel is. Te veel trane het gevloei, te veel swaarkry is verduur en te veel lewens het verlore gegaan. Ons roep in een stem uit vir geregtigheid en die vryheid wat alle vroue verdien. Ons hulproep, ons noodkreet sal nie ophou totdat al ons susters veilig is nie. Rus in vrede, ons geliefde suster."

Die feit is, genoeg is genoeg. Terwyl ons alles in ons vermoë sal doen om mense op te voed, op te lei en om bewustheid te week, moet ek dit beklemtoon dat die US geensins enige geslagsmisdadigheid duld nie. Die US is verbind tot die skep van 'n omgewing wat vry is van enige geslagsmisdadigheid en wat gelyke regte vir almal bevorder. Geweld teen vroue moet tot 'n einde kom en ons sal nie huiwer om op te tree nie.

Ek wil 'n beroep op die mans in ons gemeenskappe doen om daadwerklik op te tree. Nie veel gaan verander indien julle nie verantwoordelikheid neem vir die huidige situasie waarmee ons in ons gemeenskappe te kampe het nie. Dit is nie 'n geveg wat vroue alleen moet veg nie. Die spreekwoord is baie waar: "Die enigste ding wat onheil nodig het om die botoon te voer, is goeie mense wat niks doen nie." Ek dien dus daarna uit om te sien hoe die mans in ons universiteitsgemeenskap hierop gaan reageer.

Genesing is deel van daarvan om aksie te neem. Hierdie gebeure het ons gemeenskappe diep getraumatiseer gelaat en dit is geen skande om hulp te vra nie. 'n Beradingsdiens is tot die beskikking van studente wat voel dat hulle met iemand moet praat. Skakel asseblief ons **Sentrum vir Studentevoorigting en -ontwikkeling by (021) 808 4994** (gedurende kantoorure) of skakel die **24-uur krisisdienst by (010) 205 3032** (ná ure).

Veiligheid op kampus en in die dorp

In 'n ideale wêreld is ons vry om te gaan waar ons wil, wanneer ons wil. Ons is nie veronderstel om tot sekere ruimtes op sekere tye van die dag gebonde te wees weens 'n vrees dat ons dalk op die verkeerde tyd op die verkeerde plek gaan wees nie. Ongelukkig is dit 'n feit dat ons ons in 'n gewelddadige samelewing bevind met slegs 'n paar plekke waar vroue nog veilig is. Dit is 'n siekte van die samelewing, iets wat diep in die psige ingebed lê en moet regkom.

Ek het egter vir nou nie 'n ander keuse nie as om julle aan te moedig om dieselfde tipe veiligheidsmaatreëls te tref wat julle elders in ons land sou tref (en dit geld vir mans ook):

- Moet nooit alleen stap nie, veral nie saans nie.
- Beweeg altyd in groepe, gebruik die pendeldiens of versoek Kampussekuriteit om jou vergesel.
- Hou jou foon en waardevolle besittings uit die oog.
- Gebruik die veiligste roete, selfs al is dit nie die kortste roete nie.
- Vermoed verlate gebiede, veral wanneer jy vroegoggend of laat smiddae gaan oefen.
- Wees bewus van jou omgewing en die mense rondom jou. Misdadigers verkies om

mense te teiken wat onbewus is van wat om hulle aangaan.

- Handhaaf 'n veilige afstand indien 'n motoris by jou sou stop om aanwysings te vra.
- Indien jy vermoed dat jy agtervolg word, verander van rigting.

Indien jy alleen ná donker tussen kampusgeboue of van 'n gebou na jou vervoer moet stap (tussen 20:00 en 05:00), kan 'n veiligheidswag jou vergesel. **Skakel (021) 808 2333 of (021) 808 4202 en wag dan asseblief vir die veiligheidswag om by jou aan te sluit. Jy kan ook 'n WhatsApp-boodskap na die sekuriteitskantoor by 082 808 2333 stuur om met jou in verbinding te tree.**

Hiermee wil ek julle verseker dat ek in gereelde verbinding met Kampussekuriteit is en die Universiteit hersien voortdurende sy veiligheids- en sekuriteitsmaatreëls. Omdat die kampus 'n oop omgewing is wat met die dorp verweef is, moet ons verstaan dat veral die Stellenbosch-kampus sekere uitdagings ten opsigte van veiligheid bied. Dit beteken ons almal – personeel, studente en die publiek – moet waaksaam wees en verantwoordelikheid neem vir ons veiligheid.

Klasse gaan môre soos normaal voort by die US, ook onder meer met 'n toetsreeks wat vandeeweek plaasvind. Studente wat egter wil deelneem aan geleenthede, word aangemoedig om die saak met hul onderskeie dekanes en departementshoofde te bespreek. Studente vir wie dit moontlik is en graag môre na die UK wil reis om uit samehorigheid aan hul Gendergebaseerde misdaad-inisiatiewe deel te neem, moet met Thembelihle Bongwana in verbinding tree deur [hier](#) te klik. Daar word ook Donderdag 'n Gathering against Gender Based Violence in South Africa by die Parlement in Kaapstad gehou. Studente vir wie dit moontlik is en wat dit wil bywoon, moet [hier](#) klik vir die vervoerreëlings wat deur die US se SR getref word.

Ek doen 'n beroep op julle elkeen om na juisself en na mekaar om te sien. Ons sal saam teen geslagsgebaseerde misdaad veg.

Vriendelike groete

Dr Choice Makhetha
Senior Direkteur: Studentesake

SAAM VORENTOE | MASIYE PHAMBILI | FORWARD TOGETHER