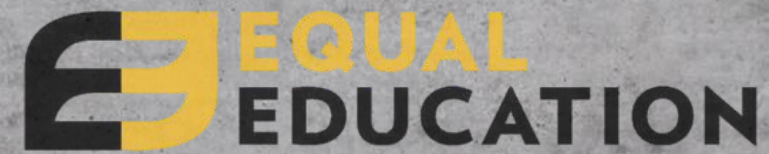
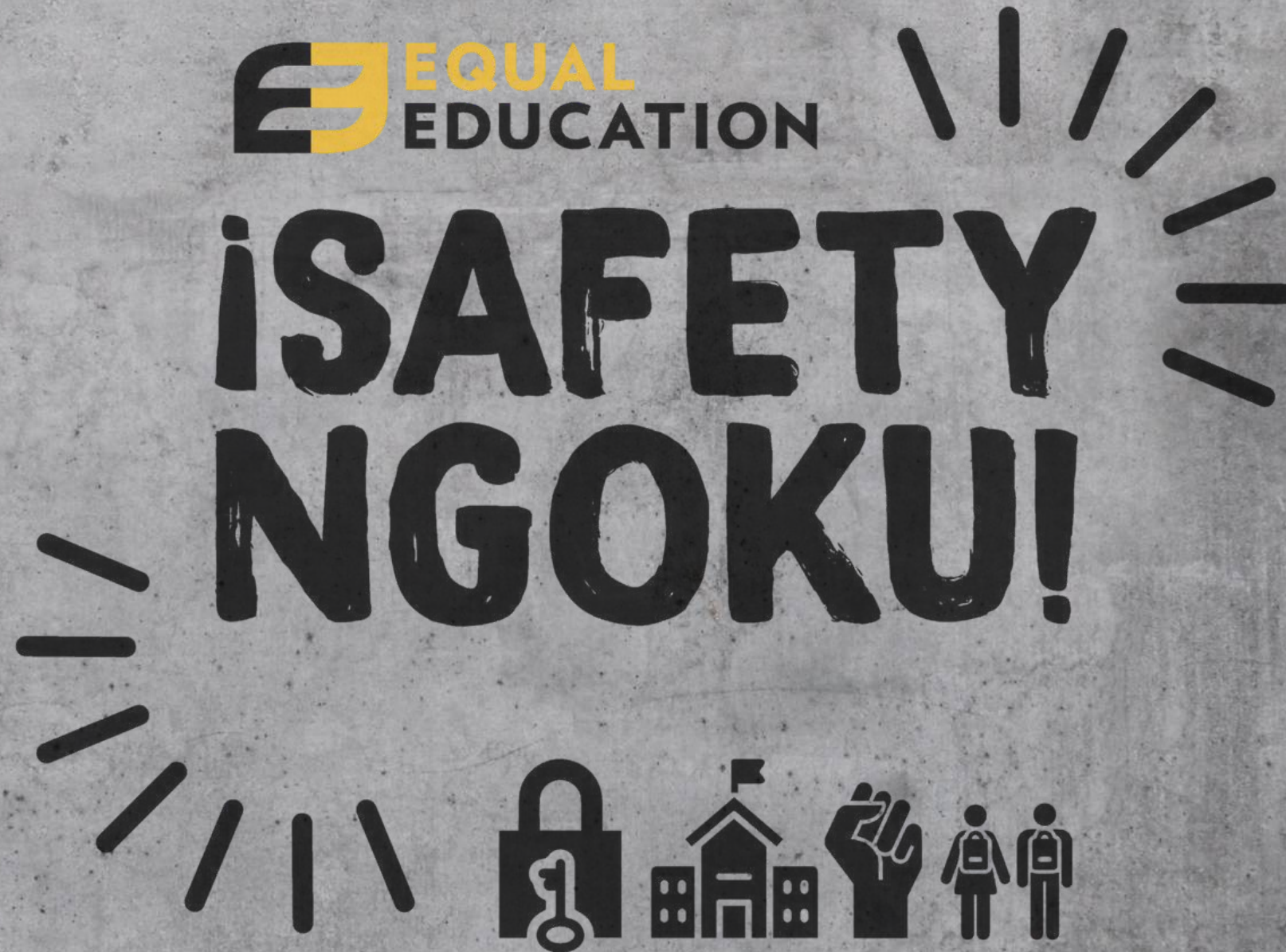


11 November 2025



ISAFETY NGOKU!

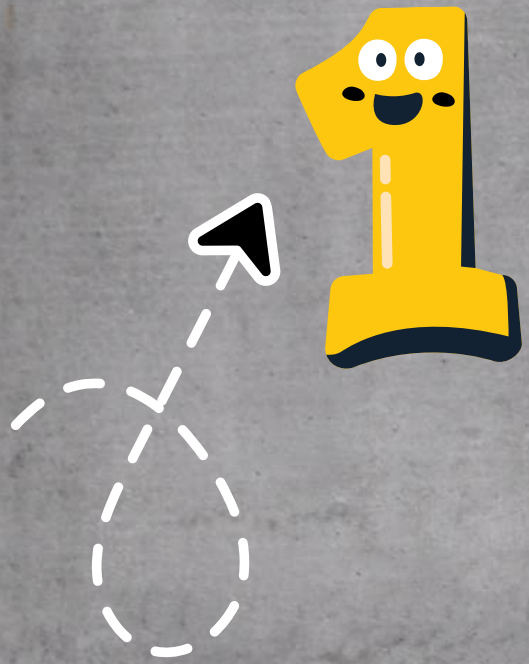


Presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education

Yolisa Piliso | Researcher | Admitted Attorney

Makanatsa Ziyambi | Community Leader

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Who is Equal Education:

Equal Education (EE) is a youth-led mass democratic movement of learners, post-school youth, parents, teachers, and community members who use mobilisation and public action, supported by careful research and law, to empower young activists and ensure equality in South African education. Our campaigns are informed by the experiences of EE members across five provinces and by policy analysis. Equal Education also campaigns for safety in school environments.



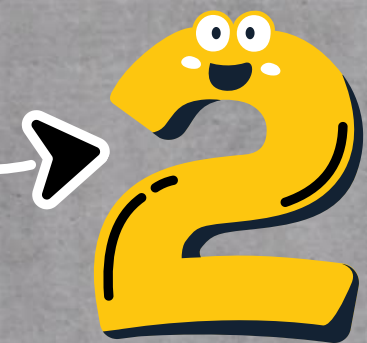
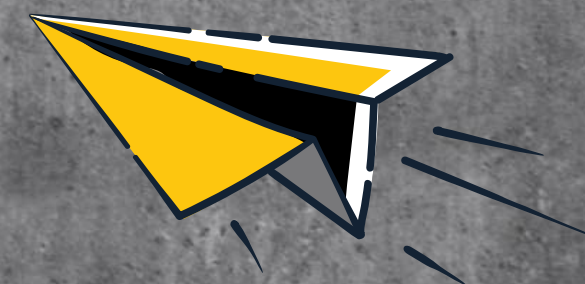


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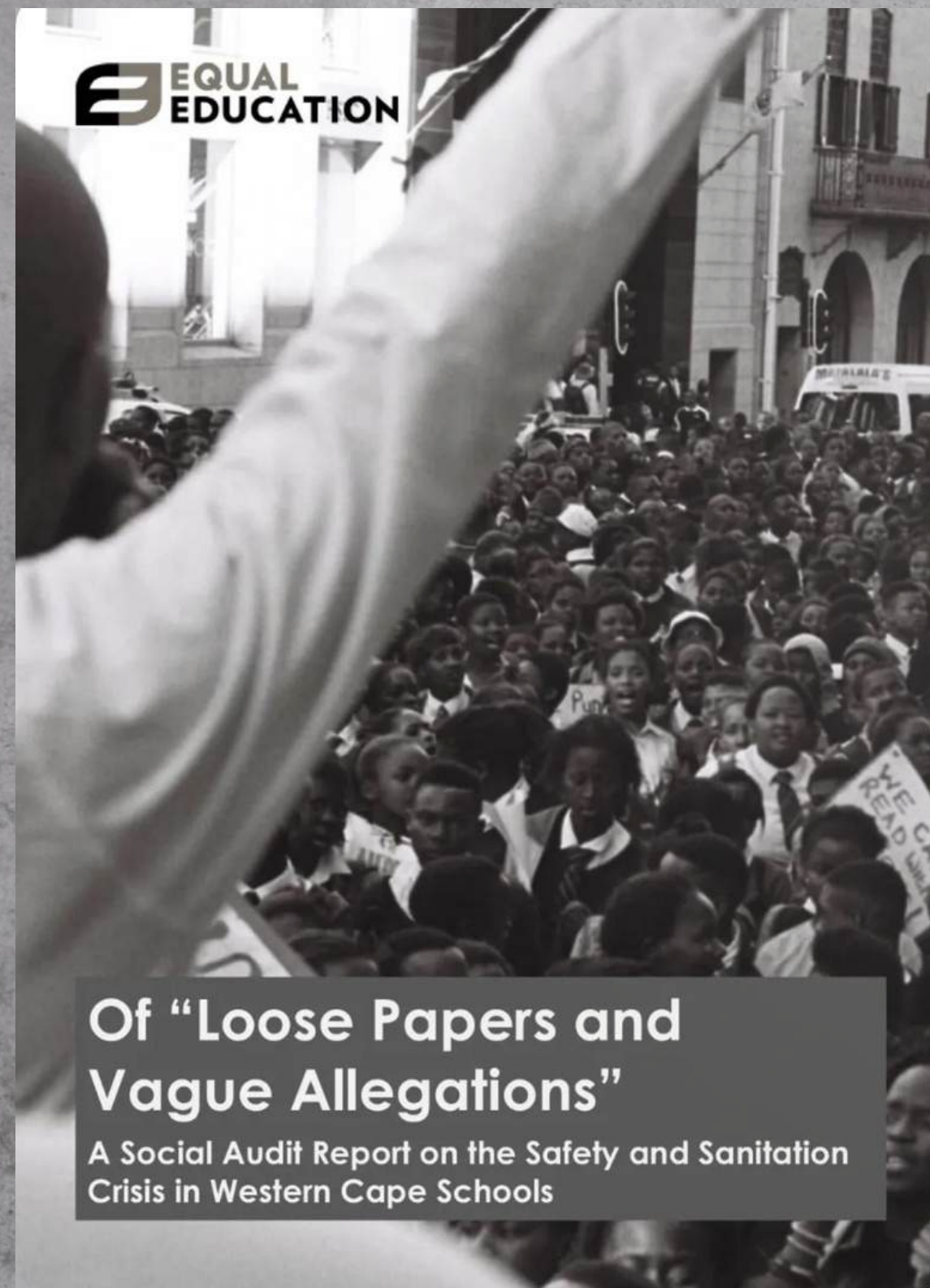
- 1 **Background**
- 2 **School safety overview**
- 3 **Law on statutory rape**
- 4 **Sexual violence in schools**
- 5 **Psychosocial support for learners**





Background

- Equal Education school safety campaign since 2014
- School Safety Social Audit
- iSafety Ngoku report 2023
- Psychosocial support for learners 2025/26





School safety overview



Pillar 1: Security measures in line with the school infrastructure law



Pillar 2: Functional school-based safety structures



Pillar 3: Adequate provision of psychosocial support



Pillar 4: Knowledge of and use of existing policies



Law on statutory rape

Legal requirements

- What constitutes statutory rape
- Criminal law (sexual offences and related matters) Amendment Act, 2021 (Act No. 13 of 2021)

The duty to report sexual offences and related matters

- Children's Act, 2005, (Act No 38 of 2005, as amended);
- The South African Schools Act 84 of 1996

Reporting

Department of Health, Department of Basic Education, Department of Social Development, and Department of Home Affairs

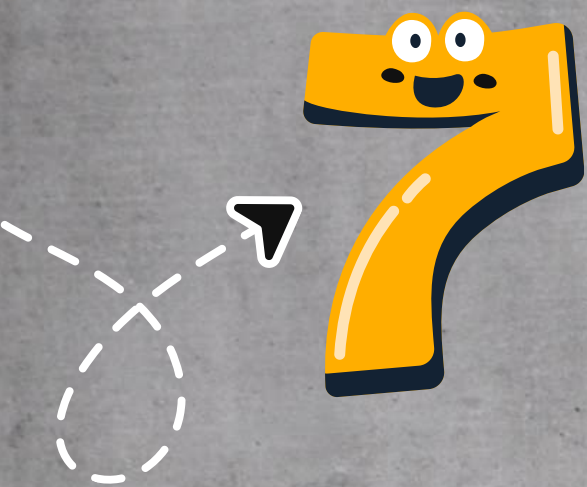




Learner pregnancies

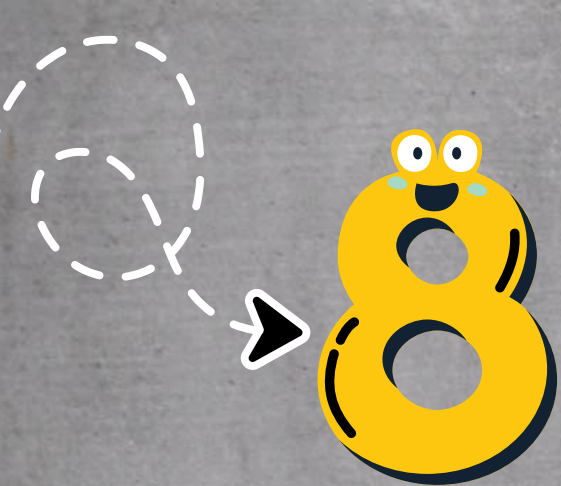
- Reflections on learner pregnancies
- What has been the picture of learner pregnancies
- Learner pregnancies v statutory rape
- Potential role of the Department of Basic Education to address statutory rape





Sexual violence in schools

- Reflections from Equal Education learner members, equalisers
- Forms of sexual violence in schools
- The duty of learners, teachers, and parents to address sexual violence



Psychosocial support for learners

- The learners' right to psychosocial support
- The duty of the Department of Basic Education to provide psychosocial support, especially for learners who experience or witness violence.

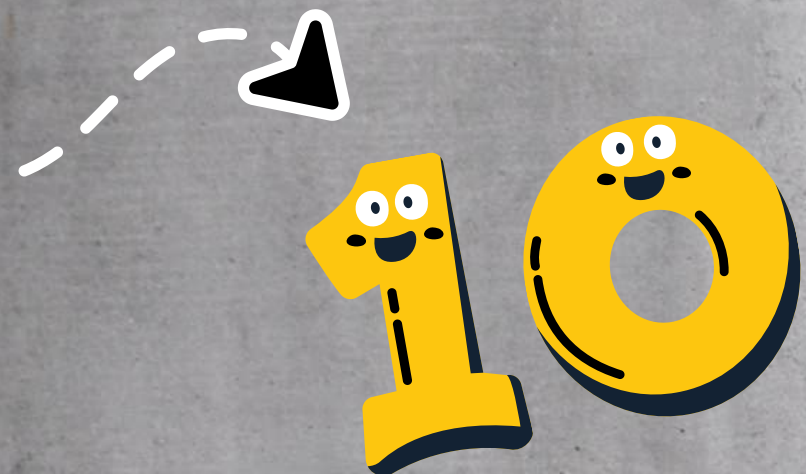




Recommendations for the committee

- The Department of Health, Department of Basic Education, Department of Social Development, and Department of Home Affairs must report statutory rape and related matters once becoming aware; and/or encourage parents and children to report;
- One school – One psychologist, a bare minimum;
- The Department of Basic Education must order a revised round of the National School Violence Study;
- Strengthening of the school-based structure to address violence in school, including the provision of training by respective provincial education departments





Enkosi



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