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# Hope in ACTion

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Parents & Educators | Inform Yourself | Protecting  
Our Youth from Human Trafficking

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“Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings, mainly for the purposes of forced labour and sex trafficking. It is the 2nd largest profit-making crime in the world next to drug trafficking.”

Human Trafficking and Prostitution are more prevalent in our country today than ever before. Our children and young adults are in danger and we need to act quickly. The widespread buying and selling of human beings, which constitutes human trafficking, is one of the most alarming issues facing the contemporary South African society today. One of the reasons human trafficking is so prevalent is, of course, the demand therefore. A desire, fuelled by greed, to take advantage of a supply of vulnerable men, women and children whose life situations and lifestyles expose them to the wiles of traffickers and pimps.

Those most vulnerable to human trafficking are children, teenagers, young women, refugees and job seekers. These people are preyed upon in various ways and are subsequently tricked into going somewhere with their traffickers and, once there, are then held against their will.

As the world’s fastest growing criminal industry, it affects every nation across the globe. Every 30 seconds, someone becomes a victim of modern-day slavery. There are more slaves in the world today than at any other point in human history, with an estimated 27 million in bondage across the globe. Men, women, and children are being exploited for manual and sexual labour against their will.

Sexual trafficking is the movement of women and children, usually from one country to another, but may also occur within the borders of a country, for the purpose of prostitution or other forms of sexual slavery. It includes the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, transfer, or sale of women and children for these purposes. Most sexual trafficking also includes some form of coercion – such as kidnapping, threats, intimidation, assault, rape, drugging or other forms of violence.

According to figures released by the South African Police Service Missing Persons Bureau for 2013, the shocking reality is that a child goes missing every five hours in South Africa. This adds up to an annual total of 1697 children. Trafficking in children is a global problem affecting large numbers of children. Children and their families are often unaware of the dangers of trafficking and believe recruiters when promised better employment or a brighter future somewhere else.



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## HOW DO WE DO IT?

Each year thousands of people are reported missing in South Africa. Prostitution, trafficking, drugs, and of course missing children, are often discussed as if they are separate and unconnected occurrences. They are, in reality, intrinsically connected. Pornography, while not identical to trafficking or prostitution, serves as one of the major drivers for the sex industry, while drugs are almost ALWAYS the underlying apparatus of steering the trade. Drugs in and around our communities will never cease to exist. As a matter of fact, it only gets worse. 80% of all children in South Africa would have already experimented with a mood altering substance before the day they leave school. This leaves them extremely vulnerable and prey for tragedy.

Dr. Laura Lederer, who has been studying the issue of sexual trafficking for 20 years at Harvard University, reports that over the last 10 years, the numbers of women and children who have been trafficked have multiplied so that they are now on par with estimates of the numbers of Africans who were enslaved in the 16th and 17th centuries.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT THESE DANGERS, IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOUR CHILD!

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## GLOBAL STATISTICS

- Today there are more than 27 million people in slavery. That's more than there has ever been in the entire history of mankind
- 1 to 2 million people are trafficked every year.
- Most trafficking victims are girls between 5 to 15 years of age.
- 1.2 million children are trafficked annually (half are African).
- It is a \$33.9 billion or R257 billion industry.
- Of the estimated 2,000,000 persons trafficked each year, Africa accounts for 450,000.

Sources: Bales, 2004, [www.notforsalecampaign.org](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org), US. Dept of State, Unicef, World Hope Int'l, 2008, Belser, 2006.



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# SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICS

- It is estimated that 30,000 children are being prostituted in South Africa.
- Half of these children are younger than 14 years old.
- Children as young as four are prostituted.
- There are up to 10,000 child prostitutes in Johannesburg.
- Up to 1,000 girls are trafficked to South Africa from Mozambique each year.
- The Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo are the main “recruitment” areas for victims of human trafficking.

# INTERNATIONAL FACTS

- **NIGERIA:** Between 1999 and 2000 over 1180 trafficked girls were repatriated to Nigeria. This does not include those who were not caught, the dead and the maimed, and those sick with AIDS.
- **USA:** Between 18,000 and 20,000 of victims are trafficked into the United States. This estimate includes men, women, and children trafficked into forced labour and sexual exploitation.
- **MEXICO:** Children from Mexico are sold to brothels in the U.S.A.
- **INDIA:** Almost 200,000 Nepali girls, many under the age of 14, are sexual slaves in India.
- **SRI LANKA:** 10,000 children between 6-14 are virtually enslaved in brothels in Sri Lanka.
- **CAMBODIA:** 15,000 children were sold into sexual slavery in Cambodia between 1991 -97.
- **THAILAND:** The Thai government reports that 60,000 Thai children are sold into prostitution. NGO experts estimate there are 800,000. 20,000 women and girls from Burma have been forced into prostitution in Thailand.
- **SOVIET UNION/ ISRAEL:** An estimated 10,000 women from the former Soviet Union have been forced into prostitution in Israel.
- **THE NETHERLANDS:** Of 155 cases of forced prostitution brought to court in the Netherlands, only four resulted in conviction of the traffickers.
- **UK:** The UK Home Office reports that in 1998 (the number is believed to have risen dramatically 1,400 women were trafficked into the UK for exploitation. It is “thought” that a similar number of children are trafficked into the UK for exploitation as prostitutes, child labour, or for criminal gangs and benefit fraud. UNICEF ‘Stop the Traffic in Children’

## People are trafficked for

- Labour exploitation/slave labour (one is paid very little; the other is not paid at all). This includes offers of jobs such as childminding (au pair), hairdressing, modelling and hotel work etc.);
- Prostitution (usually paid very little), sexual slavery (not paid);
- Forced marriage (In South Africa, women are often forced to marry mine workers or young girls are forced to marry older men).

## How to prevent being trafficked

- An attractive job is offered to you that is far away from home — in another province or country. It may be a modelling contract, a waitressing job, or a contract with a soccer club. These offers may appear in newspapers or you may hear of them via word of mouth.
  - No qualifications are required and free housing and transport is offered with the job, plus the free processing of your visa and/or work permit.
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- The people you are dealing with organise for you to cross a border illegally.
  - A friend or relative offers to send you to an expensive/good school that is far from home and offers to pay your school fees.
  - Travel documents that were obtained by illegal means, are given to you.
  - A recruitment agent tells you that a visitor's or tourist visa is good enough for working purposes.
  - Someone with whom you are chatting on MXIT wants to meet with you face to face (to offer you work or a free holiday or an academic scholarship)

## Victims of trafficking are almost always introduced to the trafficker by someone they know!

### How to ensure that a prospective employer is genuine

- Call them on a LAND line to confirm they are a legitimate company and are recruiting. (Be wary of a company that has only a cell number or free web-based email address, such as Hotmail, Yahoo, Google mail etc.)
- Sign a contract with your employer before you leave your home country. A good employer would not object to this. The contract should state your terms of employment (i.e. wages, costs deducted for travel expenses and housing, your duties, working hours). You can do this through email or regular mail. You can even ask your employer for references.
- Call the South African Chamber of Commerce and check that the recruiting company is a registered company.
- Before accepting a job in a foreign country, check on the immigration website and find out for yourself what the visa requirements are.

### Other important tips to protect yourself from being trafficked

- Travel with contacts. Carry the number of your embassy in the country to which you are relocating. Inform your embassy when you arrive. Have a list of phone numbers of friends or contacts in the host country. Call them when you arrive.
  - Travel with an emergency plan. Provide your family members back home with all of your contact details. Call them and give them your new phone number and address when you arrive, as well as the phone number of your embassy and the local police. Should something go wrong and you lose contact with them, or they cannot reach you, have them call your embassy, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the local police on your behalf.
  - Travel with a copy of your passport. Do not give your passport to anyone! It is illegal for your employer to ask to hold your passport for any reason.
  - Know your rights. No one has the right to force you to do something or keep you against your will. If you are trafficked, you are the victim of a crime. You may have entered a country illegally, but you still have rights. You may be in "debt" to your trafficker, but this is not a legal debt. You do not have to honour it. If your human rights are being violated, you are the victim of a crime.
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## How to help prevent trafficking in your community

- Tell your friends and neighbours how to protect themselves from being trafficked.
- Learn to recognise trafficked persons.
  - They are often unable to speak the local language.
  - They appear to be trapped in their job or the place they stay.
  - They may have bruises and other signs of physical abuse.
  - They do not have identification documents (passport, ID, refugee or asylum papers).
- Report places where you suspect trafficked people are kept (for example, brothels, farms, factories, shebeens) to the local authorities and the media.
- Report people you suspect may be traffickers to the local authorities (police, NGOs) and the media.

*(Source: World Hope South Africa, Schools curriculum)*



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# ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING PREVENTATIVE ASSISTANCE ...

AS WELL AS ON-GOING SUPPORT TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS

## REGISTER WITH PSARU

HAVE ACCESS TO A 24 HOUR HELPLINE DEDICATED TO FINDING MISSING PERSONS IN SOUTH AFRICA  
CALL 0860 287 223  
E-MAIL [info@psaru.co.za](mailto:info@psaru.co.za)



PSARU™ Alert is The first National 24 hour help line dedicated to finding missing persons in South Africa. PSARU (People Search and Rescue Unit) offers the necessary support, advice and practical solutions for those left behind, when such ill-fated circumstances occur.

## Who do you phone when your child goes missing?

PSARU is created and driven by individuals passionate about the safety of children and families in South Africa. The initiative is a unique partnership between specialized security, investigation and law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, media agencies, the cellular telephone industry and members of the community.

### **Our Vision:**

To provide South Africa with better prospect of finding missing persons

### **Our Mission:**

By creating an environment for the people of South Africa who need assistance when a loved one goes missing, PSARUTM assists with a 24/7 helpline and a dedicated investigation team who are dispatched immediately with no waiting period.

### **Our Values:**

Honesty

- Trust
- Respect
- Fairness
- Equality

People Search and Rescue Unit (PSARU) is a registered company specialising in finding missing persons.

For as little as R59 per month, registered members of PSARU will have access to;

- A dedicated 24 hour helpline for immediate assistance when a person goes missing;
  - No 48 hour waiting period to report missing members. Registered members can call us immediately;
  - Specialised investigating team, dispatched immediately in the search of missing members;
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- Tracking device (optional) to assist in helping the investigating team to trace missing members;
  - DNA Kit (optional) to assist in the identification of an individual where no other form of identification is available;
  - Trauma support when requested;
  - Medical support when requested;
  - K9 dog unit assistance.

### **Privacy and Security**

PSARU will ensure that all registered members' information is safely secured and will not be made accessible to the public in any way. Should a person go missing, any information required would need the policy holder's / guardian's permission to activate the process and allow information to be used

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## PSARU ADVICE AND SAFETY TIPS

### Cell Phone Safety Tips

#### **General Mobile safety**

Just as in chat rooms and social sites, kids need to think about who they text and talk with. They should never text/talk about sex with strangers. Phones should only be used to communicate with people they know in the real world.

#### **Cyber-Bullying**

Since young people's social lives increasingly fold in cell phones as well as the Web, cyberbullying and harassment have gone mobile too. Talk with your kids about how the same manners and ethics you've always taught them apply on phones and the

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## Web as in “real life.”

### **Mobile social networking**

Many social sites have a feature that allows users to check their profiles and post comments from their phones. That means some teens can do social networking literally anywhere, in which case any filter you may have installed on a home computer does nothing to block social networking. Talk with your teens about where they’re accessing their profiles or blogs from and whether they’re using the same good sense about how they’re social networking on their phones.

### **Social mapping**

More and more cell phones have GPS technology installed, which means teens who have these phones can pinpoint their friends’ physical location – or be pinpointed by their friends. Talk with your kids about using such technology and advise them to use it only with friends they know in person.

### **Media-sharing by phone**

Most mobile phones we use today have cameras, some videocams – and teens love to share media with friends on all types of mobile devices. There is both a personal-reputation and -safety aspect to this. Talk with your teens about never letting other people photograph or film them in embarrassing or inappropriate situations (and vice versa). They need to understand their own and others’ privacy rights in sharing photos and videos via cell phones.

### **Smart phones**

We’ve already been over many smart- or 3G-phone features above, but remember they usually include the Web. That means more and more people can access all that the Web offers, appropriate or not, on their phones as well as computers. Mobile carriers are beginning to offer filtering for the content available on their services, but they have no control over what’s on the Web. Parents of younger kids might want to consider turning off Web access and turning on filtering if they’re concerned about access to adult content.

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## Child Abuse

There are different kinds of abuse; sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. Neglecting a child is also a form of abuse.

### Tips for Parents (suspected child abuse)

Child Physical Abuse is the Intentional Infliction of an Injury on a Child. These are Indicators that a Child is Being Physically Abused:

- Bite marks.
- Bruises on uncommonly injured body surfaces.
- Lacerations.
- Burns.
- High incidence of accidents or frequent injuries.
- Fractures/broken bones in unusual places such as the skull, ribs etc.
- Injuries, swellings to face and extremities.
- Discolouration of skin.
- Blunt-instrument marks.
- Human hand marks.
- Multiple injuries at different stages of healing.
- Evidence of poor care/failure to thrive.
- Behavioural indicators of physical child abuse:

#### **The child may:**

- Avoid physical contact with others.
- Be apprehensive when other children cry.
- Wear clothing to purposely conceal injury, such as long sleeves.
- Refuse to undress for sport or for required physical exams at school.
- Give inconsistent versions about occurrences of injuries.
- Seem frightened of parents.
- Often be late/absent from school.
- Come to school early and seems reluctant to go home afterwards.
- Have difficulty getting along with others.
- Play aggressively and often hurt peers.
- Complain of pain upon movement or contact.
- Have a history of running away from home.

## Sexting Tips

“Sexting” usually refers to teens sharing nude photos via cell phone, but it’s happening on other devices and the Web too. The practice can have serious legal and psychological consequences, so – teens and adults – consider these tips!

- It’s illegal! Don’t take or send nude or sexually suggestive photos of yourself or anyone else. If you do, even if they’re of you or you pass along someone else’s – you could be charged with producing or distributing child pornography. If you keep them on your phone or computer you could be charged with possession. If they go to someone in another state (and that happens really easily), it’s a federal felony.
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- Non-legal consequences: Then there's the emotional (and reputation) damage that can come from having intimate photos of yourself go to a friend who can become an ex-friend and send it to everyone you know. Not only can they be sent around; they can be distributed and archived online for people to search for pretty much forever.
  - Not just on phones; sexting can be done on any media-sharing device or technology – including email and the Web. Teens have been convicted for child porn distribution for emailing sexually explicit photos to each other.
  - Many causes. In some cases, kids are responding to peer pressure in a form of cyberbullying or pressure from a boyfriend or girlfriend (they break up, and sometimes those photos get sent around out of revenge). Sometimes it's impulsive behaviour, flirting, or even blackmail. It's always a bad idea.
  - Parents: Talk with your kids about sexting in a relaxed setting. Ask them what they know about it (they may not have heard the term, so "naked photo-sharing" works too). Express how you feel in a conversational, non-confrontational way. A two-way dialog can go a long way toward helping your kids understand how to minimise legal, social and reputation risks.
  - The bottom line: Stay alert when using digital media. People aren't always who they seem to be, even in real life, and sometimes they change and do mean things. Critical thinking about what we upload as well as download is the best protection.

## What to do

### Parents:

- If your children have sent any nude pictures of themselves, make sure they stop immediately. Explain that they're at risk of being charged with producing and distributing child pornography. If they've received a nude photo, make sure they haven't sent it to anyone else.
- Either way, the next most important thing is to have a good talk. Stay calm, be supportive and learn as much as you can about the situation. For example, see if it was impulsive behaviour, a teen "romance" thing, or a form of harassment.
- Consider talking with other teens and parents involved, based on what you've learned.
- Some experts advise that you report the photo to your local police, but consider that, while intending to protect your child, you could incriminate another – and possibly your own child. That's why it's usually good to talk to the kids and their parents first. If malice or criminal intent is involved, you may want to consult a lawyer, the police, or other experts on the law in your jurisdiction, but be aware of the possibility that child-pornography charges could be filed against anyone involved.



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## Teens:

- If a sexting photo arrives on your phone, first, do not send it to anyone else (that could be considered distribution of child pornography). Second: Talk to a parent or trusted adult. Tell them the full story so they know how to support you. And don't freak out if that adult decides to talk with the parents of others involved – that could be the best way to keep all of you from getting into serious trouble.
- If the picture is from a friend or someone you know, then someone needs to talk to that friend so he or she knows sexting is against the law. You're actually doing the friend a big favour because of the serious trouble that can happen if the police get involved.
- If the photos keep coming, you and a parent might have to speak with your friend's parents, school authorities or the police.

## Social Media Safety Tips for Teens

Think about what you post. Sharing provocative photos or intimate details online, even in private emails, can cause you problems later on. Even people you consider friends can use this info against you, especially if they become ex-friends.

Read between the "lines." It may be fun to check out new people for friendship or romance, but be aware that, while some people are nice, others act nice because they're trying to get something. Flattering or supportive messages may be more about manipulation than friendship or romance.

Don't talk about sex with strangers. Be cautious when communicating with people you don't know in person, especially if the conversation starts to be about sex or physical details. Don't lead them on – you don't want to be the target of a predator's grooming. If they persist, call your local police

Avoid in-person meetings. The only way someone can physically harm you is if you're both in the same location, so – to be 100% safe – don't meet them in person. If you really have to get together with someone you "met" online, don't go alone. Have the meeting in a public place, tell a parent or some other solid backup, and bring some friends along.

Be smart when using a cell phone. All the same tips apply with phones as with computers. Except phones are with you wherever you are, often away from home and your usual support systems. Be careful who you give your number to and how you use GPS and other technologies that can pinpoint your physical location.



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## EMERGENCY: 072 MISSING (072 647 7464)

General Enquiries

E-mail: [info@missingchildren.org.za](mailto:info@missingchildren.org.za)

Office: 021 950 1546

Fax: 086 580 3310

WWW: [missingchildren.org.za](http://missingchildren.org.za)



Missing Children South Africa creates awareness of missing children in South Africa and aims to support the South African Police Service as effectively as possible when a child goes missing.

### When a child goes missing

1. Don't wait 24 hours!
2. Complete a SAPS 55 form at your nearest police station.
3. Contact MCSA on 072 647 7464
4. Send the following information via email: [info@missingchildren.org.za](mailto:info@missingchildren.org.za) or fax: 0860 580 3310:
  - Name of the missing child;
  - Age of the missing child;
  - Case number;
  - SAPS details (including the name of the officer that assisted you);
  - Most recent photo of missing child.
5. Keep MCSA updated on progress.

MCSA will distribute case-related information to the province and even nationally, if necessary. MCSA will keep both the family of the missing child and the SAPS up to date on any relevant information and leads.

### 10 Tips for a safer holiday with your children

1. Make sure you know where the police station and hospital are for emergencies and that your child also knows.
  2. Ask locals which areas to avoid;
  3. Familiarise yourself with your surroundings;
  4. Be wary of 'new' friends – these are often the Human Trafficking victims coerced into trapping new victims;
  5. Do not wait 24 hours to report your child missing, especially during the holiday season;
  6. Even though holidays are a time for relaxing, it is very important to know where your child is at all times, whom they are with and what they are wearing;
  7. Always keep a recent photograph of your child so that it can be used for emergencies, especially if you are in an unfamiliar place like a holiday destination;
  8. A child should never play alone in the street, even in a quaint holiday town, it is simply dangerous;
  9. Before embarking on your holiday, take the time to teach your children their own names and addresses as well as their parents' names and phone numbers;
  10. Teach your children that they should never go with people they do not trust or accept lifts from strangers, even if it is a harmless lift to the local beach.
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The Children's Act 38 of 2005 gives effect to certain rights of children as contained in the Constitution and sets out principles relating to the care and protection of children in South Africa.

## ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ARE THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

- I have the right to a loving and caring family, a proper safe and comfortable home, clothing and healthy food;
- I have the right to be told the house rules of where I live;
- As a child, I should not be forced to work;
- I have the right to an education suitable to my aptitudes and abilities;
- I have the right to a say in my care, and any changes to how I am cared for, according to my age & maturity;
- I have the right to get special care for special needs;
- I have the right to be protected from hurt;
- I have the right to good health care if I am sick and to be kept away from cigarettes, alcohol & drugs;
- I am a real person and have a right to be treated properly;
- I have the right to be taken seriously and to make mistakes;
- I have the right to my own religion and culture;
- I have a right to my name and my nationality;
- I have the right to be treated the same, no matter what my colour, race, gender, language or religion;
- I have the right to be proud of my heritage and beliefs;
- I have the right to speak and be heard;
- I have the right to send and receive private mail that is not read or opened by others;
- I have the right to privacy;
- I have the right to own my own things;
- I have the right to speak and visit in private with my family or any other person like my big friend, a person representing me like my social worker or my lawyer;
- I have a right to a lawyer in courtrooms and hearings affecting my future;
- I have a right to live in a nice place and not be put in prison or in a police cell;
- I have the right to know what my rights are.

We all know that life is tough as it is. We are already faced with daily challenges; work, stress, relationships, love interests, homework, teachers, parents, our bosses... We shouldn't have to deal with the added pressure of worrying that our children and loved ones are safe from the dangers of drugs, porn, violence, and human trafficking but the unfortunate truth is that it exists. And if we don't accept with it and educate our selves, we might find ourselves worrying not about how to protect them, but trying to find them. So who is to responsible for the future of our children and our country? The short and simple answer? Everyone. Every one of us who fears for the future of a son or daughter; everyone who is responsible for the education and guidance of children and every one of us who fears that they may one day fall victim to one of these dreadful related ferocities.

Hope In ACTion believes in a new way of life, a new peace, and a restored South Africa. We have found fellowship amongst one another; comradeship that wants to build, and not obliterate. That wants to unify, and not take apart, that wants to develop, and not languish. It is our deepest desire to eradicate the blameless ignorance of our country and establish a pro-active mindfulness by educating our people about the harsh realities that we and our children are facing today. Join us now.

We get our greatest thrill of accomplishment from the knowledge that we play a part in the creation of a new happiness and hope achieved by countless others. We are indeed very blessed. I hope this month's info pack has added some value to your life. I pray for God's undeserving blessings and protection over your life and I hope that one day we will sing and dance together as we conquer and eradicate the evil of this world.

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“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can,  
And the wisdom to know the difference.”

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Love and Peace,



Hykie Berg  
Actor, Producer, Writer  
Founder of the Hope In ACTION Group  
Addictions Counselor  
Son of the most High

Email: [hykie@attooh.co.za](mailto:hykie@attooh.co.za)

Web: [www.hykieberg.com](http://www.hykieberg.com)

The Hope In ACTION Group is supported by attooh! Goals Achieved.



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*"There are no guarantees in life but one thing is for certain; God fearing parents who speak life into the hearts of their children and who pro-actively involve themselves in their children's daily doings, dreams and desires, dramatically lessen the chances of them becoming socially rebellious and involved in destructive and dysfunctional behaviour."*

- Hykie Berg