



THE SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESPONSES TO THE REQUEST FROM OHCHR ON VIEWS FROM STAKEHOLDERS PURSUANT TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 21/14 ENTITLED “WORLD PROGRAMME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION”

Submitted to OHCHR

02 April 2013

In line with the request received from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) proposes the following target sector and focus area or thematic human rights issue to be considered for the third phase of the World Programme commencing on 1 January 2015

Target sector: General public

Focus area or thematic human rights issue: promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls through addressing gender and sexual-based violence

Justification:

South Africa continues to experience high levels of violence against women and girls including rape, forced marriage of young girls, domestic violence and murder. Recently during its universal periodic review (UPR), South Africa received over fifteen (15) recommendations urging it to address violence against women [and girls].

However violence against women and girls extends beyond South Africa’s borders. The Southern Africa region is indicated as one of the regions with the highest proportions of violence against women and girls and their vulnerability is further exacerbated by the relatively high prevalence of HIV in the region.

Additionally, the International Coordinating Committee of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (ICC) in its 11th International Conference on women’s rights and gender equality noted that “...poverty, *violence* and inequality continue to impact on the realisation of women’s rights and gender equality” and concluded that more effort needs to put in place globally to address violence against women and girls.