



MEDIA STATEMENT

loveLife commemorates International Day of the Boy Child

Johannesburg – Monday, 16 May 2022: Today as the world commemorates the International day of the Boy Child, the New loveLife Trust (loveLife) calls on the United Nations to recognise the day and include it in its august calendar. loveLife will be approaching the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) to push for a proposal for a resolution to be tabled at the UN General Assembly.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the boy child faces many challenges, in particular being caught amidst the socialisation of violence. As a result, society sees this child growing up to become an angry and violent adult, and we however, fail to see anything wrong with that. The recent tragedy of a boy stabbed to death by another at school in Soweto, is one of the many examples of how this socialisation of violence manifests.

While loveLife acknowledges the current initiatives to address youth violence with a particular focus on teenagers and young men, it calls for an urgent conversation to be had, by all involved and concerned across our society.

Dr. Linda Ncube-Nkomo, CEO of loveLife, says: “We have failed to pay enough attention to the boy child. We know the kind of challenges we have but are not having enough action-oriented conversations that aim to practically assist the boy child. We must look at the man in the mirror and ask, what about the boy child? Are we really looking into the boy child’s vulnerabilities and how key it is to address these, while envisaging to protect them?”

loveLife will identify key stakeholders to collaborate with as it works towards getting the day recognised, partly because both boys and girls should be equally recognised and assisted to overcome the challenges they face in order to be adequately equipped to navigate through life. The UN recognises the girl child on October 11 as International Day of the Girl Child. We need the same to be done for boys and to have the whole world talk about the changes that need to be made in the way we are socialising boys. We can’t afford to leave boys behind.

“It’s an important call to action that we are asking DIRCO to assist us with. It’s a step in the right direction that would pave the way for us to work around the clock, throughout the year, as we fully focus on addressing challenges faced by boy children, while finding and recognising the positives along the way,” said Ncube-Nkomo.

South Africa, as a UN member state, is able to propose the international day through DIRCO as they lobby the General Assembly to decide on adopting the resolution. It is a known fact that out of the 193 countries that belong to the Assembly, most of them can attest to the urgent need to recognise the boy child – and find solutions on how to assist him with his myriad of challenges.

loveLife believes that once there’s great deal of investment of time and resources into the boy child, we are likely to see a difference that can even translate to addressing scourges such as gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), and youth violence.

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About loveLife

The New loveLife Trust known as “loveLife”, is a South African non-profit youth organisation that was established in 1999. loveLife’s vision is to promote holistic youth health for all young people between 10-24 years. The organisation seeks to ensure that young people are empowered with information that enables them to make informed decisions related to their overall health and to identify opportunities using a peer-led model to address challenges they face. These challenges include: HIV/AIDS, violence, joblessness, rising mental health issues leading to suicide and substance abuse, lack of access to jobs and economic opportunities, violence, poor basic education system and cost of tertiary and a public health care system that is not designed to cater for the needs of adolescents and youth. These challenges have been exacerbated by numerous factors in particular the COVID-19 pandemic and an ailing economy.