



PRESS RELEASE

The sexual abuse of boys continues to be one of the most worrying evils that continue to worry loveLife

Johannesburg – Friday, 27 January 2023: This week South Africa saw a shocking video of a police constable in Limpopo having sex with her 10-year-old son. The video, which has since gone viral, is beyond shocking as it shows how deep-rooted the abuse of young children is. The abuse of young boys by older women is one that's often overlooked, while the exploitation of victims continues.

Sadly, there are some sectors of our society that believe young boys and men cannot suffer sexual abuse or be raped at the hands of men, women, or their own family members. This unfortunate misconception continues to be perpetuated while young boys suffer at the hands of those meant to protect them. While the scourge of sexual abuse and violation of young boys rages on, we continue to see how this is underplayed and underreported across our society.

There are various factors that negatively contribute to this, such as shame, fear, patriarchy, misogyny, and in some instances, peer pressure that pushes young boys not to report such serious crimes.

Joseph Rasethe, loveLife's acting Chief Executive Officer, said: "Our boy children continue to be pushed into a corner of silence. They are discouraged from talking about their feelings and how such sexual violations affect them. They are discouraged from approaching our law enforcement agencies to report these."

Through its boy child programme, loveLife has in recent years found out that young boys face various forms of sexual abuse, and most of these are not reported as the silence of victims is encouraged.

The loveLife boy child programme, and others such as What About the Boys? continue to envisage and encourage the empowerment of boys through the creation of safe spaces

where boys can share experiences of their sexual abuse, pain, and physical and mental trauma, while, equally, healing is sought for them.

Rasethe said hopefully the SA Police Service's Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Violence Unit would be decisive in this matter and ensure the child is taken to a place of safety, while the suspect faces to full might of the law.

loveLife, and other stakeholders with an interest in seeing our society raising better boy children, will continue to call on the criminal justice system to act with a decisive hand when it comes to those charged with these crimes.

Further, loveLife is of the firm view that the culture of silence found in young men and boys can only be reversed when older men step in, speak out, and share their own experiences of sexual abuse, with the sole aim of empowering victims with an assertive voice that says there is nothing to be ashamed and there is no need to be fearful while knowing there is help out there.

Ends...

For media inquiries, contact Lorato Tshenkeng on:

Phone number: 071 737 6370 or Email address: lorato@decode.co.za

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, 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.