

standing is a complex issue

I stand for human rights!
 Standing room only.
 If you like, I'll stand aside.
 Stand here!
 Stand there!
 We stand together.
 Standing room only.

Stand up - and be counted!
 Standing room only.
 I stand corrected.
 Stand in a corner!
 Stand down!
 She stands firm.
 Standing room only.

Stand against the oppressors!
 Standing room only.
 Are you standing for election?
 On a standing committee.
 What's your stand?
 Standing room only.

They won't stand for it!
 Standing room only.
 I can't stand any more.
 Don't be standoffish.
 Make a stand!
 Take a stand!
 I understand.
 Sorry

STANDING ROOM ONLY!

Anne Schuster

reports from the regions:

How the system targets children: Natal

Example 1: Three mothers from Clermont, KwaDabeka, and St Wendolins separately approached a social worker. 'Please keep our children in detention,' they asked. 'They'll have a better chance of surviving the violence.'

Example 2: A child at a street shelter (now closed) said he ran away from Mpumalanga, outside Hammarsdale. 'On my way to school I was beaten up because I didn't belong to the United Democratic Front and on the way home I was beaten up because I didn't belong to Inkatha,' he explained.

Example 3: Henry, age 9, lay in a cell in the basement of CR Swart Square police headquarters in Durban. He was held for loitering. He had typhoid. Nobody had noticed.

Last example: Bongani, 13, dropped out in Std 4 to join the UDF and later led a gang of comtsotsis. He was shot by police after he had been spotted driving a bakkie he stole in an armed hold-up. 'I can't help him', said his lawyer. 'He needs rehabilitation.' Bongani went to a reformatory.

These lives make Sash member Priscilla McKay angry. Priscilla directs the Pinetown/Highway Child Welfare Society. She spoke of the four examples above at a South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCAN) conference in Cape Town. What follows are a few points only from her paper on the systematic child abuse built into our society.

- 'It's no good dealing with sexual abuse and stuff like that unless we also look at what happens to children as a result of state policies.'
- 'Three generations of apartheid is the greatest abuser of children in this country.' Her own organisation runs nine daycare centres for more than 800 children but this drop in the bucket 'in no way makes up for the inability of the parents to parent their children.'
- 'Child Welfare has a sophisticated "systematic training for effective

