

Hoekwil & Touwsrante

# Community Dialogue

## The **Violence Prevention** Forum

Evidence | Collaboration | Trust

# October Report

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# 2023

# Welcoming and Framing

Participants and guests were welcomed and reminded that the dialogue meets once a month to work toward a safer and more prosperous community. It was explained that Ros would translate from Afrikaans to English, allowing those who preferred to speak in Afrikaans to do so in accordance with the dialogue language policy.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPS) and Thuthuzela Care Centre were also welcomed, along with the new SAPS Station commander, Philip Voigt.



**The Community Dialogue held its 21st meeting on October 18, 2023, at the Touwsrante Community Hall. Sixteen people attended, including representatives from the South African Police Service (SAPS). Several community members sent their apologies for not being able to attend.**

# Updates

## Market

- The upcoming market is scheduled for December 9th at the community hall.
- Planning meetings will happen every Monday evening.
- Depending on the venue capacity, 20 stalls are expected.
- Stall holders from Touwsranten and Hoekwil will pay R50, while those from elsewhere, such as the coffee caravan, will pay R100. The deposit covers reserving the community hall, securing a stall spot, and the remaining balance for other expenses.
- Ingrid oversees stall coordination and has prepared a list that stall owners need to fill out.



In order to foster connection and make the market relevant to both communities, the flea market has been renamed:

**Touwswil  
Market**

It was reported that security and parking were being worked on. The market group hoped to have other projects that would generate funds to refund 50% of stallholders' deposits. In the next meeting, more time will be allocated for the market group to share their progress and any feedback regarding their planning and needs.

# Updates

## Clean Up

The dialogue was informed that the clean-up had not yet started. There has been interest from people, including the youth, to be part of an initiative to clean up the streets of Touwsranten.

It was suggested that before starting clean ups, the dialogue needed to identify areas of concern where clean-ups could be part of violence prevention as well as cleaner communities.



## VPF 17 Reflection

### The **Violence Prevention** Forum

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The 17th Violence Prevention Forum took place on October 12 and 13. Four community dialogue representatives attended.

It was an intergenerational dialogue. Reflecting on the meeting, Sharon mentioned that the experience had expanded her thinking, and she learned alternatives to violence as a result. Ros was once again intrigued to learn how different people view violence.

## WRRA

The dialogue was informed that the ratepayers association was currently painting pavements. Chris explained that the ratepayers association had limited funds, but was willing to help with projects such as cleaning up the path between Hoekwil and Touwsranten. Further, he explained that funds were available for roadside improvements.



# Updates

## Wilderness Defence Force (WDF) Meeting

A meeting has finally been secured with Charl, the owner of Wilderness Defence Force.

He has set terms for meeting, which have been accepted. As agreed, he will meet with Chandré and one other representative from the community dialogue. It was agreed that the representative should be from Touwsranten, a group most affected by WDF's actions. Dullin was nominated and agreed to represent the community. In case he was unable to attend, Sharon or Ingrid have offered to step in.

Participants were asked what they hoped to get out of meeting Charl. A key concern was how the WDF targeted individuals such as job seekers, street vendors and car guards in the Wilderness area.

The dialogue was reminded that most of the spaces in Wilderness operated as private property and that this be kept in mind when engaging Charl.

It was agreed that at the meeting the following can be on the agenda:



- Share the Human Rights pamphlets with Charl
- Expose WDF to how their behaviour limits the movement of others, especially the poor
- Ask Charl to clarify whether his company protects all properties or just private ones, and if so, which ones?
- Ask for more information on how the WDF operates. Sensitize him to the use of the name 'defence force' and its triggering effect based on SA history.
- Find out what he is doing about reported incidents of violence/harassment involving his employees, are there consequences for his employees linked to these incidents?
- Find out why it is an issue for car guards to work in spaces considered to be municipal spaces.



## Way Forward >>>

Dullin will find out what the by-laws are in terms of assisting car guards register to operate in public spaces.

Captain Morné Heunis stressed the importance of reporting cases as they happen.

# Updates

## SAPS



Philip Voigt, SAPS station commander, assured the dialogue that he is available to address any problems or complaints regarding the police's service delivery. It was brought to his attention that the police station, supposed to be open from 8:00 to 16:00, is closed when community members visit, which he duly noted.

The meeting expressed frustration over the removal of a previously effective satellite station, resulting in decreased crime in the past. Unfortunately, it was taken away without community notice. The explanation given was that, with a police station already in Wilderness, a satellite station in Touwsranten would not be feasible.

Some participants highlighted the presence and function of the Wilderness Defence Force as an example of how the affluent can manage their safety, contrasting with the police preventing the Touwsranten community from taking care of their own safety, impacting the relationship between the community and the police. It was agreed that SAPS needs to have a stronger presence in Touwsranten and foster better relationships with community members. It was suggested that the crime prevention strategies employed in other areas be applied in Touwsranten.

Adding to his brief, Philip said community members are encouraged to come together as a group, and a van would be dispatched to the community hall where SAPS members can assist them with things like certifying documents.

## Way Forward



Louisa made a commitment to have the SAPS information pamphlets printed out and distributed in a walkabout through Touwsranten by SAPS members.

# Gender Based Violence Presentation

Angelique Vezasie who represented the National Prosecuting Authority and Thuthuzela Care Centre joined the dialogue to inform participants of the different departments and organisations that offer services to victims of gender based violence and sexual assault matters.

She explained that the Domestic Violence Act says that any act of domestic violence against a child, a person with disability and an elderly person must be reported.

Participants were made aware that when violence occurs and is witnessed, known, and not reported, they can be held liable by the law.

If you fail to report a case of violence against a child, you may also be put on trial. In order to open a case, the police will open the case in the victim's unit, and if it is a rape case they will contact FCS child protective services, and then the victim can be taken to the hospital without having to wait in the emergency department.

## What Next?



We've compiled some contact information that includes who to reach out to and how they help on the following pages



# Where do I go? Services to consider when dealing with GBV



## South African Police Service (SAPS)

10111/ 044 877 0011

- Their role is to receive, record and investigate cases
- Their responsibility is to open a docket

## National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)

044 875 0073

- Responsible for guiding victims, investigating and prosecuting the accused person
- In cases where the victim wishes to withdraw a case, they no longer just withdraw domestic violence cases, the prosecutor first looks at the seriousness of the attack on the victim, and considers previous attempts or incidents - even if there is no protection order



National Prosecuting Authority  
South Africa

## Department of Health (DOH)

044 802 4528/29

- Responsible for GBV Care Management
- When a survivor reports to the police station with serious injuries they are then taken to the hospital
- Provides medical care and completion of any forms necessary for the docket
- Provides Medico-legal services
- Counselling is offered on site
- Provides post-exposure prophylaxis in the case of rape
- After hours the doctor working in the emergency unit can activate one of the after hour service providers to come in and render crisis containment and support to the victim



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Department of Social Development (DSD)

044 814 1920

- They render social services and support
- They have a social worker working specifically with gender based violence and domestic violence
- The social worker does house visits and render support when victims go to court



social development

Department:  
Social Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



### Families South Africa (FAMSA)

- 044 874 5811
- They're an NGO in George
- Render counselling services
- They are involved in starting the healing process
- They provide after care post court case where people still need closure and empowerment

## George Municipality

044 802 2000

- Offer gender and disability support programs
- They assist with food , blankets and building material in cases where perpetrators burns down a victim's house
- Focuses on all the types of violence, i.e., violence against LGBTQI+ community and children
- Has initiatives that empower women , such as assistance with CV writing and business coaching through SITA



### George Child & Family welfare

044 874 0424

- Responsible for child protection in the George area
- Provides social service and support

## MEDICLINIC

- Now provides GBV care not only to private patients
- They have a social support squared (SSS) which they activate to do crisis containment at the hospital
- They are currently not doing sexual assault and evidence collection for rape due to lack of training
- Domestic violence victims can go to Mediclinic free of charge



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## Thuthuzela Care Centre

044 802 4429



- Works for the National Prosecuting Authority
- They are the sexual offences and community affairs unit
- Deal with all GBV related incidents and different types of abuse - including against men, women and children, people with disabilities and the elderly
- They do awareness campaigns in the communities
- Child protection unit gets activated in cases where an offense is against a child
- They do crisis containment and provide a comfort pack to victims and explain victim's rights
- Prepare victims on what to expect and explain procedures such as examinations as well as medication and schedule follow up appointment on victims' behalf as well as counselling appointment for long term therapy
- They get doctors to fill in legal documents like the J88
- Refer victims for counselling
- Prepare victims for testifying in court

They have 3 court preparation offices, one in the district court, one in George court (regional court) and one in the sexual offences court in Thembalethu. They have court preparation officers in each of these courts.

## Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

044 875 0063/044 873 4296

- Key role player in criminal and civil proceedings such as divorces , estates, district dockets, regional court, high court dockets
- Appointed in different courts to listen to the cases and reside over sentencing procedures
- They do children's court as well as protection orders



**the doj & cd**

Department:  
Justice and Constitutional Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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# Attendees List

Dullin Appels	Ingrid Buys	Audrey Kritzinger	Daniel Jouse van Rensbrg
Alan Fowle	Patrick Buys	Philip Viogt	Angelique Vezasie
Shané Solomons	Louisa Geber	Andisiwe Makwecana	Roslynn Damons
Morné Heunis	Sharon Appels	Helet Theron	Chris Kritzinger

**Next meeting :  
15 November 2023**

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