



Paraffin Safety Association
Southern Africa

For immediate release

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Let's embrace our Burn Survivors

"Commemorating International Children's Day (June 01) and Youth Day (June 16) activities might be a waste of time if our school environments and society in general continue to discriminate, mock and use derogatory terms towards burn survivors", says Phumzile Nteyi, the Communications Co-ordinator at the Paraffin Safety Association.

South Africa has an alarming number of burn survivors who find their issues and challenges ignored or forgotten by the general public and people in power. Most of them continue with their lives without the proper support, counseling and therapy they deserve. Public schools in South Africa are supposed to be inclusive and not discriminate against burn survivors. Contrary to this, many of the burn survivors are sadly teased and called derogatory names like "Kentucky Fried Chicken". Phumzile says: "This ill-treatment forces many burn survivors to drop out of school, in spite of their academic potential".

The Paraffin Safety Association in partnership with Nkazimlo Primary School situated in Khayelitsha (the first Burn Survivor Friendly School in South Africa), the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA) and the Burn Foundation will be holding an imbizo to call for the end to their stigmatization and discrimination of burn survivors and to draw attention to their needs.

At this imbizo, some burn survivors will share their experiences and we will encourage a healthy dialogue around challenges, needs and grievances experienced by them. School representative bodies, relevant government structures, teachers, community based organizations as well as NGO's working in this field have been invited. This imbizo will take place on **Tuesday, June 03, 2008 at the OR Tambo Hall (formerly called Mew Way Hall)** in the fast growing Urban Renewal township of the mother city, Khayelitsha.

This event is in commemoration of **National Paraffin Safety Day**, is the day intended to promote household energy safety, particularly in paraffin using households. On this day we also draw the attention of the nation to the plight of the consumers of paraffin fuel and appliances who continue to experience injuries such as burns and ingestions. Our Regional offices will also be hosting similar events in various parts of the country.

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