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DATE:

19 August 2002

PLACE:

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

HEADLINE:

Partnership to Respond to Violence Against Girls Launched

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Durban, 19 August 2002: The South Africa Council for Educators (SACE) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have joined forces with Crisp, a Durban based research, facilitation and training organisation to coordinate a provincial Partnership to Respond to Violence Against Girls. This initiative is part of a larger 12-month effort in three provinces to provide coordination and facilitate access to information, resources and expertise for school communities to address violence and harassment of girls in school.

The partnership will target girls, boys, School Governing Bodies, parents, NGOs and CBOs, religious organisations, and government structures in a concerted attempt to highlight the problems of violence and harassment of girls and identify promising approaches to making the school environment friendlier to both girls and boys.

The Partnership to Respond to Violence Against Girls hopes to facilitate new responses by strengthening relationships between stakeholders and identifying and making available to the partners information on available resources, provincial and national expertise, successful strategies and models, and relevant research.

The Partnership is intended to complement and support other government and civil society efforts to reduce violence and harassment of girls in schools and in their communities. The Partnership will develop and disseminate a database of existing resources, expertise, service providers, research etc. A Provincial Working Group charged with elaborating and implementing an appropriate advocacy campaign as well as a provincial wide forum event in 2003 is also a Partnership task. In addition the Partnership will support and document at least two model learner based initiative in the province.

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