

Country: Lesotho

Category: Media (print)

Locality/ organisation: Informative newspaper

Presenter: Keiso Mohloboli (News Reporter)

This article is about a father burning his three-year-old boy, claiming that he is not his biological son. An innocent child was abused and traumatised by the man who he looked up to as his protector. The mother was also humiliated in that her husband thinks she has multiple partners. The article is intended teach husbands to stop abusing their families over unfounded and unsubstantiated claims.

Relationship to the SADC protocol

The article deals with crime and abuse based on assumptions and rumours. Although our culture designates men as heads of families, that does not give any man the right to abuse and traumatise women and children because of assumptions and claims. When we speak openly about these things, it will stop the abuse in families, reduce the levels of violence, and ultimately lead to a trauma-free generation. We will also have men involved in advocacy to stop gender-based violence in our communities.

Background

The trend of men abusing women and children is growing in Lesotho according to the Lesotho mounted police service. They are responding to allegations that the abusers are not being arrested when they have committed gender-based violence. The police are working hand in hand with gender activists to stop gender-based violence.

Objectives

I hoped to show the tragedy that befell the child and his mother, to expose the crime and the abuse, and to show other men that it is a crime to abuse women and children.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries are the victims of gender-based violence. I had hoped to reach the boy's father to find out his views on the incident. The evidence is based on the police report.

Process

Information was obtained from the police report, from Roma Hospital where the boy was admitted, and from norms and traditions of the Basotho. Three sources were consulted, one woman and two men.

Follow-up

Follow-up will be through the police office that handled the case, to find out about the health of the boy, how the burns affected his urinary system, and how the trauma is being taken care of.