

**"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."**

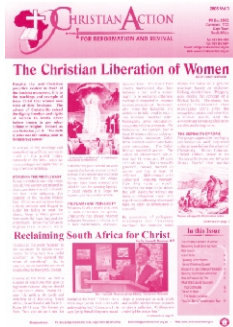
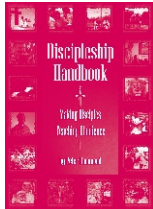
James 1:27

Women need protection and respect. To do this we need to execute rapists, abolish abortion and eliminate pornography. Please join us in praying and working for true justice in South Africa.

**"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good people to do nothing."** Edmund Burke

Recommended Reading (available from Africa Christian Action):

**Make a Difference** A Christian Action Handbook for Southern Africa  
**Finding Freedom from the Pornography Plague, Biblical Principles for Africa, Discipleship Handbook**



For more information on this and other pressing issues, subscribe to the **Christian Action** Magazine @ only R60 per year.



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## Women Need Protection and Respect — Practical Action, Not Pious Platitudes and Public Holidays

Women's Day has been a public holiday in South Africa since 1995. Sadly, the situation of South Africa women has not improved much as a result of this public holiday over the past 13 years. In fact, it appears that violence against women has escalated.

*"It is a fact that a woman born in South Africa has a greater chance of being raped than learning to read."* BBC Correspondent Carolyn Dempster

*"Only 7.7% of reported rapes in 2000 resulted in a conviction."*

Mail and Guardian

Rapists terrorise the townships with impunity. Few are caught and even fewer are convicted. Recent hijackings, rapes and murders serve to highlight the brazenness and cruelty of South Africa's criminals. Parliament needs to institute the death penalty for first-degree rape.

**"But if out in the country a man happens to meet a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die. Do nothing to the girl; she has committed no sin deserving death. This case is like that of someone who attacks and murders his neighbour, for a man found the girl out in the country, and though the betrothed girl screamed, there was no one to rescue her."**

Deuteronomy 22:25-27



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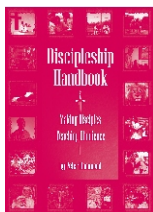
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Free distribution of pornography was legalized in South Africa in 1996. This has not only poured petrol on the fires of rape and child abuse, but has also invaded the bedroom and resulted in much misery as partners are pressured to act out the scenes depicted in pornography.

Cape Town SAFELINE counselor Lindi Wadhams says: "About 80% of the perpetrators (of sexual offenses) I worked with admitted to being involved in pornography..." According to one sexual offender: "As an abuser I can say that pornography definitely played a role in my abuse patterns. Looking at material started my fantasizing and from there I would show the pornography to my intended victim and watch their reaction. Sometimes I would get the victims to act out what they saw. I have no doubt in my mind that from my experience, pornography should be banned and that it is harmful" (The Pornography Debate).

The SA Police Services' Child Protection Unit booklet *Talk About Children at Risk* says: "Research with child sexual offenders reveals that **all** have used child pornography."

In the past, South Africa has had far greater restriction over pornography. Wives, mothers, husbands and fathers must not tolerate pornography in the home, the community or in society. You can **make a difference** by:

- Becoming informed (contact ACA for resources)
- Speak the truth at every opportunity and support others who do
- Complain if you see porn in stores and do not support shops that stock porn.
- Refuse to tolerate porn in your home. Whether DVD, magazine, TV, Internet or SMS; porn is a form of adultery and leads to abusive, manipulative behaviour. If you are concerned, contact a Christian counsellor (e.g. Restoring Wholeness Ministries Tel: 021 439 4721 or



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Unfaithful husbands bring STD's and HIV/AIDS home to their faithful partners. While women also spread HIV/AIDS by promiscuity, according to South African law, neither men nor women have much incentive to be faithful. We need to apply the Biblical mandate to protect families by providing for both civil and criminal penalties for adultery (Deuteronomy 22:22, Matthew 1:18-19).

Abortion on demand has been legal in South Africa since 1997. This is promoted as a victory for women's rights, even though at least 300 000 baby girls have lost their lives to abortion since 1997. Abortion deeply wounds women-physical consequences can include death, future infertility or miscarriages and breast cancer. Psychological effects include guilt, regret and remorse, anger, rage and hostility. Ironically this "woman's right" protects men who do not want to take responsibility for their children, while pressuring women into denying their maternity.

**"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy."**  
Proverbs 31:8-9.

We need to scrap abortion on demand and prosecute those who kill babies. Christians offer loving alternatives by supporting Crisis Pregnancy Centres and opening their homes to women who are in need. Contact **Doctors for Life** (24 hours on 072 777 5757), if you need help.



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