



## **ROCKGIRL SAFE SPACES BENCH UNVEILING AND BREDASDORP IMBIZO**

**11 AUGUST 2015**

Rock Girl, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD) and the South African Board for Sheriffs (SABFS), unveiled a Rock Girl Safe Spaces bench in memory of 17 year old Anene Booysen, five year old Kayde Williams, and 14 year old Elda Jafta. All three girls who resided in Bredasdorp, were raped and murdered in the last two years.

Rock Girl is a grassroots campaign that creates safe spaces for girls and women. Some are symbolic, like the Rock Girl benches that raise awareness and provide a beautiful place to sit, and some provide actual safety to girls and women, like the Resilient Girls Programme in Manenberg for girls ages 12-16 and Rock Girl Road Trips.

The bench is located in front of the Bredasdorp Magistrates Court and was unveiled on Tuesday 11 August 2015.

The installation of the bench is part of an ongoing collaboration between Rock Girl and the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development to find lasting solutions to the pervasive violence facing girls and women across South Africa. The SABFS donated R20 000 towards the installation of the Rock Girl Safe spaces bench.

The event was held at the Bredasdorp Magistrate Court and commenced at 10am. Everyone was welcomed by Percival Wagenstroom, the Bredasdorp Magistrate. Messages of support were delivered by Advocate Hishaam Mohamed, the Regional Head of the DoJCD in the Western Cape, Mrs Sharon Snell, the Executive Manager of the SABFS and Ms India Baird the founder of the Rock Girl project.

The families of Anene Booysen, Kayde Williams and Elda Jafta were presented with flowers and Adv Mohamed and Mrs Snell unveiled the safe spaces bench. White doves were released as part of the unveiling ceremony symbolising peace and forgiveness.

After the unveiling ceremony the DoJCD hosted the women's month opening Imbizo in Bredasdorp. The SABFS participated in the Imbizo along with other stakeholders from the JCPS cluster.

- SAPS
- DCS
- NPA
- Legal Aid-SA
- Western Cape Government

Members of the community were encouraged to pose their questions to the various stakeholders and representatives on the panel during the question and answer session. Women were encouraged to speak out against violence and offences against women.



Adv Hishaam Mohamed, Regional Head of Dojcd



Mrs Sharon Snell, Executive Manager, SABFS



Families of Anene Booysen, Kayde Williams and Elda Jaftha



India Baird, Rock Girl founder, addressing the crowd



Unveiling of the safe spaces bench at the Bredasdorp Magistrate Court





Members of the Bredasdorp community attending the Imbizo. Adv Mohamed addressing the Bredasdorp Community.



South African Police Services Band entertaining the crowd