ACTION SOCIETY

REPORT

The Crisis of Crime Against Children in South Africa

A Call for Accountability and Urgent Reform

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Executive Recommendations Summary

South Africa's child-safety crisis can be reversed, but only through decisive structural reform.

Action Society calls for urgent implementation of the following ten priorities:

1. **Eliminate the DNA backlog** through public–private partnerships and a 30-day turnaround for child-related cases.
2. **Establish local forensic tracking systems** to allow families and victims' representatives to monitor sample progress.
3. **Publish the National Register for Sex Offenders (NRSO)** and mandate vetting for every person working with or transporting minors.
4. **Devolve policing powers** to capable provinces and metros to allow rapid, community-centred response.
5. **Create local justice hubs (Action Centres)** combining victim support, prosecution oversight, and accountability monitoring.
6. **Adopt Action Society's NPA devolution model** to enable provincial prosecution authorities that complement the National Prosecuting Authority.
7. **Re-establish specialised Child-Protection Units** within SAPS, staffed by trauma-trained investigators.
8. **Integrate social workers and psychologists** into every police station and magistrate's court handling child-related cases.
9. **Implement trauma-informed justice** through training for investigators, prosecutors, and magistrates, and ensure trial commencement within six months for cases involving minors.
10. **Launch nationwide trauma-recovery and prevention programmes** in schools, families, and communities to stop the cycle of violence before it begins.

Executive Summary

South Africa's children are caught in a cycle of violence. They are raped, abducted, and murdered - often by those they trust, sometimes by those meant to protect them. Despite constitutional guarantees of dignity and safety, our nation continues to fail its youngest citizens.

Drawing on *Statistics South Africa's* Crime Against Children series (2019/20 – 2023/24), *SAPS* data, and *Action Society's* direct case involvement, this report finds that:

- Rape remains the most prevalent violent crime against children. The 2022/23 child-rape rate was 87 per 100 000, consistently higher than that of the total population.
- Child-murder rates remain static, fluctuating between 4 and 6 per 100 000 for nearly a decade.
- Kidnappings and abductions are escalating. KwaZulu-Natal's *share* of national child-abduction cases surged from 11.7 % (2015/16) to 49.1 % (2019/20).
- Forensic backlogs and justice delays cripple prosecutions, while the National Register for Sex Offenders remains closed to the public.
- Distrust of police continues to deter families from reporting child-related crimes.

As the world observes the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and Children, *Action Society* calls for systemic reform and accountability. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Introduction: A Nation Failing Its Children

Every child in South Africa has the right to grow up free from fear and harm. Yet, year after year, children feature prominently among the victims of the country's most brutal crimes.

Between 2015 and 2023, recorded rape, murder, and kidnapping of children remained high despite policy promises. *Action Society's* daily casework reveals that investigative incompetence, forensic paralysis, and endless court delays re-traumatise families and shield perpetrators.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign must therefore be more than symbolic - it must become a national audit of how we treat our children.

1 Rape and Sexual Violence Against Children

1.1 Scale of the Crisis

Rape is the single most prevalent violent crime against children in South Africa, consistently dominating recorded offences in the *Crime Against Children* statistical series.

Across the 2015/16 – 2019/20 period, rape accounted for nearly half of all crimes committed against minors. In 2015/16, there were 15 732 reported child rapes, rising to 17 118 cases by 2019/20 - an increase of just over 6 % in five years.

The rate of rape among children remains far higher than that of the general population: in 2019/20, the total-population rape rate stood at 72 per 100 000, while the rate for children was around 126 per 100 000 at its peak (2012/13) and 87 per 100 000 in 2022/23, showing that even at its "lowest" point, children remain disproportionately targeted.

In 2022/23, 38.3 % of all recorded crimes against children were rapes, confirming that sexual violence is not an isolated pattern but a sustained epidemic. (*Stats SA – Crime Against Children, Vol 3 2024*).

1.2 Gender, Age, and Provincial Patterns

Stats SA data show that girls represent the overwhelming majority of victims, though sexual violence against boys remains under-reported due to stigma and fear.

Provincial patterns vary sharply:

- Limpopo and Mpumalanga record the highest proportion of rape within overall child-crime profiles, with rape constituting over 50 % of all child-victim cases in certain districts.

- Gauteng, the Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal account for the highest absolute numbers of child-rape reports due to population density and urban exposure factors.
- The highest district-level incidences occur in Greater Sekhukhune (Limpopo), Bojanala (North West), Nkangala (Mpumalanga), and Sedibeng (Gauteng).

Most victims are under 18, but a significant proportion - nearly one in five - are younger than 10 years old, according to SAPS data cited in the Stats SA report (*92-02-03, 2024*).

1.3 The Context Behind the Numbers

While recorded rape cases against children fluctuate annually, the consistent trend over more than a decade is clear: the levels never decline significantly, and conviction rates remain critically low. The *Crime Against Children* reports note that many incidents occur in domestic or familiar environments - by relatives, neighbours, or family acquaintances - illustrating how safety threats arise inside the spaces where children should be protected.

Action Society's case monitoring confirms the same pattern. Most victims know their attackers, and investigation delays allow trauma to deepen. The combination of family-based perpetration, weak investigation, and forensic backlogs creates an environment of impunity.

1.4 Faces of the Crisis: Action Society Case Studies

***Aster* - Raped by Her Pastor (Delft, Western Cape · 2024)**

Fifteen-year-old *Aster* was sexually assaulted by her pastor, a trusted community figure. Action Society intervened to oppose bail and assist the family. The case exemplifies how authority and trust are exploited and highlights the need for more rigorous screening of individuals working with minors.

***Poppy* - Raped by a Crèche Transport Driver (Mfuleni · 2024)**

Four-year-old *Poppy* was raped by a crèche transport driver who had regular access to young children. The drawn-out investigative process demonstrates how court delays and administrative backlogs prolong trauma and weaken deterrence.

***Lavender* - Raped by a Parolee (Hanover Park · 2025)**

Nine-year-old *Lavender* was attacked by a repeat offender released on parole after a previous conviction for a sexual crime against a child. Her case reinforces Action Society's call for public access to the Sex Offender Register and stricter parole review mechanisms.

1.5 A System That Re-Victimises

For every reported case, there are many that never reach police dockets. Families fear humiliation, reprisal, or disbelief. Those who do report are subjected to multiple interviews, insensitive questioning, and long waits for forensic confirmation.

Action Society continues to advocate:

- For **public–private forensic partnerships** to clear the DNA backlog and ensure samples are processed within 30 days.
- For **trauma-informed policing** so investigators approach victims with empathy and professionalism.
- For the **publication and digital accessibility** of the National Register for Sex Offenders, allowing communities to protect children from known predators.

The data contained in the *Stats SA* Crime Against Children volumes show that rape is not only the most common crime against children - it is also the one most affected by systemic delay. Until investigations and trials keep pace with reporting, every statistic represents not just a crime committed, but a child waiting for justice.

2 Murder: The Ultimate Failure of Protection

When a child is murdered, every layer of protection has already failed - the family, the community, the police, and the justice system. Murder is therefore the most devastating indicator of the broader social and institutional collapse that South Africa faces.

2.1 Scope and Scale

The *Crime Against Children* series shows that while adult-murder rates fluctuate sharply, the rate of child murders has remained stubbornly constant over the past decade. Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, South Africa recorded between 700 and 1 000 child-murder victims per year, translating to a rate of about 5 murders per 100 000 children. This mirrors the range confirmed in later volumes (2021/22 – 2023/24), where the child-murder rate fluctuates between 4 and 6 per 100 000.

While these numbers appear lower than those for adults, they represent a far deeper moral tragedy: children make up roughly 5 % of all murder victims nationally, yet their vulnerability and dependence on adults make each death a total systems failure.

The 2019/20 Stats SA analysis reveals that firearms, knives, and blunt instruments were the leading weapons used, and that most child

murders occurred within the home or immediate community. In more than two-thirds of cases, the perpetrator was known to the child - a parent, relative, or neighbour. These findings confirm that child homicide is not primarily a stranger-crime phenomenon but a reflection of intimate violence and household breakdown.

2.2 Provincial Patterns and Risk Zones

The distribution of child murders is heavily concentrated in a few provinces:

- Western Cape (23.8 %) of all recorded child-murder cases nationally.
- KwaZulu-Natal (20.7 %).
- Gauteng (17.8 %).
  Together, these three provinces account for over 60 % of all known child-murder cases.

The Western Cape's figure is particularly alarming given its smaller population share. The province also records one of the highest combined murder-and-sexual-offence overlaps, indicating that many child killings are preceded by sexual assault.

Across most provinces, the average age of murdered children is between 6 and 12 years. Victims are almost equally divided by gender overall, but female victims are more likely to have been sexually assaulted prior to death, while male victims are more often killed in violent households or street incidents.

2.3 Patterns and Motives

The *Stats SA 92-02-03 (2023/24)* report highlights several recurring motives in child-murder cases:

- Domestic conflict and intimate-partner violence spilling over onto children.
- Sexual assault and attempted rape, particularly in female victims.
- Disputes related to parental separation, maintenance, or custody.
- Gang-related or revenge killings, especially in urban and peri-urban communities.
- Neglect or abuse deaths linked to chronic maltreatment rather than single incidents.

Each category points to failures in preventive systems: domestic-violence response, social-work monitoring, and child-protection follow-ups.

2.4 Case Studies: When Protection Disappears

Tamia "Mia" Botha – Paarl East · 2022

Four-year-old Mia Botha was kidnapped from her community in Paarl East on 25 September 2022. Her body was found the next day in a nearby open area. Despite extensive community mobilisation, no arrests have been made. Action Society filed a complaint with the Public Protector in 2025, citing forensic negligence and investigative stagnation. The Mia Botha case encapsulates how the absence of immediate, coordinated response can turn a disappearance into a homicide.

Bokgabo Poo – Benoni · 2022

Four-year-old Bokgabo Poo was abducted and later found raped, mutilated, and murdered in Benoni. Her family waited more than 500 days for DNA confirmation of the remains. Action Society's involvement exposed the forensic backlog and lack of communication that re-traumatise families. Her case remains one of the clearest examples of how administrative delay compounds grief and undermines justice.

Together, these two murders illustrate the extremes of the child-murder crisis: systemic delay on one hand, and investigative paralysis on the other. Both are products of a justice system that no longer functions with urgency.

2.5 Failures that Enable Murder

Child murders do not occur in isolation; they are enabled by predictable failures:

- Ineffective early-warning systems - repeated domestic-violence complaints that are not cross-referenced with child-protection alerts.
- Slow police mobilisation in missing-child cases, with crucial hours lost.
- Forensic under-capacity, where toxicology and DNA results take months, collapsing the chain of evidence.
- Poor inter-departmental communication between SAPS, the Department of Social Development, and the National Prosecuting Authority.
- Weak parole monitoring, allowing convicted offenders to re-offend after release.

2.6 Action Society's Call for Change

To end the cycle of preventable child murders, Action Society demands:

- A zero-delay policy for missing-child cases - activation of search operations within the first hour.
- Integrated early-warning data systems linking domestic-violence, maintenance, and protection-order databases to child-safety units.
- Provincial homicide-review panels to audit every child-murder case for investigative and procedural errors.
- Mandatory disciplinary action for officers who lose dockets or fail to communicate case progress.
- Public transparency in forensic turnaround times, reported quarterly by the Minister of Police to Parliament.

Each murdered child represents not only a life lost but a record of institutional apathy. The numbers in the Stats SA reports are more than statistics - they are evidence that South Africa's protective systems are collapsing in plain sight.

Murder is the final link in a chain of neglect. Unless the State rebuilds early-response, forensic, and prosecutorial capacity, these tragedies will continue to repeat, year after year, in the same communities, under the same excuses.

3 Kidnapping and Abduction: A Rising and Gendered Threat

Kidnapping and abduction have become one of the most alarming trends in crimes against children. Once considered isolated incidents, they are now an entrenched and escalating feature of South Africa's violent landscape.

3.1 Scope and trends

Stats SA's *Crime Against Children* reports show a dramatic provincial shift over the past decade. KwaZulu-Natal's share of all reported child-abduction cases rose from 11.7 % in 2015/16 to 49.1 % in 2019/20, while Gauteng and the Western Cape continue to report consistently high numbers. Girls remain the most frequent targets: in 2019/20, 90.4 % of abducted children were female.

Police data confirm that abductions of children are now often linked to secondary crimes such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, ransom demands, or murder. In many cases Action Society has monitored, missing-person reports are filed only after crucial investigative hours have been lost.

3.2 Underlying causes

The increase in child abductions stems from multiple factors:

- Organised criminal networks exploiting porous borders and weak investigative capacity.
- Traditional-practice abuses, such as the illegal form of *ukuthwala*, in which girls are abducted for forced marriage.

- Domestic disputes and custody conflicts, often escalating into kidnapping when parents act outside court processes.
- Opportunistic crimes where children are targeted for robbery, transport hijackings, or sexual assault.

The erosion of visible policing, slow response times, and minimal use of technology (such as CCTV and licence-plate recognition) have allowed these offences to flourish.

3.3 Action Society's field experience

Many of the child-murder cases Action Society monitors began as abductions. In the murders of Mia Botha and Bokgabo Poo, the initial hours after disappearance proved decisive - yet police mobilisation was delayed. Families routinely report being told to "wait 24 hours" before opening a missing-person case, a practice with no basis in law. Each delay shrinks the window for safe recovery.

3.4 Solutions and prevention

To reverse the trend, Action Society recommends:

- Provincial rapid-response child-abduction units. Specialised teams equipped with drones, tracking technology, and trained negotiators should be activated immediately upon a missing-child report.
- Automatic case escalation protocols. Every report of a missing minor must trigger SAPS Command Centre alerts and coordination with border posts, airports, and Interpol within the first hour.
- Public education campaigns addressing *ukuthwala*, trafficking risks, and the myth that families must "wait 24 hours."
- Partnerships with telecommunications and banking sectors to trace digital activity and financial movements linked to abductions.
- A national integrated database of missing and recovered children, linked to the Home Affairs and Health systems to prevent identity manipulation.

A child's disappearance is not an administrative event; it is an emergency. Swift mobilisation, coordination, and communication save lives.

4 Systemic Failures Undermining Justice

Behind every unsolved case lies a web of systemic collapse. Forensic backlogs, poor case management, and the absence of accountability mechanisms mean that even when suspects are identified, prosecutions falter.

4.1 The forensic bottleneck

South Africa's National Forensic Science Laboratories have for years operated under crippling backlogs - at times exceeding 200 000 unprocessed DNA samples. This backlog has delayed justice in nearly every rape and murder case Action Society has tracked. Without DNA confirmation, cases stall, witnesses lose faith, and communities lose trust.

Action Society maintains that this crisis can be resolved only through public–private partnerships. Accredited private laboratories, operating under strict chain-of-custody regulations, should assist SAPS to eliminate the backlog within twelve months. Transparency dashboards must publicly display progress by province.

4.2 The invisible offenders list

The National Register for Sex Offenders was designed to prevent repeat offences, yet it remains inaccessible to the public. Parents, schools, and community organisations cannot verify whether an adult in contact with children has a history of sexual offences. Action Society has repeatedly called for the full publication of the NRSO through a secure online portal and for mandatory vetting of all child-contact professionals. The secrecy surrounding this list is not protection - it is neglect.

4.3 Policing failures and centralised inefficiency

SAPS's over-centralised structure breeds inertia. Officers on the ground lack authority and resources, while leadership rotates too quickly for accountability to take root. Action Society's monitoring shows that dockets are frequently lost, communication with families is inconsistent, and case updates are withheld.

The organisation advocates a devolution of policing to capable provinces and metros, accompanied by civilian oversight boards to track investigation quality, arrest rates, and prosecution outcomes. Decentralisation brings policing closer to the people it serves.

4.4 The erosion of public trust

Stats SA's Victims of Crime Survey shows that reporting of child-related assaults has dropped steadily as citizens lose confidence in law-enforcement outcomes. Parents fear humiliation, corruption, or retaliation, while many simply believe that "nothing will be done." This distrust undermines prevention: when crimes are not reported, offenders remain free to strike again.

Rebuilding trust requires visible competence. Every timely arrest, every conviction secured through accurate forensics, every transparent communication with a victim's family chips away at cynicism and restores belief in justice.

5 Understanding the Roots and Impacts of Violence on Children

(Based on Dr Rita Suliman's forensic report for Action Society, 2025)

South Africa's crisis of violence against children does not begin or end at a crime scene. It is seeded in homes and communities where trauma is normalised, where poverty and social breakdown erode empathy, and where the State's failures teach children that consequences are optional.

Dr Rita Suliman's forensic analysis, prepared for Action Society, makes three core points. First, today's children are not inherently more violent than previous generations; they are simply more exposed to violence. Second, unhealed trauma has predictable psychological effects that, if ignored, spill into future offending. Third, prevention is not a slogan - it is a set of concrete actions across policing, schools, courts, and families that can interrupt this cycle.

5.1 The psychological toll of exposure to violence

Children who are victims or witnesses of violence experience a cascade of symptoms: intrusive memories, anxiety, sleep disturbance, hyper-vigilance, shame, and withdrawal. When unaddressed, these can consolidate into post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, substance misuse, and persistent aggression.

The consequences are not only clinical. Trauma erodes school performance, peer relationships, and trust in authority, increasing the likelihood that a child will drop out, join risky peer groups, or become vulnerable to grooming.

Yet trauma is not destiny. Protective factors - a stable caregiver, safe routines, access to counselling, and positive role models - dramatically reduce long-term harm. This is why Action Society insists that justice must include psychological recovery for the child and family from day one.

5.2 Early intervention and prevention: what works

Prevention is possible and measurable. Dr Suliman identifies interventions with the strongest evidence base:

- **Early identification and referral**: Teachers, clinic staff, and social workers should screen for behavioural red flags (sudden

withdrawal, aggression, regression) and initiate referrals to counselling before crises escalate.

- **Parenting support programmes**: Structured, skills-based programmes (e.g., positive discipline, strengthening attachment) reduce child maltreatment and improve self-regulation.
- **School-based prevention**: Curricula that teach emotional literacy, consent, digital citizenship, and conflict resolution reduce bullying, sexual harassment, and violence.
- **Community safety nets**: Faith groups, NGOs, and youth clubs provide protective routines, mentorship, and safe spaces after school - the hours when many children are most at risk.
- **Policy investment**: Sustained funding for early-childhood services and child mental-health is not a luxury; it is crime prevention.

5.3 Trauma-informed policing and justice

Policing that ignores trauma re-victimises children and sabotages prosecutions. Trauma-informed practice means officers and prosecutors are trained to recognise trauma symptoms; to conduct child-sensitive interviews in safe spaces; to avoid repetitive, invasive questioning; and to coordinate with social workers from the start.

For the courts, trauma-informed justice means child-friendly courtrooms (intermediaries, video-link testimony, private waiting areas), time-bound case management, and language a child can understand. This is not “soft justice” - it is effective justice that produces stronger evidence and more credible testimony.

5.4 Breaking the cycle in communities

Violence injures communities as well as individuals. Where gang culture dominates and law enforcement is distrusted, violence becomes a social script that children absorb. Breaking that script requires visible competence from authorities (swift arrests, reliable forensics, transparent updates) and visible care from communities (support circles, parenting groups, youth mentorship).

Action Society’s community partnerships show that when families receive practical support - from transport to court, to counselling appointments, to help navigating dockets - children are more likely to stay engaged with the justice process and less likely to be retraumatised.

5.5 From victims to perpetrators: the cycle of learned violence

Unresolved childhood trauma does not simply fade; it mutates. Children who are repeatedly exposed to violence - in the home, on the street, or online - may internalise aggression as self-protection. Without timely intervention, this learned pattern can surface as antisocial behaviour, gang affiliation, or criminal offending in adolescence and adulthood.

This is the stark warning in Dr Suliman's report: if South Africa fails to heal trauma and model accountability, it will manufacture the next generation of perpetrators. Justice for today's child victims is therefore the most effective crime prevention for tomorrow.

5.6 Case study – "Fern": when children become perpetrators

In 2024, Action Society supported the family of a 14-year-old girl from Mitchells Plain, known by the pseudonym Fern, after she was gang-raped by several boys, some reportedly as young as six. The assault was recorded and shared online, reflecting a disturbing new reality: children not only experiencing violence, but replicating and broadcasting it.

Action Society provided trauma support and called for decisive action in youth-on-youth sexual-violence cases. The perpetrators - children themselves - exemplify the mutation of trauma described above: young people shaped by environments where brutality is routine, empathy is eroded, and accountability is rare.

Fern's ordeal is a national warning. Without early psychological intervention, moral guidance, community mentorship, and swift, child-sensitive justice, today's child victims can become tomorrow's offenders. Healing and accountability must therefore proceed together to end the generational contagion of violence.

6 Action Society's Reform Agenda: Building a Justice System that Protects Children

For too long, South Africa's national response to child-centred crime has been reactive, bureaucratic, and politically paralysed. *Action Society* believes this crisis can be reversed through practical reforms that restore accountability, competence, and compassion to the criminal-justice system.
These reforms are organised around five pillars that together can rebuild public trust and prevent future violence.

6.1 Fix the Forensic System: Turn Science into Justice

Every delay in DNA testing or toxicology analysis is a delay in justice. Forensic backlogs have paralysed thousands of rape and murder cases involving children.

Action Society calls for:

- **Public–private laboratory partnerships** to process backlogs under transparent oversight.
- A **30-day turnaround** standard for DNA and toxicology in child-related cases.
- A **national digital tracking system** so victims can follow forensic progress.
- **Ring-fenced forensic budgets** for crimes against women and children.

Swift, science-based justice restores confidence and deters offenders.

6.2 Publish the Sex-Offender Register and Strengthen Vetting

The **National Register for Sex Offenders** remains closed to the public. Secrecy enables predators to re-enter schools, churches, and youth clubs undetected.

Reform actions:

- **Open public access** to the NRSO via a secure online portal.
- **Mandatory vetting** for all adults who work with or transport minors.
- **Routine institutional audits** to ensure compliance.

Transparency protects children; knowledge is safety.

6.3 Devolve Policing, Localise Justice, and Rebuild Accountability

Centralised policing and prosecution have failed South Africa's children. Bureaucracy and distance delay every case.

Action Society's submission on the National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Bill advocates a devolution strategy empowering provinces to establish their own prosecuting authorities alongside the NPA - improving responsiveness and oversight.

Likewise, our response to the draft National Policing Policy calls for true devolution of policing: transferring operational control of SAPS functions to capable provincial and metro governments.

Together these proposals form a single vision - justice rooted where the crime occurs.

Key steps:

- **Local Justice Hubs (Action Centres)** in high-risk communities combining victim support, case tracking, and prosecutorial coordination.
- **Provincial Prosecution Units** to fast-track child cases within NPA frameworks.
- **Community policing boards** with civilian oversight to monitor investigation quality.
- **Integrated early-warning networks** linking schools, police, and social services to flag vulnerable children.

Localising justice means shorter investigations, stronger convictions, and genuine accountability.

6.4 Rebuild the Child-Protection Infrastructure

Child-protection services are under-resourced and fragmented. *Action Society* proposes:

- **Re-establishing SAPS Child-Protection Units** with trauma-trained officers.
- **Provincial child-protection task teams** to review open dockets monthly.
- **Embedding social workers and psychologists** in police stations and courts.
- **Digital case-tracking systems** to flag delays or missed deadlines.

A coordinated protection network will prevent re-victimisation and improve conviction rates.

6.5 Create a Trauma-Informed Justice and Prevention Ecosystem

Justice must heal as well as punish.

Actions required:

- **Mandatory trauma-awareness training** for investigators, prosecutors, and magistrates.
- **Child-friendly court environments** with intermediaries and private waiting areas.
- **Partnerships with mental-health NGOs** to counsel victims and families.
- **School-based violence-prevention programmes** teaching empathy and emotional literacy.

This completes the justice cycle: accountability balanced with healing.

Vision for Change

These reforms are practical and achievable. A devolved, community-centred model of policing and prosecution will shorten investigations and restore faith in the rule of law. Public access to offender data and the clearing of forensic backlogs will deter predators. Trauma-informed training and integrated child-protection networks will treat victims as children with futures, not case numbers. South Africa has the resources and moral obligation to act. *Action Society's* message is clear: build a justice system worthy of the youngest among us.

Conclusion: Turning Compassion into Consequence

- Every statistic represents a stolen childhood.
  Children like Aster, Poppy, Lavender, Fern, Mia, and Bokgabo remind us that South Africa's justice system carries a moral debt.
- *Action Society* stands firm in its call for accountability first - from investigators who mishandle evidence, from laboratories that delay tests, and from policymakers who place politics above protection.
- Let the 16 Days of Activism ignite a permanent movement toward a nation where every child is safe, seen, and heard.
- Accountability first. Protection always.

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