

To: The Honourable Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development
Mmamoloko Kubayi

Subject: A parent's plea: Publish the National Register for Sex Offenders now

Minister,

I am writing to you as a parent.

Every day, I send my child into a world I cannot fully control. I trust schools, coaches, religious leaders, transport providers, caregivers, and neighbours. I trust that the system meant to protect my child is working.

But I now know that one of the most critical tools designed to keep children safe, the National Register for Sex Offenders, is being kept hidden from me.

And I cannot ignore what the data is telling us.

In South Africa, more than **26 000 sexual offences against children** are reported every year.

And in the majority of these cases, the perpetrator is not a stranger.
It is someone known to the child.

A family member.

A teacher.

A coach.

A transport driver.

A religious leader.

A neighbour.

People I am expected to trust.

How am I expected to protect my child if I am deliberately kept in the dark about known offenders?

The National Register for Sex Offenders exists for one reason only. To prevent individuals who have already committed these crimes from gaining access to children and vulnerable people. Yet I am denied access to this information. I am expected to trust that the system will filter out danger, while I carry the consequences when it fails.

This is not acceptable.

If most abuse happens within a child's immediate environment, then access to this information is not optional. It is essential.

Around the world, governments have recognised that transparency saves lives. Public access to offender registers empowers families, strengthens communities, and creates real accountability. South Africa cannot claim to prioritise child safety while withholding critical information from those who need it most.

I am deeply concerned that, in its current form, the system protects offenders more than it protects children.

I reject the idea that the privacy rights of convicted sex offenders should outweigh the safety of my child.

I reject a system that forces me to make decisions without access to known risks.

I reject silence on a matter that demands urgent action.

You have indicated that the register would be made public. That commitment cannot be delayed any longer. Every day of inaction is another day where children are exposed to preventable danger.

Minister, I am asking you to act decisively:

- Publish the National Register for Sex Offenders.
- Make it accessible to the public.
- Align South Africa with international best practice.

My child deserves a system that prioritises their safety above all else.

I will continue to ask this question until it is answered:
Why is this information being hidden?

And more importantly:
When will you act?

Yours sincerely,
A concerned parent