



MEDIA STATEMENT

SACE CELEBRATES THE 2022 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The South African Council for Educators (SACE) joins the nation in commemorating the 2022 Human Rights Month under the theme “The Year of Unity and Renewal: Protecting and Preserving our Human Rights Gains”.

This year’s commemoration of Human Rights Month coincides with the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. The Constitution enshrines the rights of all people in South Africa and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality, and freedom.

As we celebrate this year’s theme, SACE would like to take this opportunity to honour all educators for demonstrating that the future of the teaching profession looks even brighter despite the COVID-19 pandemic fears, uncertainties, anxieties, and complexities.

As we celebrate Human Rights, SACE would like to bring to the spotlight, Teacher Rights. Teachers have the right to work in an environment in which they feel valued and respected, where they actively support learners’ development and learning and where they are free from fear, threat, and harm.

The increase of violence against our teachers is a threat to their rights and it has reached alarming proportions. SACE developed the Handbook on Teachers’ Safety and Security in South African Schools with the support of the VVOB. The Handbook aims to provide educators with access to their rights and responsibilities regarding violence in schools. It also provides further guidance on how educators should protect themselves in violent situations they may confront in the school environment. Additionally, workbook and facilitator’s guide have been developed for schools and stakeholders that may want to capacitate their school communities and educators in particular.

Research has shown that many educators feel that their rights are being violated at times in both the classroom and on the school property. It is essential that all educators are respected, and their rights are protected, but the success of this depends on the contribution of all role-players.

As we celebrate the 2022 Human Rights Month, let us honour our teachers by pledging to fight the scourge of gender and school-based violence.

Issued by the South African Council for Educators (SACE) : Office of the Chief Executive.

For further communication, please contact:

Mr Risuna Nkuna

Tel: 069 423 7490 / Email : Risuna.Nkuna@sace.org.za

Issue date: 21 March 2022