



## Girls & Boys Town South Africa – Head Office

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Letter of response to The Times  
Article titled: One Million  
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### **One Million More to Call**

Girls and Boys Town fully supports the work of, and sentiments expressed by, Childline and reiterates the concern that society and State have failed to fully implement the Children's Act which was designed to protect children. It is alarming that one million calls were made to Childline's crisis line last year - this definitively raises the red flag regarding the well being of our children – our children are clearly not safe and are in crisis.

The circumstance where authorities 'ignore' or 'overlook' the reporting of crimes in order to falsely 'keep crime statistics low' is a real indictment, especially when this then inaccurate data leads to dire consequences such as the closure of services such as the specialised Child Protection Units. It is precisely for this reason that criminals feel, and indeed then are, protected and free to continue with their violent and predatory activities. Police services, the State, NPO's and citizens of South Africa need to work hand in hand if we hope to eradicate crime and violence against children and adults in our society.

Girls and Boys Town have, for the past 51 years through work with youth, families and the community, been committed to protecting and preserving the wellbeing, development and safety of children. The Organisations Family Services and national Hotline (0861-58-58-58) Division are available to assist with and respond to eradicating abuse and violence against young people in our country.

Lee Loynes  
CEO  
Girls and Boys Town

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