



# The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation

## *Promoting partnerships for peace*

Initially launched in 1989 under the name of The Project for the Study of Violence, the CSVR has subsequently evolved into a multi-disciplinary unit, leveraging the services of sociologists, psychologists, criminologists, social workers, lawyers, educationalists, historians and others who are champions of social development focusing on access to basic human rights.

With a focus on vulnerable communities, particularly women, children and youth, the objective is to harness various skills and expertise available to deliver a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to service those in need. Over 1 000 beneficiaries have gained access to these services during the past financial year. Most activities take place in Gauteng, Limpopo and the Western Cape and benefit those falling between the ages of 16 and 83. Individuals and communities are empowered to enable them to articulate their needs and advocate for their rights and one of the avenues pursued in this regard is the holding of local and national institutions accountable to promote the building of safe and secure societies. Self-determination is critical to this process and local capacity is built to promote this end. A Trauma Clinic has also been established to support victims and perpetrators of crime with relevant counselling services.

Some of the successes achieved over the years include –

- An MOU that was entered into between the AU and the CSVR to further improve existing relations by establishing specific working arrangements that support effective implementation
- The generating of policy for the TRC to address past human rights abuses in South Africa

Powerful partnerships have been formed over the years, both in South Africa and abroad, to prevent the proliferation of violence and to promote the building of peaceful societies. Institutions such as trade unions, professional organisations, legal and paralegal entities, educational institutions, press and media, victim support centres, peace and policing structures all form part of an integrated approach to drive positive change.

Their cross-cutting approaches of monitoring and evaluation and social mobilisation underpin their activities that focus on enabling communities to design their own environment that seeks to support sustainable socio-economic development.



**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF VIOLENCE AND RECONCILIATION**  
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