



Press Release
16 October 2009

Grants of R4.77m awarded by UNODC, SA Department of Social Development

Victim empowerment programmes to benefit

Victims of crime, trauma, and violence - and those who work to assist them - will receive a boost with the handover of grants totalling R4.77 million from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the South African Department of Social Development today.

The grants, being made to Western Cape-based civil society organisations (CSOs) fall under a European Union (EU) funded project "Support the Government of South Africa's Victims Empowerment Programme".

Sharon Kouta, UNODC Western Cape Provincial VEP Co-ordinator, said: "As an integral part of the wider Government of South Africa's Victim Empowerment Programme, the project has a specific purpose of improving the implementation of victim empowerment policies in South Africa by building capacity, improving co-ordination and strengthening relations between the government and civil society organisations (CSO's) and thereby improving services to victims, especially women and vulnerable children".

The grants have been awarded in line with these objectives.

Dr Ivan Meyer, MEC of Social Development in the Western Cape, announced the grants this morning (16 October) at the Mosaic Training, Service and Healing Centre for Women in Wynberg, Cape Town. Those organisations who are recipients of grants were present.

"A core aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of civil society to deliver services to victims while recognising that non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations working with victims of crime, trauma, and violence perform a major role in delivering services," said Kouta.

The principle vehicle for empowering these organisations is the development and implementation of a grants scheme in conjunction with a substantive capacity building programme for the government and CSOs.

“The grants scheme provides grants to two major groups of CSOs – those existing organisations with a proven track record in providing services to victims and smaller, emerging organisations which often face challenges in accessing funds due to limited capacity,” said Kouta.

The grants scheme also takes into consideration the needs of victims of crime and violence throughout the country and attempts to promote and strengthen service delivery in rural areas and for previously disadvantaged groups.

The project will support the Department of Social Development and other government and non-governmental stakeholders to assess and map victim empowerment needs to target populations in most need.

Following the initial call for proposal, the first round of grants resulted in 66 approved applications – funding to the tune of R25 million. In the Western Cape specifically, 12 grants are being issued totalling R4.77 million. In line with supporting both established and emerging CSO’s, R2.03 million has been allocated towards well-established CSO’s in the Western Cape, while the remaining R2.74 million will go towards supporting less-established CSO’s.

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On behalf of UNODC

For more information contact:

Enquiries: Stefanie Elliot
Telephone: (021) 462 0416
Cell: (083) 760 4110
Email: stefanie@hwb.co.za

or

UNODC Western Cape Provincial VEP Co-ordinator

Enquiries: Sharon Kouta
Telephone: 021 483 6446
Cell: 073 134 2926
Email: Sharon.kouta@unodc.org