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**MAKING YOUR
LIFE BETTER**

FIGHTING SEX CRIME

We must end the violence of rape!

Women should be able to travel in safety. It's time to speak out!

By **KOPANO MONAHENG**

ABUSED women are encouraged to speak out and report their tormentors.

But many women who are abused stay silent . . .

Over 42 596 rape cases were reported to police from 2015 to 2016, but experts suspect far more remain unreported.

After a spate of horrific taxi rapes were reported in Soweto, the Soul City Institute for Social Justice took to the streets to raise awareness about a safe travelling environment needed by women commuters.

Matokgo Makutoane, advocacy manager at Soul City Institute for Social Justice, said the only way to stop taxi rapes and the abuse of women was for women to speak up.

"Women must be protected while using public transport. There should be no violence towards them."



She called on government to provide proper counselling for victims of rapes, and urged the taxi industry to take a stand and protect women commuters.

She said women who had been raped while commuting or using public transport needed to break the silence and expose the sex criminals.

"Black women suffer the most in these instances as they rely on public transport to travel to and from work daily."

Makutoane said they planned

more awareness campaigns to fight this horror.

"Women can also use online sites to identify unsafe spaces in order to address the ongoing sexual violence in public spaces, whether on the streets, in public transport, at school and/or the workplace," she said.

She added that justice should be done against perpetrators.

"We applaud the women who do report the ordeal they went through, but we still need more women to speak out."