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LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Recipient of the UNICEF Maurice Pate Human Rights Award – 1997
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A message for Namibia on Human Rights Day 2015

The Legal Assistance Centre is pleased to release a message to Namibia on Human Rights Day 2015. We hope that this may be the first of many Human Rights Day messages that we will release.

As we come to the end of the year, it is a great time to pause and reflect, to think about what we have achieved and what still needs to be done. Sadly there is one area where we, as a country, do not seem to be making enough impact.

Violence.

Violence against children. Violence in relationships. Violence within families. Violence in our society.

We need major change in this area. We need to think about the factors that lead to the violence in our society. Children who grow up in a violence setting- whether they are being beaten as a form of discipline or witnesses to abuse between their parents, learn that violence is the answer.

This violence impacts on their lives and creates the culture we see today. Research from across the world shows that children who experience violence during childhood are more likely to become victims of violence in the future –or be the perpetrators of violence.

But we can change this.

If we want Namibia to be a more peaceful society, we must start by teaching our children different ways to deal with arguments.

Today, as Namibia celebrates Human Rights Day, we the Legal Assistance Centre call on the country to continue its fight against violence. To do this we have to recognise that the problems start early. We have to make changes at the level of our individual families if we are to make a change to our society.

We wish all families in Namibia a violence-free day today and may today be the start of a new violence-free Namibia.

Our message has been produced in the form of a short animation and may be viewed at:

https://youtu.be/McIrWvDnX_Y

Clips of the animation will be available on our Facebook page (LAC Namibia)

Please contact Rachel Coomer (rcoomer@lac.org.na) for questions

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