



Quick Brief

A news update from the NBI on its programmes, business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

13 May 2016

A New Multi-Stakeholder Initiative: The Corporate Responsibility To Eliminate The Sale Of Children

On 10 May 2016 a multi-stakeholder meeting was held at Nedbank's Headquarters in Sandton about a new initiative calling on companies to put an end to the sexual exploitation of children in South Africa. The meeting was hosted by CRES in partnership with Nedbank and co-hosted by the National Business Initiative (NBI).

Each year, millions of children around the globe are lured or forced into sexual exploitation. The criminality also exists in South Africa but experts confirm that exact numbers involved are unknown. Criminals devise sophisticated means to lure children and escape law enforcement. The silence and inaction of bystanders, including the private sector, enables the exploitation to continue.

The CRES initiative focuses on mobilizing the private sector, which has the capacity to play a major role in permanently eliminating one of the worst crimes against children of today. As an initial step, CRES is asking the private sector to take a stand by joining a common pledge of support. Nedbank is the first corporate member to sign the pledge and turn commitment into action.

This meeting will be followed by a Conference which is to be hosted in October 2016 with national and international experts focusing on the criminality of this practice and how different business-sectors are linked to sexual exploitation. The Conference will also share best practice and elaborate on childrens' rights and due diligence targeting sexual exploitation in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The CRES initiative was launched in 2015 in South Africa at the Global Child Forum on Southern Africa, under the patronage of Her Excellency, Graça Machel and Her Royal Highness Princess, Sophia of Sweden, and in the presence of Her Excellency, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

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