

# Showing child abuse the red card - Benni Mc Carthy joins fight to protect children

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Former South African soccer ace, Benni McCarthy broke down at a press conference, when he disclosed that he comes from a family that had an abusive father. He disclosed that his upbringing in Hanover Park, CT was not easy and that he was surrounded by crime, gang life, murder and abuse. It was not easy watching his late father abuse his mother. It could have impacted negatively on his life, yet he chose to prove to his father that he was better than him. He is now a proud father of four beautiful little girls.



Benni will be joining the fight against child abuse, and has announced his support and endorsement of child rights group Women and Men Against Child Abuse (WMACA).

Benni said he was proud to assist such a worthy organisation in their fight against child abuse in all its forms. He has daughters and knows there is nothing more important than the safety of our children.

“WMACA have supported many survivors and been instrumental in improving the rights of the child in South Africa and I know the help I will give to expand this work is essential to the future of our nation’s youngsters,” said Benni

Welcoming the news, WMACA’s Director Vincentia Dlamini went on to say, “ I want to congratulate Benni on speaking out against child abuse and supporting our organisation. As WMACA enters its 20th year, the recognition and awareness needed will bring invaluable support to continue our work to rid South Africa of child abuse. Not just that, but having Benni willing to stand up and speak out on the subject sets an example to society that if we are going to tackle abuse, we are going to have to be willing to acknowledge its huge impact and talk about how we bring it to an end. Too many people and too many communities would rather stay silent, and I know that Benni’s example will help change that. In just a one-year period we have assisted over 1896 new cases of child abuse through our Kidz Clinics!”

WMACA is a Non-Governmental Organisation providing free help to victims of child abuse in South Africa, giving direct support to children through its Kidz Clinics in Boksburg and Alexandra and fighting for better rights for survivors, proper sentences for abusers and public awareness of the terrible impact these crimes have on individuals, communities and society. It was founded in 1997, and has been instrumental in changing laws, attitudes to abuse and the treatment of victims.

25 November marks the beginning of the international 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, and WMACA will be active throughout. As well as Benni’s announcement, WMACA will also be focusing on the particular subject of the abuse of young boys, to raise awareness of the issue.

“With our 20th anniversary coming up, we’ll be doing more than ever for the 16 Days of Activism”, says Vincentia, “We’ll be raising awareness and talking about our work, and the announcement of support from Benni McCarthy is the perfect way to kick that off. And we mustn’t forget, while we campaign and raise awareness, our staff are on the ground, every day, to help children. That’s why we’re here, and why we need help to always be there for those most in need and with nowhere else to turn.”

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