

Civil society and health governance in South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic

Sasha Stevenson, Head of the Health Rights Programme

Our civil society context

- + Historically strong and influential civil society
- + Institutionalised participation
 - + AIDS Councils
 - + Meaningful engagement
 - + Public participation processes

COVID-19

- + Government closed up
- + New structures introduced
- + Different players getting more airtime
- + Communication stopped



Successes



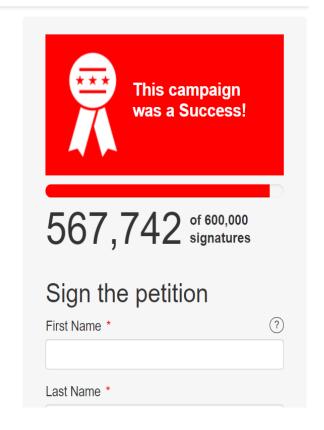


To: President Cyril Ramaphosa

Tell Government we urgently need a Child Support Grant increase of R500 for the next 6 months



Campaign created by
Children's Institute, a member of the
Budget Justice Coalition



COCT CONFIRMS TEMPORARY HOMELESS SHELTER IN STRANDFONTEIN TO CLOSE

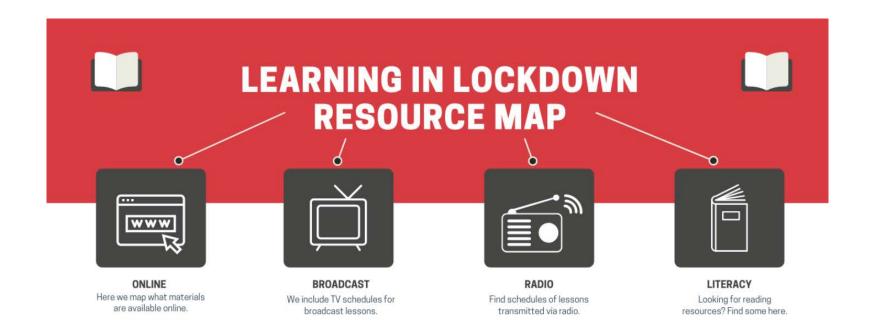
Hundreds of homeless people were moved to the Strandfontein Sports Grounds when the coronavirus lockdown came into effect.





A community health care worker cleans an elderly woman during her visits around the community of Sweet Waters in KwaZulu-Natal. PHOTO: Thom Pierce/Spotlight

OP-ED: Underpaid and Unprotected -The case for supporting Community Health Workers



Here, we list the available resources and schedules that we are aware of in one place. We group resources into online, broadcast (TV), radio and literacy subcategories. The purpose of this resource map is to assist continuing learning during the school closure period. We will aim to update this as regularly as possible for the benefit of users. Scroll down for more information.



Are your rights being violated during the 21-day lockdown?

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND SA LOCKDOWN

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONTINUES!

CALL THE LEGAL SUPPORT HOTLINE:

+27 66 076 8845

Have you

observed a

rights violation

during the
lockdown?

























A public interest law organisation may be available to assist you, free of charge.



BEWARE OF FAKE NEWS

In times of a health crisis. FAKE NEWS can put your life at risk. Do not believe everything people send you. Before sharing the information

CHECK:

Does the person/persons say who they are?

Do they tell you why they are qualified to give an opinion?

Do they refer you to genuine information sources such as Department of Health or the World Health Organisation?

Do they give you a way to get in touch to verify the information?









If the answer to any of these is no... DO NOT SHARE or ACT on this information

You can check on false information via...

You can report Fake news via

This message is sent by People's Health Movement of South Africa. We are a progressive health organisation that campaigns for the right to health for all. Our focus during the COVID-19 pandemic is to support the public health messaging of the Dept of Health and to work to ensure equity and justice in access to healthcare at all times.

For more information: C19 PC website www.c19peoplescoalition.org.za and PHMSA website www.phm-sa.or



Reflection

- + Civil society involvement in the response was significant
- + Outsider role and outside governance
- + Lack of integration of COVID and other programmes
- + Corruption and mismanagement

What have we learned?

- + Even normative and institutionalised participation and oversight can be undermined
- + Can make impact from the outside but civil society's role within the system is vital
- + Need to redouble efforts to ensure better health governance, civil society participation, transparency and accountability