



16 November 2016 / 15 Cheshvan 5777

**Communique issued on behalf of the Yeshiva College Campus**

Yeshiva College Campus is aware of allegations made on social media with regards to an incident that took place on our campus last year.

1. In September 2015 an unfortunate case of child abuse involving minors was reported to us, as having taken place on the Yeshiva College Campus outside of school hours on Shabbat.
2. Neither the minor offender, nor the minor victim, were pupils of the school at the time that the incident took place.
3. Yeshiva College dealt with the situation immediately and responsibly, ensuring that we conformed with appropriate professional intervention, treatment and care as well as policies and protocols, South African Law, Ethics and Halacha (Jewish law). This was done with an overarching concern that all the parties were receiving appropriate professional care.
4. Yeshiva College immediately ensured that this matter was reported to the appropriate official Child Protection Organization to deal with this matter.
5. Yeshiva College has throughout this process acted on advice from expert professionals who specialize in child abuse and has relied on such advice at all times in dealing with this matter sensitively, swiftly and with due regard to the age of those involved.
6. In terms of the Child Protection Act, we are bound to protect the identities of the minor victim and minor offender and accept this as both our legal and moral obligations in order to ensure their confidentiality. This should in no way be misinterpreted as "sweeping the incident under the carpet".
7. To this end, we will continue to do our utmost to protect the identities of the victim and the offender, given that they are minors.
8. We are further extremely sensitive to the impact that this issue could have on our broader student, parent and congregant population and wish to assure the Yeshiva College family that this matter is receiving the highest attention and has been and will continue to be dealt with robustly by the Campus Management.
9. It is regrettable that our professionally guided intervention to address this matter has been undermined by a public disclosure, which does not serve the best interests of the children involved.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Office of the Managing Director, Rabbi Bernstein, on 011 640 2071.

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Rosh Yeshiva  
Yeshiva College Campus

Rabbi Bernstein  
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