FACTORS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU FEEL OR ARE FORCED TO PARTICIPATE:

You have the right to protect yourself from any form of abuse!

You have the right to refuse to participate in any religious activity that makes you feel unsafe.

You do not have to be a part of any form of religious belief if you do not like it.

Speak to someone you trust if you have questions or concerns on any suspicious practice. This person can be your priest, your parents or teacher, the Police or social worker.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK CONFIDENTIALLY TO SOMEONE, TRY THESE NUMBERS:

Childline:
080 005 5555

Lifeline:
011 728 1347

South African Police Services:
10111 or 086 001 0111

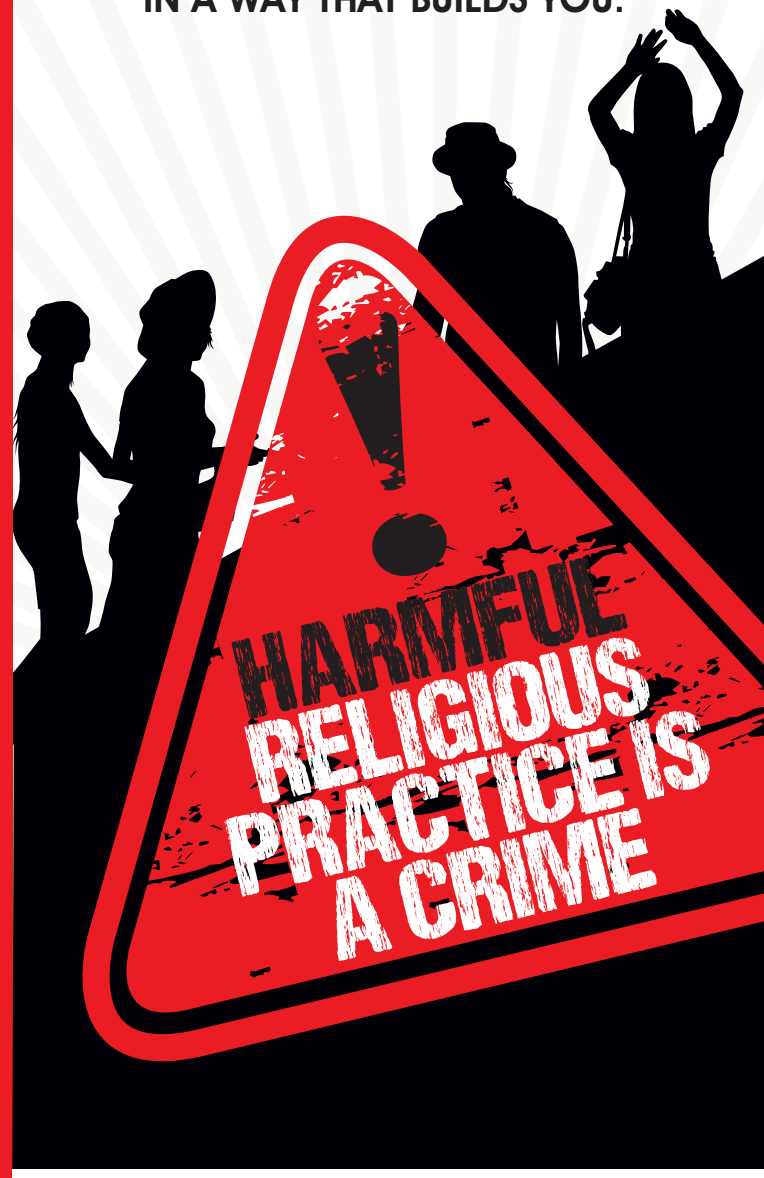
The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development:
012 357 8565

The Department of Social Development:
012 312 7500

The Department of Basic Education:
0800 202 933

The Department of Health:
012 395 8000

PRACTISE YOUR RELIGION OR BELIEF IN A WAY THAT BUILDS YOU.

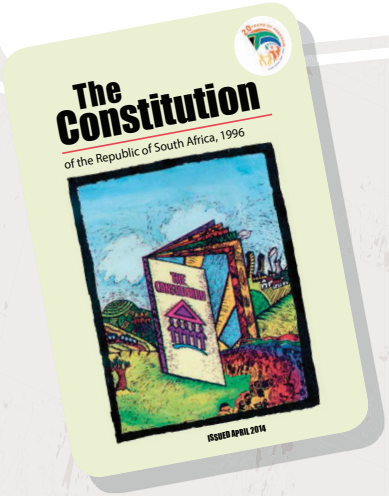


the doj & cd
Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

20 YEARS OF FREEDOM
South Africa 1994 - 2014

HARMFUL RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

1. Many people, in particularly children, are hurt or killed as a result of some forms of practice which are perceived as part of a religion.
2. These incidents often happen in schools or among young people.
3. These incidents are often regarded as practices protected by "freedom of religion".



WHAT THE CONSTITUTION/ LAW SAYS ABOUT RELIGION

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of religion or belief.
2. This right can be limited if it interferes with the rights of others.
3. Participation in religious activities MUST NOT BE harmful to others even to yourself.
4. Any form of religious practice or belief which seeks to hurt, harm, destroy another will be punishable in terms of the law.
5. Using religious practice or belief cannot be an excuse.

USING RELIGION OR BELIEF IS NOT AN EXCUSE WHEN YOU ARE ARRESTED FOR COMMITTING A CRIME!

Your friend or classmate develops:

a **new** or **odd** way of behaving;

becomes unusually **aggressive**, very quiet or secretive;

loses concentration or suddenly does poorly at school despite the fact that he or she was once a brilliant learner;

insists on wearing **black** clothes, dyes her hair black and/ or regularly wears black make-up;

talks about being in touch with the devil or about black magic;

shows **addiction** to reading or watching black magic books and movies;

boasts about having **spiritual powers** that could cause harm to others;

forces you to join his/her religion and does not listen when you refuse;

shows fascination with blood, especially **human blood**;

speaks of killing or hurting animals or people;

speaks of attempts to **cut herself/himself**;

expresses deep hatred about **someone and insists on getting rid of that person;**

shows you **strange signs** or symbols.