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**MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION  
CONCERNING ITS INVESTIGATION INTO STALKING (PROJECT 130)**

The South African Law Reform Commission hereby releases its issue paper on stalking for general information and comment. The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development approved the inclusion of an investigation into stalking in the programme of the Commission on 21 January 2003. The South African Law Reform Commission's investigation into stalking emphasises the need to address the pressing and complex problems relating to stalking with a view to reforming the manner in which it is dealt with in terms of current law. The purpose of the issue paper on stalking is to initiate and stimulate debate on this topic, to seek proposals for law reform and to serve as a basis for further in-depth deliberation.

The issue paper broadly defines stalking as any type of harassing and intimidating conduct that causes a person to fear for his or her safety. It identifies different categories of stalkers for example delusional erotomanics, "former intimate" stalkers, sociopathic stalkers, disgruntled clients, cyberstalkers and debt collectors. The issue paper expounds the existing legal response to acts associated with stalking and explores possible reform of civil and criminal remedies.

The three options for reform are as follows:

- Expand or enact similar legislation to the Domestic Violence Act, 1998;
- Amend and adapt section 384 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1955 which regulates a binding over of persons to keep the peace; or
- Enact independent legislation criminalising stalking.

The issue paper is obtainable free of charge from the Commission upon request. Written comments or suggestions should reach the Commission by **30 September 2003** at the following address:

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South African Law Reform Commission  
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The issue paper has been made available on the Internet at the following address:  
<http://www.law.wits.ac.za/salc/salc.html>

**ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY: SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION,  
PRETORIA**

**DATE: 28 August 2003**

**ENQUIRIES IN RESPECT OF MEDIA STATEMENT:**

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