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Submitter Information

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Abstract Information

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Sexual harassment: is it really a problem on farms?

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Abstract:

Sexual Harassment and violence against women is without doubt the most persistent violation of human rights. Acts of legislation are supposed to add to the protection of women in their workplaces and in the home, such as the Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 and the Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998, but women's rights abuses continue unabated. South Africa has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the world. Women are murdered, raped, physically assaulted, threatened, harassed and abused every single day. The ever-increasing escalation of brutal aggression and violence against women and girls, paints a gruesome picture for the future well-being of our society. Combating harassment and violence against women in South Africa needs and should be a priority especially those living in rural and isolated communities who already face many educational, financial and social problems and have little knowledge of, or access to, effective legal and supportive services. This research study focuses on the incidences of sexual harassment and sexual violence primarily against women on farms in the Overberg and Boland Regions of the Western Cape South Africa. The report explores the interlinking factors and paints a picture of how an environmental context of illiteracy, isolation, poverty and gender inequality, amongst others, impacts on the incidences and impedes on farm workers rights to be free of such violations. This report ends with recommendations – essentially a frame work of best practices on how we as a society can work together towards eradicating women's human rights violations on farms.
