

# PROTECTION AND NUTURE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### **Vision of ACSA**

The Anglican Church in Southern Africa seeks to be:

- Anchored – in the love of Christ
- Committed – to God's mission
- Transformed – by the Holy Spirit

It is human nature to protect and provide for those we hold most precious, and that's especially true when it comes to children. However, helping young people fulfill their potential and teaching them to be responsible, successful adults have become enormous challenges. In today's world, kids face a host of negative influences unknown by previous generations. The church has a role to play in nurturing young people to be responsible adults in the world.

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### **Goals**

- To strengthen the ministry of young people that is currently taking place at Parish, Diocesan at Provincial level
- To connect children and young people with Jesus Christ and the Church
- To protect children and young people
- To connect young people with the mission of the Church in the world
- Promote the preservation and strengthening of families
- Generally promote the protection, development and well-being of children

### **Objectives**

- Gather and share Information
- Work with any young people's organization that works best with young people
- Develop and make available resources for children and young people, parish and campus ministry

- Provide youth ministry training to chaplains, rectors, lay ministers, parish staff and other diocesan organizations
- Provide children and young people programming
- Co-ordinate children and young people's events and activities
- Assist Campus chaplains in their mission and pastoral care with students

### **7 priorities of young people's ministry to be actioned**

- **Evangelism:** to reach out to young people who are not involved in the life of the Christian community & invite them into a relationship with Jesus Christ & the faith community.
- **Prayer and Worship:** to enable young people to grow in their personal spirituality and to provide a variety of worship experiences to deepen their relationships in community; to involve young people in the worship life of the church.
- **Community Life:** to build Christian community with young people through programmes and relationships that promote openness, trust, respect, co-operation, honesty, responsibility and service; to create an atmosphere where young people feel confident to bring their struggles, questions and joys.
- **Leadership Development:** to develop, support and utilise the leadership abilities and personal gifts of youth and adults in youth ministry; to involve young people in decision making in the life of the church; and to equip young people for participation in leadership.
- **Advocacy:** to interpret the needs of young people, especially in the areas of injustice towards children and youth; to act with or on behalf of young people for a change in the systems which create injustice; to give a young person a voice and to empower them to address the social problems they face.
- **Guidance & Counsel / Pastoral Care:** to provide support, education, resources and counsel for decision-making, crisis intervention and prevention using well trained chaplains
- **Networking:** to provide a space for young people to form relationships with different organisations and people within the Anglican Church and broader using the Conferences, workshops, social networks, and other events. This can also create an opportunity for young people to meet people that they can be off benefit in their careers one day

The following is what the Ministry of ASF and PYC ought to be doing with the help of the church

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Who is responsible</b>	<b>What needs to be done</b>	<b>budget</b>
To Assist the parishes and the Anglican Church in Research on children and young people's issues	ASF and PYC  With the help of Hope Africa	-Research  - Liaison with Social Development, various government Departments	
Strengthen the ministry to young people and children	PYC	- To introduce Sunday school ministry - Ministry to pregnant females	
Strengthen and parish based structures which can assist in providing care and protection for children	PYC  Hope Africa  ASF	- Youth Indaba - Learning experience - Training of organisational leaders (MU, BM, AWF, etc) on nature and care of children	
Provide care and protection for children who are in need of care and protection	Local Parishes  Dioceses  Church organisations	- Holistic ministry should be provided - Nature of children should start at -9 Months (during pregnancy)	
Recognize the special needs that children with disabilities may have	Local Parishes  Dioceses  Church organisations	- Be able to nature the children with Disabilities - Parishioners might need training	
Protect children from discrimination, exploitation and any other physical, emotional or moral harm or hazards	Local Parishes  Dioceses  Church organisations  Advocacy Task Team	- Speak against Human Trafficking - Speak against child labour - The church should have a stand on these issues	
Capacity Building	Hope Africa	- Leadership Development - Peer education	

	Siyafundisa PYC and ASF Mothers Union	programs - Parenting workshops - HIV/AIDS awareness	
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**Conclusion**

The task team has explored some of the things that the church needs to be doing in nurturing the young people and children. We have identified that young people should be in all the priorities of the church.

Based on the work that needs to be done it is very clear that Both ASF and PYC need to work very closely with each other and other organisation of the church in making sure that the children and the young are protected and cared for. PYC and ASF are already in a communication trying to find ways of providing a holistic ministry to the children and the young.

As the church we need to be able to care and speak out against those who exploit young people and impose children’s rights. We need to combine our efforts to those of communities and the government throughout the provinces. There should be training and capacity building to all that are associated with the ministry of children and young.

We still believe that the above can be done within the Budgets of ASF and PYC as this is not stand alone items but should form part of the plan of Actions of these organisations. However the Task Team would appreciate the **provision of R20 000** Budget for further meeting as we would love to see the implementation strategies. It has been difficult to communicate and a meeting was suggested in future more especially to brainstorm.

Young people should be give opportunity to lead in the church today, as they are today’s leaders of our church.