

# Students witness abuse: How do we respond?

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# **The Problem**



# Reflections

Apartheid Medicine

"For the most part, the

to oppose the human

rights abuses inherent

in the apartheid system.

Many actually colluded

with the security police".

medical community failed

Past



#### Present

Human rights in practice Implementation of theory is problematic

Dislocation between rights & reality



#### Future



2 How do we improve • Quality of health care for all • Accountability of service

## **Our Response**

### **Curriculum addition since 2010**

in exploring the boundary lines









providers and teachers

- Ethical practice
- Access to health provision
- that is
  - Respectful
  - Equitable
  - Professional
- Availability • Acceptability

Everyone has the right to have access to health care services, including reproductive health care (Art. 27 (1a)).

## Processes



Evidence of personal growth – values, identity Concern for perpetuating cycle of abuse with doctors / nurses

How do we avoid victimization?

What processes are available to assist us?





## Take home message

A partnership approach with educators and students in Health Science Faculties is valuable

for engaging with issues of abuse

More responses are needed than the traditional naming & blaming

Women's health care poses many challenges particularly related to the vulnerability of women

**Complexity of practice is a reality** 

Students struggle with conflicting messages

Students themselves are vulnerable in the health settings

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