

## BRIEF REPORT ON LIBRARY TALKS ON 19 MAY 2016

### DISCUSSION: PROSTITUTION, RAPE AND DRUGS

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Library talk's discussion on Prostitution, Rape and Drugs was a book launch of Ms Grizelda Grootboom about her book called "EXIT", her experience as a prostitute, drug addict and her experience on journey of recovery. In short, it was Book launch of Grizelda Grootboom: Survivor of Human Trafficking and Prostitution. It reaffirmed the university commitment on Zero Tolerance against Gender based violence, the initiative launched in partnership with the Kwanele-Enuf, a foundation that aims to eliminate rape and sexual violence in the South African population in August 2015. The cofounder and CEO of Kwanele-ENUF foundation, Andisile "Andy" Kawa - who was the guest speaker, addressed the audience by sharing her personal tragedy that befell her 5 years ago in Port Elizabeth, when she was sexually abused for 15 hours. Following her ordeal, she took it upon herself to fight gender inequalities, in particular the abuse of women and children, which exist in the South African populace. As Andy concluded "society and universities should be transformed and become and the man to be transformed to be man who will uphold the constitution of equality, of justice, of peace and the protection of children, women and the disabled."

The project was a presentation of members of the RSB Forum and the Library divisions. The partners:

IOHA

Primary Health Care Services

SEJS (Student Affairs)

Student organisations: Day House Forum, LGBTI groups, Imbokota Society, YCL

Gauteng SAPS

EMBRACE

#### 2 OVERVIEW

Our goal was to meet **Strategic objective four of University 2015 which:**

*"Enriching Student-Friendly Learning and Living Experience – will be achieved through excellent teaching and learning facilities, support through the student life cycle, learning and living communities, and a responsible and respectful student culture and ethos. We aim to provide sufficient teaching and learning facilities of varying sizes that are well equipped to serve as lecture, tutorial, seminar and laboratory venues. Our libraries*

throughout all campuses will operate as hubs for student learning through the provision of social and leaning commons and WiFi access. We will also provide a package of career and programme guidance to learners at school level, academic advice for appropriate placement, access to bursaries and loans, psycho-social counselling and career counselling at exit level. The learning and living objective is to provide students with an environment that is nurturing and supportive of their academic endeavours, and provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities to meet their needs and interests, and foster their all-round development. Lastly we aim to produce students who are responsible and accountable for their actions, and respectful of human dignity, especially in relation to women, foreign students, gays



Figure 1 from left to right, Panellists: Author of EXIT Grezilda Grootboom, Major Maya hula (Gauteng Provincial Head SAPS), Didintle Kaira (Imbokodo Society-UJ), Kagiso Nko (UJ LGBTI Student), Snr Miemie Geya Manager Primary Health Care UJ

*As the overall objective of Library “Events held at the library are an endeavour to brand the library as a student-friendly destination and open a way for students to become comfortable in the academic environment and familiarise themselves with the research and study assistance that is available to them. These activities also give students a moment to relax, recalibrate, and re-energize during the hectic academic year.”*

The UJ Director SEJS and Managers (partners) provided leadership, oversaw and the development of implementation of the project.

The participants in the Library discussion on Prostitution, Rape and Drugs consisted of:

- More than 350 students
- Sr Miemie Geya: Manager Primary Health Care Service UJ
- SAPS:  
Major Mayathula (Provisional Commissioner Gauteng  
Thimothy Marape – JHB Central Cluster Social Crime Prevention Coordinator
- Kagiso Nko: LGBGTI Student & IOHA member
- Ntokozo J Sobikwa: LLB Student & Akani member facilitating the discussion Jhb
- Two Student Ethics Officers from Student Ethics & Judicial Services  
Mr M Mathonsi and Mr N Ngwenya attended

### **3 OPENING**

Mr J Ngomane, Director: Student Ethics & Judicial Services officially opened the Library Talks and welcomed all participants on behalf of the Management of the University. He appreciated the Student Leadership, Primary Health Care Services, IOHA and Library Divisions partnership as well as the well co-ordination of this event by Theodora of Library Division.

James introduced the topic of Prostitution, Rape and Drugs. Mr Ngomane introduced the guest, Ms Grizelda Grootboom as follows:

*“Exit! is the story of Grizelda Grootboom life of prostitution and her ultimate escape from it all.*

*Grizelda's life was dramatically changed when she was gang raped at the age of nine by teenagers in her township. Her story starts there. It is a story about the cycle of poverty, family abandonment, dislocation, and survival in the streets of Cape Town. She reveals the seedy and often demonised life of a prostitute; she describes the clubs and beds of the prostitution and drug industry over a twelve year period. She moves to Johannesburg at the age of 18 in an attempt to start a new life, but instead she is trafficked on arrival in Yeoville, tied in a room for two weeks and forced to work as a sex slave.*

*What would follow is a life of living hand-to-mouth, from one street corner to another, being pimped, being taught how to strip, to acquiring and using a variety of drugs – from buttons, ecstasy and cannabis, to cocaine – to sustain herself. She speaks of how her prostitution gains momentum in city strip clubs and the sometimes tragic pregnancies that would follow. Grizelda's harrowing tale ends with reconciliation with her family, while raising her six-year-old son. In writing this story she hopes to open a window on the hidden and often misunderstood world of prostitution, thereby raising better awareness and understanding about its harms and the horrors of trafficking and prostitution of women and children, and drug abuse. She hopes to heal and to set an example for others to follow."*

Ms Grizelda Grootboom presented her background as a prostitute and drug addict and her experience of being raped as a child. She also outlined her survival on the streets of Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Lastly, she elaborated, how she had escaped and exited from this past experience, and how she battled to survive the stigma and being accepted in the society her book which is her book "EXIT".



Figure 2 & 3 Director: SEJS James Ngomane Welcoming and Introducing the Author of EXIT and guest speak and Figure 5 on podium, facilitator Ntokozo Sobikwe from Akani Day House, sitting Secretary General YCL UJ Lesedi Diseko (panellist)

**The panel discussion was facilitated by:**

- Ntokozo Sabikwe - Arcarli Day house (UJ)
- Major Mayathula - Provisional Commissioner Gauteng
- Sr Miemie Geya - Manager: Primary Health Care Services
- Kagiso Nko - Student & IOHA Member
- Lesedi Diseko - YCL (Secretary General)
- Didintle Kairu - Imhokado Society

**4 THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE RAISED DURING ROBAST DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS:**

- The culture of men's behaviour in our society with regards to rape
- The role of criminal justice in perpetuating rape and prostitution in our society
- Should SA criminalised or legalise prostitution
- How drugs and prostitution are intrinsically intertwined o each other and as a striving business
- Gender violence against woman
- Lack of systems and support of rape victims in our Universities including our communities
- How Government and universities can deal with organised crimes related to drug trafficking and prostitution
- Encouragement of woman to speak out and continuously fight for their human rights.

The following views was also echoed by Embrace Dignity (Embrace Dignity is a South African grassroots advocacy NGO committed to addressing the root causes of prostitution) which *“strongly believes that prostitution is inherently exploitative, invariably damaging and inextricably linked to the ubiquitous problem of violence against women and children and human trafficking in a society that is essentially patriarchal. The organization asserts that the act of purchasing sex and the profit making for such action should be illegal whilst as the same time the act of selling one's body for sex should be decriminalized. It sees criminalization as an additional violation on the multiple forms of socioeconomic marginalization and oppression that prostituted women/persons ensure and makes any prostitution more difficult.”*



Figure 4 Audience staff and students at the launch of Book Exit by Grizelda Grootboom

## 5 VOTE OF Thanks

The vote of thanks was done by Ms Norma Themba, Peer Educator, IOAH UJ.