



CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONVENTION



AWAKEN TO THE CRUELTY AMONG US

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As Christian institutions we need to:

- Identify the giant
- Face the giant
- Slay the giant

AWAKEN TO THE CRUELTY AMONG US

IDENTIFYING THE GIANT

Statistics in South African Schools

- Over 3.2 million students are bullied annually.
- 67% of students do not report bullying incidents.
- 160 000 students skip school daily to evade bullies.
- 1 in 10 students drop out of school because of bullying.
- 16% of students fall victim to cyberbullying.
- 90% of bullying is peer to peer.
- At least 548 cases of bullying were reported to the Department of Basic Education early in 2025.

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IDENTIFYING THE GIANT

Identifying Bullying – Jest vs Malice

General Jest

- Mutual laughter
- Equal power between students
- Stops when someone is uncomfortable
- No intent to harm
- Does not isolate or shame

Bullying (Malice)

- Repeated behavior
- Power imbalance (physical, social, emotional, digital)
- Causes fear, shame, or distress
- Continues despite discomfort
- Seeks control, humiliation, or exclusion

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Who is most affected?

- 21.8% of females reporting bullying compared to 16.7% of males.
- Vulnerable groups – such as students with disabilities.

Why these numbers matter?

- 57% of bullying at school goes unreported to teachers.
- Bullying is identified as a leading cause in adolescent suicide cases in South Africa.

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Why are students bullied?

- Appearance
- Social differences
- Background and identity
- Abilities and talents
- Envy and insecurity of others
- Refusal to conform

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Cyberbullying

- Harassing messages
- Public shaming
- Spreading rumours

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Effects of Cyberbullying

- Emotional distress
- Mental health issues
- Social isolation
- Loss of trust
- Reputational damage

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- When you see it – step in
- Listen and comfort
- Teach identity
- Challenge to respond in a Godly fashion
- Pray

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SLAYING THE GIANT

- Set clear definitions and expectations
- Be vigilant in recognising the signs
- Respond immediately and consistently
- Create a culture of safety and respect
- Keep records and monitor patterns
- Offer support and protection to the targeted student
- Address bullying behavior compassionately
- Use fiction to provoke discussion and inspire empathy
- Teach students that everyone has a roll to play in preventing bullying

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Correcting the Bully

- Immediate response
- Private conversation
- Set clear expectations and consequences
- Require restitution
- Pray

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Set the School Standard

- **Bullying policy**

South African Schools Act (SASA) [Section 8](#) mandates that every school must have a [Code of Conduct](#) and specific anti-bullying policies to ensure a safe learning environment.

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Key Aspects of the DBE Antibullying Strategies

- Reporting and action
- Support and education
- Preventative measures
- Code of Conduct
- School responsibility

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SLAYING THE GIANT

CHALLENGE – Remember

- What we tolerate becomes our culture – what we confront can be transformed.
- This is not someone else's responsibility. It's ours!

RECOGNISE THE GIANT,
CONFRONT THE CRUELTY,
AND TEAR IT DOWN WITH CHRIST-CENTRED COMPASSION.

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Thank you