



SAFE RIDE!

Radio Dramas

Put the brakes on gender-based violence in taxis.

Join the conversation [#SafeRide](#)

Safe Ride! radio drama is produced for Sonke Gender Justice by CMFD (Community Media For Development) Productions as part of the Community Media Fund

INTRODUCING THE SAFE RIDE! Radio Dramas

It's always busy at the Ulwazi taxi rank – every day thousands of people pass through this busy hub, catching a taxi to go to work and school, to go shopping or visit family, and then home again. Here you will meet a colourful cast of characters. There's Bra Dzunani, the queue marshal who keeps everything in order, Mamikie the food seller, who dishes out sound advice along with her meals, and school friends Kane and Kgaogelo. But you'll also meet some characters who threaten everyone's ability to have a Safe Ride! Thapelo the taxi driver who constantly harasses the women and girls who pass his way. And on one dangerous ride, Kane confronts a driver who will not take no for an answer. What will happen at Ulwazi taxi rank? And how can we all be part of putting the brakes on gender-based violence? Tune in to the Safe Ride! radio dramas.

Background

According to research conducted by Sonke Gender Justice, women are at greater risk of violence, sexual harassment, and sexual assault on public transport. This makes safety a major concern for the countless women and girls who use South Africa's taxi network every day. This 5-episode series of short radio dramas was produced to encourage

conversation and debate around sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the taxi industry, raise awareness of women's rights, inform people about where to access services, and also prompt dialogue on how we can all be part of solutions and responses to make public transport safer for everyone.

“ACCORDING TO RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY SONKE GENDER JUSTICE, WOMEN ARE AT GREATER RISK OF VIOLENCE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT.”

Contents of the radio package

This guide is to help you, the presenter or facilitator, with additional information and ideas about presenting the Safe Ride! radio dramas on your radio station, in a community discussion, or at universities and schools. In this package you will find:

CDS WITH:

- standalone mini-dramas – can be played in any order!
- original theme music

THIS PRINTED GUIDE WITH:

- episode summaries – outlining the story of each of the radio dramas
- discussion questions for presenters and discussion facilitators
- background information about sexual violence in taxis
- contacts for more information

Using the guide

The guide is intended for use by radio presenters and discussion facilitators. It is intended as a guide only, to help inspire discussions, and we hope that you will localise the information by providing local helplines, contacts, and information, and inviting guests on the show from relevant local

organisations and initiatives. For example, you can invite panelists or guests from a local community based organisation, taxi association, Thuthuzela Care centre, clinic, community policing forum, or any group who will be able to provide perspectives on how to address gender-based violence in the taxi.

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AND DISCUSSION
FACILITATORS.”

To make the most out of the drama consider some of the following activities:

PEOPLE IN STUDIO

Invite people from your local taxi association, Sonke Gender Justice, community organisations, police, or a group of youth to discuss the drama, as well as real life responses to making taxis safer for everyone.

CALL IN SHOW

Have people call in to ask questions or comment, or share their own experiences. You can use the questions provided in this guide.

GENERATE DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Promote the dramas on your own radio station social media feeds, particularly Twitter using the hashtag #SafeRide. Encourage people to tune into the drama by letting them know when the drama will be aired and encourage people to tweet at your radio station and Sonke Gender Justice @SonkeTogether using the #SafeRide hashtag. Ask your audience to comment on the drama while it is being aired or share their own experiences of commuting by taxi in South Africa. Have they ever been the subject of, or witnessed harassment or sexual and gender-based violence on a taxi, or while waiting at a taxi rank? Or have they ever done the harassing? What does your audience think needs to be done to ensure a Safe Ride! for everyone?

PLAY THE MUSIC TRACK

You can use the music provided during the call in shows or throughout the day.

COMMUNITY VOX POPS

Find out what people in your community think about safety and security in taxis, and what can be done. Record multiple responses to some of the questions posed in this guide. Play the responses on air.

SHARE SUPPORT AND HELPLINE NUMBERS

Health-e News has launched a Survivors Support Service. Dial *134*1994*1# to access a free and anonymous list of services in five languages for survivors of sexual violence, or visit the online map to view and rate facilities across the country at www.health-e.org.za/survivor-support.

CREATE IN-DEPTH REPORTS

Many of the topics in the drama are relevant in your community. Find out more about the safety of commuters in your area and produce in-depth feature programmes to follow the drama episodes.

THE EPISODES 1-5

Each of the dramas is stand alone, and can be played in any order.

1. WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Thapelo and Congo are harassing the women and girls passing through the taxi rank. They think it's funny, but none of the women do. Thapelo learns a lesson when he unknowingly insults Mamfundisi, his mother's friend, who promises to report him to both his mother and the taxi association.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Do you think women and girls feel safe when walking through a taxi rank?
- What do you think of the way Thapelo and Congo behaved? What can be done to stop such behaviour and make the taxi rank safer for commuters?
- What do you think the taxi association should do when Mamfundisi reports Thapelo?
- Mamfundisi was very upset with Thapelo, but other women in the drama kept walking and did not respond – why do some people stay silent when harassed?
- While all women and girls are at risk of harassment and abuse, how are some communities faced with multiple layers of risk. For example, LGBTIQ people or refugees and migrants?

2. I SAID STOP!

Kane is the last person in the taxi, when an unscrupulous driver attempts to assault her, she narrowly escapes. Supported by Kgaogelo, Kane seeks care for her injuries, reports the assault to police, and later also reports to the taxi association, where queue marshal Bra Dzunani steps in, assuring the pair that the culprit will be caught.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What do you think of the driver's behaviour ?
- What do you think Kane is feeling as she runs off the taxi?

- If someone finds herself in Kane's position, what are the steps she can take? Where is support available? Who can you report the assault to?
- Dzunani is very concerned about what happened to Kane – what role do men have to play in putting an end to gender-based violence? And what practically can men do?
- Many women are still scared to speak openly about being victims of gender-based violence, why do you think this is?

3. SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

When an annoying passenger won't take no for an answer, Kgaogelo finds herself in an uncomfortable situation. But Frank the driver is having none of it and steps in, promising all of his passengers that on his taxi, they will have a Safe Ride!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Does the story reflect the reality of what happens in taxis?
- How can people respond when they are being sexually harassed? What can other commuters do to help?
- How would you feel if you were Kgaogelo? What would you do?
- Do you think taxi drivers make sure their taxis are safe for women and children? Do you think they would respond like Frank did?

4. IT'S NOT FUNNY

When a driver and a passenger join forces to harass front seat passenger Sheila, with the driver repeatedly touching her leg, the other taxi riders won't stand for it, regardless of the driver's threats. When he discovers his job is on the line, the driver doesn't find the situation funny after all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What do you think about the driver "accidentally" touching the girl's leg? How common is this inside a taxi?
- Why do you think some men behave in such a manner?
- What needs to be done to stop such behaviours from taxi drivers? By individuals, the taxi association, police?
- Where can commuters report this kind of behaviour?

5. LOSING THE PRIZE

Mamikie is frustrated by news on the radio of assaults in taxis. Meanwhile school friends Kane and Kgaogelo are on air for the finals of Peace FM's Safe Ride! radio quiz. They have all the right answers – what is gender-based violence, where to report an incident – but a 'double-or-nothing' question answered by a clueless driver spoils their chances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is gender-based violence?
- What are some of the forms of gender-based violence other than the ones mentioned in the story?
- The radio voice mentioned where to go if you experience harassment or assault – where can people go in your local community?
- Do you think some people are able to change their behaviors?
- The radio voice mentioned where to go if you experience harassment or assault – do commuters generally know about the services and how important they are?

SESOTHO
CONTACT: Sonke Gender Justice • 2711 339 2889 • info@genderjustice.org.za • www.genderjustice.org.za

ISIZULU
CONTACT: Sonke Gender Justice • 2711 339 2889 • info@genderjustice.org.za • www.genderjustice.org.za

ENGLISH
CONTACT: Sonke Gender Justice • 2711 339 2889 • info@genderjustice.org.za • www.genderjustice.org.za

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Join the conversation #SafeRide
1. What Have I Done? 2. Good Steps! 3. See Something, Say Something 4. It's Not Fairytale! 5. Losing the Prize
Theme Music: It's My Turn

SONKE GENDER JUSTICE

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Important information to communicate

SHARE YOUR STORY

Encourage listeners to share their own experiences and ideas for making taxis safer, or ask questions, on social media – particularly Twitter – using the hashtag #SafeRide.

REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT

- Survivors of assault should first seek care, at a Thuthuzela Care centre, clinic or hospital, report the incident to police, and also report it to the taxi association linked to the perpetrator.
- Riders who experience harassment, verbal abuse or any other kind of bad behaviours in a taxi, can take the license number of the taxi and report to the taxi association.

WHERE TO GET HELP

In the contacts section of this guide, you will find Useful Contacts. Share these helplines regularly so your listeners know where they can get help. Find out in your broadcast area where there are places of care, safety and support, ask them how people in your area can best seek out their help. NEVER share the location or information of shelters or other places of care unless you have explicit instructions from them to do so, as this could put the people staying there at risk.

“SHARE THESE
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SO YOUR LISTENERS
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Background Information:

Sexual and gender-based violence and harassment in the taxi industry

“The daughter of a colleague was recently sexually assaulted in a minibus taxi on her way home from school. Another passenger already on board forced her to touch his genitals. Rather than stopping the vehicle or helping in any way, the driver appeared to be complicit in the attack, speeding off with the girl and her attacker in the back seat.” – (Women tackle taxi terror, Koketso Moeti in *Mail & Guardian*, 20 Sept 2017)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE TAXI INDUSTRY

Sexual violence and harassment in the taxi industry is a well-known problem. Women and girls in particular face verbal and even physical assault on a regular basis.

MISCONCEPTIONS AROUND MASCULINITY

Part of the problem is that gender-based violence and aggressive behaviour by men is not necessarily seen as violence. Discriminatory attitudes around appropriate conduct for men and women often mean that women are blamed for violence against them, or are told to forget about it. In South Africa, traditional concepts of masculinity are linked to dominance and power. Using violence to solve problems and get what you want is often seen as the only way to ‘be a man’.

MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES AT RISK

While all woman and girls experience harassment in public spaces, some communities – such as LGBTIQ and migrant populations, may experience additional risk. LGBTIQ communities are often assaulted and insulted for their sexual orientation. Migrant communities often face xenophobia, which can add another layer to GBV.



EDUCATION

There is a need to educate commuters about their rights and give women and girls the support to report incidents of gender-based violence. Sexual harassment and assault in public spaces and public transit are usually unreported or underreported.

“SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT IN PUBLIC SPACES AND PUBLIC TRANSIT ARE USUALLY UNREPORTED OR UNDERREPORTED.”

RELIANCE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND POOR INFRASTRUCTURE

South African women are far more likely than men to rely on public transport for travel, including in households with access to motor vehicles. For women who reside in areas with poor infrastructure, such as rural and peri-urban areas, traveling by public transport is even more difficult, as reliable and safe transport in such settings is not always available.

Women's rights are human rights

The South African Constitution, the Sexual Offences Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the Protection from Harassment Act enshrine the rights for all persons to be free from violence and harassment. As outlined in the Sexual Offences Act, rape and sexual assault are crimes. The victim can lay charges but they have a right to decide for themselves whether they wish to or not. They do not have to report the rape or sexual offence in order to access medical treatment.

IMPACTS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AND LIVELIHOODS

The consequences associated with a lack of safe public transportation have far-reaching implications beyond affecting women as individuals – it also affects whole communities due to the difficulties in women's mobility. Research shows that if women feel that going somewhere would put them at risk, in many cases, women will not go. Unsafe public transport has a devastating effect on women's ability to participate in the workforce or get healthcare and other services.

“UNSAFE PUBLIC TRANSPORT HAS A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON WOMEN'S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKFORCE OR GET HEALTHCARE AND OTHER SERVICES.”

MENTAL HEALTH

Sociological research shows that women may experience feelings of prolonged discomfort and fear in response to acts of sexual violence or harassment. Feeling a sense of fear, whether it is real or a perception, has significant consequences for women and leads them to use precautionary measures and strategies that affect their mobility and travel behaviours.

Sources: Public Transport and The Safety of Women in South Africa – Lessons From Around the World. (Sonke Gender Justice/ Mamello Mathews April 2017); amandla.mobi; Women's experience of urban public transport in Bangladesh, Brazil and Nigeria, and how lost tax revenues can pay to improve it (Action Aid 2016)

Getting People Talking:

Panel Discussion

A panel platform is a great format for open discussions and debates on topics which are relevant to society. Usually, there is a panel of participants from different walks of life who share their experiences. All participants should have equal time and opportunity to speak.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT TALK SHOW OR PANEL DISCUSSION?

- Guests that offer different perspectives on the topic;
- Lively and conversational dialogue;
- Debate and discussion that gets people thinking;
- Conversation that evokes emotions – anger, laughter, empathy;
- A skilled moderator who keeps the conversation flowing;
- Topic that is relevant to the listening audience;
- Information packaged in a way people can understand – humanise, contextualise, relate the topic – what does this have to do with me?

CHOOSING DEBATE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS:

The best discussion topics include references to what is happening now, in your area. Consider the following, and feel free to adapt the questions as needed.

- What is topical at the moment? What are your listeners talking about and thinking about related to violence and harassment in taxis?
- Do the people in your community feel safe when taking a taxi? Why? How can the community benefit from discussing this topic? What do they want or need to know now?
- Look for performance indicators, what is the progress of certain activities in the community? Is the rate of sexual violence in taxis in your area high? Who is responsible?
- Revisit promises and decisions of local authorities – have these promises and decisions been kept? Have leaders done what they promised to do?
- Look for new decisions and activities – how does the community feel about these? What questions are on their mind? How can these be clarified?

ROLE OF THE MODERATOR

- **Listen** – For a talk show presenter or community facilitator, the ability to listen well is as important as the ability to talk. Listening well is how we learn to ask questions, which produce revealing answers;
- **Clarify** – Presenters and facilitators should constantly seek clarification, ask the discussants to explain further if what they are saying is not clear;
- **Flow** – Ensure that the debate is flowing from point to point;
- **Summarise** – The test of clarity is the presenter or facilitator's ability to summarise briefly the key points which guests or callers have made. If we cannot understand it well enough to synthesise it, then our listeners will not understand it either;
- **Reframe** – Once synthesised, information can be reframed, or discussed from other angles, which may reveal something new, such as facts which can be agreed-upon, or the route to discovering some common ground;
- **Be impartial** – Avoid taking sides, allow the discussants to express themselves (this does not mean ignoring ethical considerations, such as hate speech);
- **Ensure balance** – Balance the debate, direct discussion towards positive aspects instead of just highlighting the negatives;
- **Focus on the facts** – Recognise and emphasise facts;
- **Keep the discussion lively** – Enliven a serious debate, always remembering: the public is listening. Do not allow one speaker to speak for too long;
- **Calm fierce emotions** – Including your own, especially through humour.

Useful resources

Download an Action Sheet on how to support victims of rape and sexual offences here: www.genderjustice.org.za/publication/safe-ride-action-sheet

Watch the Sonke Gender Justice Safe Ride! video here: www.genderjustice.org.za/video/safe-ride-video-aims-get-men-involved-preventing-sexual-assault

Useful Contacts

HEALTH-E SURVIVORS SUPPORT SERVICE:

Dial *134*1994*1# to access a free and anonymous list of services in five languages for survivors of sexual violence, or visit the map to view and rate facilities across the country:

www.health-e.org.za/survivor-support

The map allows users to search for locations either by typing in a city, town or address, or selecting the checkbox of either 'Shelters', 'TCC' (Thuthuzela Care Centre) or 'Hospitals/clinics'. Once a facility is selected, the address and contact info of the facility is displayed.

ORGANISATIONS:

Childline 080 005 5555

Crime Stop 086 001 0111

Crisis on Call – Toll Free Crisis Line 086 157 4747

Legal Aid 080 011 0110

Lifeline Sexual Health Line 086 132 2322

Love Life 080 012 1900

Marie Stopes South Africa 080 011 7785

People Opposing Women Abuse 083 765 1235

Rape Crisis 24 Hours Life Line 086 132 3222 or 021 447 9762

South African Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse 071 280 9918

Sonke Gender Justice 011 339 3589 (Jhb) or 021 423 7088 (Cape Town)

Stop Gender Violence Helpline 080 015 0150

Suicide Help 080 056 7567

The South African Depression and Anxiety Group 080 021 2223

Credits

ACTORS

English:

Morongoa Magwaza
Busisiwe T. Nyundu
Noluvo Sophiseka
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Jabulani Dhludhlu
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Cindy Dzanya
Emilio Langa

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Its My Taxi
Written and produced
by Daniel Walter

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CMFD Productions
Studios. (Music
recording: SoulFire
Studios/Playsound
Productions)

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