Door-to-Door Campaign Tackles GBV
By Hlengiwe Magubane
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On 17 September 2026, Khanya College and several participating organisations held a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) door-to-door awareness campaign in Eldorado Park Extension 8 and Kersiedorp.

The participating organisations included the Eldorado Park Women's Forum, Joburg Child Welfare, Academic Citizenship and Economic Development (ACED) centre, Khayalethu, Eldorado Park Family Crisis Centre, Masibambisane, Mighty Evolution Nursery and Preschool, Come Back Missionary, Greater Together Work, God's Arch Academy, Kliptown Clinic, SAPS, Traffic Wardens, Women's Forum and the GBV Brigade.

The two areas were chosen because they are said to be hotspots for gender-based violence, child neglect, substance abuse and crime. In total, teams visited about 85 households.

Field reports show that while most residents know what GBV is, with many saying they have witnessed it, the most common issues raised were substance abuse, children's literacy, and child neglect. In Kersiedorp, teams visited about 34 houses and found high rates of GBV, child neglect, bullying, and gang violence. In Akwamaryn and Beryl Street, teams reported that parents were more concerned about their children's inability to read and write and asked about support programmes, while others raised drug abuse among young girls.

Other teams covering Tosman Frieslie, Edward Baaitjies, Diamond, Sand and Waterpan streets found similar patterns, including substance abuse, bullying, domestic violence, children abusing grandparents, children without birth certificates, food and clothing shortages, and cases of school dropouts linked to drugs and gangsterism. Some residents were also unaware of what GBV is, viewing beating as a form of discipline. Where needed, community members were referred to SANCA for substance abuse and to PUSH every Wednesday for Khanya College's Jozi Book Fair study group and reading sessions.

The community response was generally positive and welcoming. Residents were open about the challenges they face, asked questions, and many confirmed they will attend the public meeting on Saturday, 20 September 2026 at PUSH.

The Khanya College team member Lee-Kyle Woodman said: "The door-to-door was an interesting experience and the issues that came up were an eye-opener." Another staff member, Astrid Sibindi, said: "The door-to-door went well and I am thankful for the courage of the households we visited, for their strength to open their homes for us and share about their issues."

However, some residents were reluctant to sign the register, saying they are tired of statistics being collected without seeing outcomes, while a few houses did not want assistance and appeared afraid. The main challenges were locked houses, some

residents who initially closed their doors, and occasional language barriers, which team members managed through interpretation.

Overall, the campaign was successful and highlighted the urgent need for continued support around literacy, substance abuse, and GBV education. The findings show that GBV cannot be addressed in isolation from other social issues affecting families in Eldorado Park and Kersiedorp.

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