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## Contact details:

18 May 2022

Christelike Maatskaplike Raad Noord (CMRN)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### THE CMRN IS BUT ONE OF SEVERAL LINKS IN THE COMPLEX SYSTEM OF CHILD PROTECTION

**(Pretoria, 18 May 2022)** In reaction to the articles published in the Rapport Newspaper titled: "Pa, dogter na hoogste hof oor verkragting" on 1 May 2022 as well as "Welsyn "rig kinders af voor sekssake", on 15 May 2022.

The Christelike Maatskaplike Raad Noord (CMRN), is a non-profit organisation that has been giving HOPE to children and families in NEED for the past **eighty-six years** through the delivery of social work services. The organisation was recently subjected to severe scrutiny after two articles were published in the Rapport Newspaper

1) Published: 1 May titled: "Pa, dogter na hoogste hof oor verkragting" and

2) Published: 15 May titled: "Welsyn rig kinders af voor sekssake".

The CMRN would like to share the following facts pertaining to the organisation's role and its protocol pertaining to cases as mentioned in the articles, as well as similar cases.

## CENTRES OF HOPE:

### GAUTENG:

**Child Protection Centre**  
012 654 6026

**Lynnwood**  
012 348 4500/348 0003

**Daspoort/Pretoria-West**  
012 379 5860

**VOS Community Centre**  
012 341 2318

**Child Centre**  
012 333 0421

**Derdepoort**  
012 800 4866

**Valhalla**  
012 660 2366

**Wonderboom**  
012 567 4551

**Lotus Gardens**  
065 815 2240

**Moot**  
065 818 5489

**Pretoria-North**  
065 817 6162

**Soshanguve**  
065 883 1907

### NORTH WEST:

**Brits**  
012 252 3207

### LIMPOPO:

**Louis Trichardt**  
015 516 5115

**Messina (Musina)**  
015 534 0245

**Warmbad (Bela Bela)**  
014 736 2557



1. The allegations made regarding the coercion / coaching /indoctrination of children are blatantly false and without any merit/void of any truth. Children required to testify in criminal cases, necessarily need assistance and support to put them at ease and make them feel safe with the goal to share the true facts and testimony in court. No child will ever be coerced or coached to give false testimony or to make false claims. It should be noted that each child's testimony is tested and verified in Court.
2. The CMRN/ social workers do not make legal decisions pertaining to Children's Court cases. The final decision and judgment are in the court's hands and all role players are given ample opportunity to actively participate.
3. The claim that the CMRN benefits financially by following legal processes to place children in alternative care is an infamous lie. There is no financial gain for the CMRN as an organisation in this regard and any claim or statement of a similar nature is defamatory.
4. Children's testimonies must always be handled and considered with caution.
5. Disgruntled parents' claims must be thoroughly investigated and considered with caution/care. Many parents will attempt to keep their children in their care or have their children returned into their care even when the children are/were severely neglected, abused, and/or traumatised in their care.
6. The thousands of success stories where children's rights were protected, and their best interests were looked after must not be forgotten or overlooked.

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**Wierdapark**

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**Wonderboom**  
012 567 4551

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**Hartebeespoort**  
*(Satellite office of CMR Brits)*  
064 956 6770

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7. It appears that these claims are being made by small pressure / activism groups, placing unreasonable pressure on the CMRN as an organisation.

With regards to the Abrie Raaths case, the CMRN wants to place the following on record:

- a. The case has enjoyed a lot of media attention and coverage.
- b. The CMR Noord would like to state categorically that it was not involved in the assessment of the minor child in any meaningful way.
- c. Mrs. W. Stander was not employed by the CMR Noord when this specific case was reported and was acting as an independent social worker when she conducted an initial assessment on the minor child. Mrs. Stander however referred the case to a forensic social worker at the South African Police Service for further and comprehensive investigation.
- d. The minor child did not make a full confession to any of the social workers of the CMR Noord.
- e. The minor child's confession was made to a forensic social worker employed by the South African Police Service.
- f. The CMR Noord was in no way involved with the trial, conviction or sentencing of Abrie Raaths. None of the social workers of the CMR Noord offered testimony during the trial, nor were they part of any subsequent appeal cases.
- g. The CMR North cannot fathom why the organisation is implicated in this case and its subsequent media coverage.

[END]

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