



**29 February 2008: For immediate release**

**LAW SOCIETY SAYS RIGHTS OF FREE STATE RACISM VICTIMS  
MUST BE ASSERTED**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) deplores the violation of human rights and the degradation of workers displayed in the video produced by the four Reitz Residence students which became public this week.

'The LSSA is of the view that charges must be brought against the perpetrators. The rights of the victims should also be addressed as they may have civil recourse against their perpetrators,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons David Gush and Henry Msimang. The LSSA has committed the profession to providing legal advice and assistance on a *pro bono* basis to those who cannot afford the services of attorneys. Attorneys in the Free State, who practise under the jurisdiction of the Law Society of the Free State, will gladly assist the victims in this matter to assert their rights.'

The LSSA welcomes the University of the Free State's commitment to dealing with the matter and it adds its voice to those calling on the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. The LSSA adds that the HRC should convene a discussion forum to deal with the issue of racism in its various forms. The LSSA commits itself to working with the HRC to deal collectively with the historical scourge of racism.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE  
LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

by Barbara Whittle

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Editor's note:

The Law Society of South Africa brings together its six constituent members – the Cape Law Society, the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society, the Law Society of the Free State, the Law Society of the Northern Provinces, the Black Lawyers Association and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers – in representing South Africa's 17 800 attorneys and 4 300 candidate attorneys.

In Afrikaans items, please refer to the 'Prokureursorde van Suid-Afrika'.