

Equal Education  
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Friday 10 October 2008

## **Letter to the Principals of Khayelitsha High Schools**

Dear Principal,

We understand that there is some concern about the gathering in Cape Town today. We would like to address this.

Firstly let us clarify the facts of the event:

- The purpose of the event is to highlight certain poor conditions under which teachers and learners work at Khayelitsha schools. This includes the 500 broken windows at Luhlaza school, which have been broken for 4 years.
- The event takes place after school hours. Learners will not be expected to miss any school.
- The event begins in Cape Town at 3pm, not at 2pm.
- The event is being held at Kaizergracht, at the top of Darling Street, not outside the Western Cape Education Department offices.
- There is no march. The learners and community members will simply gather at Kaisergracht.
- We do not see this as a protest as such, but rather as a gathering where learners and community members can express themselves and communicate with their government.
- Equal Education takes full responsibility for the safety, behaviour and well-being of everyone participating in the event. Learners will be dropped off door-to-door well before it is dark this evening.

The program at the gathering will consist of poems, songs and presentations by learners and community members regarding their schools in Khayelitsha.

We feel that this is a positive event for the following reasons:

- Learners and community members are active and taking responsibility for their education.
- Learners and community members are exercising their democratic rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association.

- Learners from across Khayelitsha are working together in a harmonious and united way for a common cause. Learners and community members from schools in Wallacedene and Cape Town will also join the event in support.

We feel that it is important to point out the following:

- Mr April, Principal of Luhlaza, has made clear to us that he was no problem with learners from his school participating after school hours.
- As a result of Equal Education's work, the MEC for Education, Mr Yusuf Gabru, and Director Lindela Sophothela, have indicated that the Western Cape Education Department intends to fix the 500 broken windows at Luhlaza as a matter of urgency.
- Equal Education has the highest regard for the teaching profession and is committed to working with teachers and principals to bring improvements to schools and education in Khayelitsha. Equal Education aims to instill a culture of learning and a commitment to school studies in learners. For these reasons, and others, we see teachers and principals as our partners.

Please feel free to contact us at any time. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss things further.

Should you have concerns that you would like to raise today, please call:

- Lwandiso Stofile 078 976 5783
- Yoliswa Dwane 073 345 4049
- Nokubonga Yawa 073 901 8430
- Lumkile Zani 078 483 3377
- Joey Hasson 082 374 6555
- Doron Isaacs 082 850 2111

Yours Sincerely,

Joey Hasson  
Equal Education