



CHILD PROTECTION CELEBRATION IDEAS 2023

The month of May is traditionally child protection month in South Africa and this year national child protection week will be celebrated from 29 May to the 5th of June 2023. Here are some creative ideas on how your church, ministry or organisation can celebrate the value of children and create awareness for child protection by highlighting children's rights:

- Let your staff and volunteers wear green ribbons as a commitment to support and protect the rights of children. The Green Ribbon was adopted by the National Child Protection Committee in 1994 and symbolizes life and growth associated with children as well as the nurturing of children.
- Tie green ribbons around the fences and trees of your organisation. Let people write positive messages about child protection on cards and tie these messages together with green ribbons, but be mindful of littering.
- Encourage child participation by doing a child protection activity together with the children in your organisation, church or family:
 - Teach children their rights as outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) (1990) and The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
 - Teach children protective behaviors and how to report abuse.
 - Let your children make posters and banners focusing on child safety.
 - Let your children plant a tree as a commitment to nurture every generation so that the next generation may be stronger.
 - Create platforms for children to share their opinions around child safety through art, dance and drama.
- Organise child protection training to equip your staff and volunteers to make child protection a priority especially with regards to the new Children's Act and make sure your organisation has an updated child protection policy.
- Display child protection posters in your organisation and community to raise awareness for child protection.
- Pray together. Visit www.worldweekendofprayer.com to download prayer and activity resources as well as child protection prayer themes from <https://www.ezrah.co.za/resources/>.
- Celebrate World Foster Day – see <https://worldfosterday.org/> for more info.

- Share information with communities to address the issue of missing children. See www.missingchildren.org.za for more information.
- Partner together with churches and organisations in your community to launch child protection initiatives.
- Participate in radio interviews and share child protection resources on social media.
- Raise awareness on child trafficking. Download resources from A21 at <https://www.ezrah.co.za/child-protection-resources/> and know the anti-trafficking hotline number: 0800 222 777. Visit <https://0800222777.org.za/> for more information on how to report child trafficking.
- Launch a humane education project to build children's empathy and value system through teaching them to care for animals. Visit <https://greytonfarmsanctuary.org/education/>, <https://www.naturebased.education/>, <https://worldanimal.net/our-programs/humane-education/the-need-for-humane-education> and <https://sidewalkspecials.org/education/> for research and some great resources.
- Keep a look out for children in need or at-risk in your community and report child abuse/neglect and sexual offences. Visit <https://www.ezrah.co.za/child-protection-resources/> for our reporting protocol.
- Make sure to follow the correct protocols when using the photos of children in your campaigns. Visit <https://www.ezrah.co.za/child-protection-resources/> for our photo protocol.

**Ideas and resources compiled by Mariëtte Jacobs
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GO GREEN