

DOOR OF HOPE BABYBOX – EVERY CHILD MATTERS

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'History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children'

Nelson Mandela

In South Africa many babies are being abandoned in rubbish bins, toilets, railway tracks, empty buildings and open fields. More than 10 000 babies are being abandoned all over South Africa every year. ONLY 1 out of every 3 abandoned babies survive!

The first modern day baby box in South Africa was installed in June/July 1999 by Door of Hope Children's Mission. Since then, a few more organisations have implemented baby boxes all over South Africa. Since 1999 Door of Hope has saved over 1600 babies. The Door of Hope Baby box is far more active than any other baby box in South Africa. The main reason is that our baby box is situated in Hillbrow, the poorest most populated city per square meter in the South Africa.

Safe abandonment is illegal in South Africa. Mothers who are caught abandoning their babies in baby boxes, children's homes, hospitals, churches, fire stations etc, will be arrested and charged with child abandonment, even though they have done it in a 'safe place'

Unsafe abandonment (where babies are left to die) is not listed as a violent crime in South Africa?! We have child protection agencies and Children's rights activists and attorneys all working together to have the South African legislation changed.

- 1. South Africa needs a system that enables mothers to abandon their babies safely and legally.**
- 2. More policing needs to be done around illegal abortionists and illegal abortion drugs causing babies to be born prematurely and alive only to be abandoned and left to die**
- 3. South African government needs to work on solutions to reduce poverty and unemployment as well as illegal immigrants**
- 4. The legal age for a mother to give consent for adoption is 18 years but legal age for mother to abort a baby is 12.**
- 5. Abandoned babies that are found dead are listed as still born and not as a murder meaning that statistics on unsafe child abandonment is not accurate meaning that the South African government is denying that unsafe abandonment is an epidemic in South Africa.**
- 6. The South African government is against baby boxes because they believe that a baby has the right to know its culture and family history. We believe the right to life is far more important than the right to an identity or culture**

Even though baby boxes are illegal in South Africa, Door of Hope will continue to offer a safe place for desperate and destitute mothers to relinquish their babies. We will continue to provide a safe and loving family environment for these babies. We will continue to meet their physical, mental and emotional needs, until such time that these babies are placed with Forever Families.