



**END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!
PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR
WOMEN WORKING LATE HOURS**



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For the next 16 days, from 26 November to 10 December the world will focus on the scourge of **Violence Against Women**. However, too often the plight of women in the workplace is ignored, at best it is invisible silent encroaching into the personal spaces of women while giving the appearance that violence is something external to the workplace. Contrary to this, the world of work is indeed a place rife with **Violence Against Women**.

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With the relentless expansion of corporate globalisation, the conditions under which women labour have grown worse. Employers are saying that they need to be more competitive, they need to keep up with the demands of changes in the market, they have to increase their profits; thus, we have seen over the last decades changes in the working hours. With these changes, late working hours also known as 'late trading hours' or 'extended working hours' have become the normal working hours in the services sectors. These changes have an impact on the security, safety and health of women workers, but little attention is being paid to this aspect of women's lives. With these changes in working hours the conditions under which women labour are worsening. This also increases the personal safety, insecurity and vulnerability of women workers.

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In the Retail Sector, major companies like Shoprite/Checkers and Woolworths refuse to provide transport home for women workers when they work late hours yet they profess to the public that they support the "No Violence Campaign". Combined with an inadequate transport system, workers knock off at times when there is no reliable public transport available; they have to find their own way home.

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This callous attitude of the employers contributes to the increasing numbers of women who are violated. There have been numerous cases where women workers have been subjected to rapes, assaults, muggings, sexual harassment but these cases remain unreported, because of fear and stigma attached to them.

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During this period of No Violence Against Women, SACCAWU call on all:

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- Women workers to demand safe transport home if working late hours paid for by the company.
- Employers big or small to provide free, safe and reliable transport home for women workers to safeguard them from abuse and violence;
- Consumers, customers and clients to support our call for safe and reliable transport for women workers working late. Find out whether the company you shop at provide transport for women workers.
- Rest on all Public Commemorative Holidays that are supposed to be non-trading public holidays must be demanded from both Government and Employers!

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