



Press Release
This Week On 3rd Degree
Tuesday 7 February @ 8pm

Class Dismissed

Lydia Sithembile Khanyile is a primary school teacher in Soweto. In 1999 she was gang raped.

The rapists told her it was a death sentence. They had Aids. By last year Lydia's greatest fears were realized, she tested HIV positive and fell ill.

She turned to the people she trusted most, her colleagues and school principal. Lydia disclosed her status to them. It proved to be the biggest mistake of her life. In a show of paranoia and over discrimination, colleagues stopped her using facilities such as staff-room chairs, toilets and even the teacups.

Her salary was cut without warning and earlier this year she found another teacher teaching her class. She attempted suicide after alleged verbal abuse by the principal. About 13% of school teachers are infected with the HIV virus, that amounts to about 45 000 infected teachers in this country.

This week 3rd Degree investigates discrimination against teachers in schools with shocking results. We explore the stories of two women, Lydia and Violet, both who've had to bear the brunt of brutal discrimination. Don't miss their poignant and tragic story this Tuesday at 8pm only on e

For more information and pictures, please contact:

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