



**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# PREGNANCY SHOULDN'T KILL

**WOMEN AND GIRLS IN  
MKHONDO MUNICIPALITY  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**WRITE A LETTER  
CHANGE A LIFE**





Pregnant women and new mothers in Mkhondo Municipality in eastern South Africa are dying needlessly because they are not getting vital health care. Maternal mortality rates are far too high, and Mkhondo is in one of the worst-performing health districts in the country.

To reduce the risk of dying, pregnant women and girls need medical care from the early stages of pregnancy. But many avoid clinics because they fear the lack of privacy and patient confidentiality. Others are put off by nurses who shout at girls for getting pregnant too young. What's more, many can't reach the clinics because public transport is scarce or too pricey.

To make matters worse, many women and girls aren't aware of maternal health issues and the benefits of early antenatal

care. Many also struggle to get advice and information about contraception, and some find it difficult to make their partner wear a condom. All this leads to unplanned pregnancies and an increased risk of contracting HIV.

Across the district, there is a chronic lack of trained medical staff. This means that women and girls face long waits to see overworked and stressed nurses. To compound all these problems, a dire shortage of ambulances often leaves pregnant women stranded in emergencies

**Demand action: tell the authorities to prioritize better health care for women and girls in Mkhondo Municipality.**



## WRITE A LETTER CHANGE A LIFE

### Write to the South African government

Tell the authorities to prioritize better health care for women and girls in Mkhondo Municipality.

**Write to:** Pravin Gordhan, Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team on Service Delivery in South Africa, Private Bag X802, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa

Fax: +27 12 326 4478  
Email: [minreg@treasury.gov.za](mailto:minreg@treasury.gov.za)

### Write a letter of support for the women and girls of Mkhondo Municipality

Suggested message: "I support your right to get vital health care, to get privacy and confidentiality at health clinics, and to get information about reproduction and contraception."

**Write to:** Inhabitants of Mkhondo, Mpumalanga, c/o Amnesty International, 3 on Glenhove, Melrose Estate, Johannesburg 2196, South Africa

December 2014  
Index: AFR 33003/2014