

MEASURES OF CHILD POVERTY PROJECT

**A Better Life for Children in South
Africa: Children's Election
Manifestos**

Helen Barnes

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**A better life for children in South Africa:
children's election manifestos**

**By Helen Barnes
Centre for the Analysis of South African Social Policy,
Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of
Oxford**

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A better life for children in South Africa: children's election manifestos

In May 2007 and February 2008, almost 160 children from the Western Cape and Eastern Cape took part in focus groups carried out by the Centre for the Analysis of South African Social Policy at the University of Oxford, UK. The focus groups were undertaken as part of a project for the South African government Department of Social Development which explored different ways of defining and measuring child poverty.

Children with a target age of between 12 and 17 and from a range of different backgrounds participated in the focus groups. They were accessed through schools. The focus groups aimed to find out from children what they think they need in different areas of their life in order to have an acceptable standard of living in South Africa today. Very often only experts and adults are consulted in research relating to children, but the research team felt that the views of young people are important, especially on issues that are relevant to their lives.

One of the activities required participants to produce a manifesto of the changes they would make to improve the lives of children if they were elected as President of South Africa. In the following pages, the manifestos drawn up by the groups of children are presented. While each election manifesto was quite different, there were some common themes, for example reduce poverty and help the poor by giving them free water and electricity and by building houses; reduce crime and improve safety; build more schools and improve the quality of teaching; and create more jobs.

A full account of the methodology utilised and analysis of other activities conducted in the focus groups can be found in the following report, which is available to download from the CASASP website (www.casasp.ox.ac.uk):

Barnes, H. (2009) *Children's Views of an Acceptable Standard of Living for Children in South Africa*, Measures of Child Poverty Project Key Report 3, Pretoria: Department of Social Development, Republic of South Africa.

No poverty
Low crime
Food and water
Good education/schools
More education
Fire police and replace with US police
More money for employment
More employment
Children should be protected
Not being a racist
Fair trial for criminals
No murdering
Cheaper flights
Extend airport
Decrease petrol price
Free world
More houses
More roads
No more strikes
No sexual abuse
No litter
More nature
Not a lot of building on nature
No violent abuse
More food for poor
No adultery
No rape abuse
Children's rights
Build for poor
More jails
No water pollution
If you kill you die
More roads, hospitals, police stations

Stop crime
Police training
Free schooling
Soup kitchens
Give money for orphans
Poor people
Give houses
Better services
Better public toilets
Clean environment
Help everybody with their needs
Better old age homes
Cleaners for towns
Better teachers
Better school buildings
Better work opportunities
Build swimming pools
Repair broken roads

Free education at tertiary level as well
Bring back death penalty
Find cure for AIDS
No abortion
Kids should be in Parliament
Poverty alleviation e.g. create jobs
Training for unemployed people e.g. uneducated

Build houses
Change prices (cheaper)
Build more schools
Safety for children
Build more hospitals/clinics
More police stations
More orphanages
Street kids must go to school
Safer transport
More security people
More good teachers
More prisons for the people
More churches
Sports fields
More dance, music, crafts etc schools
More shopping malls
More parks for little ones
Money must not go to government, must go to the country

Better security
More schools
Better housing
Better sanitation
More hospitals
Better leaders in Parliament
Playgrounds
Corporal punishment in schools
Bursaries for education
Provide more business opportunities
Shelters for street children
After care centre

Help children to get an education
Help children by sending what they need
Ensure that children have a foster care grant
Make swings for children
Send children books

Better schools
Equal educations
Better houses
Better transport
Better security (hospitals)
More jobs and opportunities
Less crime (child/women abuse)
Death penalty (for serious crimes)
Stop racism/discrimination
Sanitary (clean water/toilets)
Centre for street children
More social workers

More schools
Better education
Freedom
Give food to starving
More security
Give homes for people in shacks
Pick up litter
Free school (not including private schools)
Free universities
Lower home prices
Things less expensive/bring shop prices down
Keep petrol prices low - import more petrol
and sell for a lower price
No poverty
More police stations/more police
No school for the children not wanting it
Wednesday as a weekend
Do not have to wear school clothes
Food for all
No more crime
Give bacon away
Import more pigs
No library
Get food at all schools for free
No bullying or teasing
Nothing will be stupid
Make life easier
Won't get involved in wars

Give orphans clothes
Make a playground in every community
Give any child the grant
Build a school and give children school uniform

Safety for the schools
Clothes and food for people
Stop crime through putting alarms at
everybody's homes
Give all the people houses
Bring back the death penalty
No mercy for rapists and kidnappers
Freedom
Clean streets
Stop crime
No bail out of jail
Equal punishment
Homes for poor people
Put crime to a stop
Don't be a racist

Change all black areas into suburbs
Change schools (add swimming pools)
Transport
Change trains
Give people more jobs
Stop the crime
Make more playing grounds for children
Make big swimming pools in our
community
Make more clinics
Free education and stationery
Have fire extinguishers

Houses for the homeless
Safety for the country
Justice
Theft
Molestation
Assault (fighting)
Fines for littering
Everyone has a right to a good job
Support
More doctors because there are too few
Schools for children
Fight crime
Love
Death penalty for kidnapping
Life sentence for rape
Homeless should be paid monthly
Caring for one another
Wild life nature reserve
Youth and care centres
Poverty
Hospitals

Give them a bus to go to school
Give them pens to write in school
Make swings for them and a big place to play
Help the children that live under the bridge

Death penalty
Improve security/police
No corruption
Compulsory education
Housing
More jobs
No racism
Clean water
Electricity
Cheaper products
Better pay for government workers
Development in the country
Make SA a first world country
Freedom
More tourism
No poverty
Safer public transport
No stereotyping
Make tourism attractions safer
Better infrastructure
Change the idea of SA being a modern/civilised country, not animals in the road
Shelter for homeless
S.P.C.A./animals
Recreation funds

Safety
More hospitals
Build houses for people
Death penalty
Schools and work
Pure water
Clean environment
Protect animal life
Training for police, teachers etc
Peace and love
Combat poverty

Develop tourism
Better security
More housing
Plant more trees (cultivate)
Improve public transport (trains e.g. SNCF)
Advertise country
Homeless shelters
Schools in rural areas
Medical facilities
Motivate people to be creative
Encourage and develop entrepreneurship
Focus on environment
Clean whole country
More opportunities for under-privileged people
Job opportunities - equality
Quota system for racism in jobs (the best person)
More national parks (to preserve the national heritage)

Build houses
Build playgrounds
Change a house
Pay money for grants
Change water and streets
Don't pay for water
Keep streets clean

Safer schools
Safer environment
Death penalty for criminals
More job creation
Build youth centres
Invest more money in the country
More health centres
More schools
More houses
Arrest drug dealers
Employ more police
Higher labourers salary
Qualified people for certain jobs
More training centres for underprivileged
Sports centres
Education and wealth centres
Support groups
Better budgets
Stop corruption
Safer orphanages
Stop child abuse

Change houses
Poverty
Crime
Add new grant for suffering children
Employment for jobless people
Add some schools
Give street kids food and clothes
Give charity
Shelters to live in
Add police and security for safety
Add hospitals for injured people
School for street kids
House for homeless people
Add prisons

Build houses
Increase grants
Create more jobs
Build shopping centres
Build playgrounds
Free service delivery

Stop poverty
Stop racism
Give clean water
Find a way to give everyone equal rights and electricity
Stop corruption
Stop criminals/crime
Education
Give housing for poor people (safe environment)
Street lights
Sports opportunities
Make more jail facilities
Bring back death penalties
Try harder to get AIDS medicine/cure
Bring down inflation
Power stations
Make less pollution
Free education
Business opportunities

Bring back execution
Add more strict police
Build more prisons
More jobs
Build more houses
Good qualifications in school (make sure teachers have good qualifications)
Recreational activities in school
Fix roads and all things needed
Safe transport
Clean community, clean SA
Bring prices down
Increase salaries (so that can charge higher taxes and give more to the poor)
Build more clinics and hospitals
AIDS victim therapist (to stop people committing suicide when they have AIDS, to teach them that it's a disease like any other)
More security
Look after nature

No more corruption
Less crime
No more poverty
Bring back death sentence
Bigger budget
Hospitals (more)
Increase workers salary
More child support
Less sex workers
No more illegal immigrants
More community centres
More foreign investment
More schools
Create more jobs
More small businesses
Build RDP close to communities
More education support
Rehab centres
Clinics
No more racism
Gender equity

No discrimination
Running water and electricity for everyone
Available housing
Bigger pension
Petrol prices drop
Better education (qualified teachers)
Safer South Africa
Less pollution
Better public transport
Cheaper and better medical care
Bring down inflation

Give homes
Give food
Bigger school
More shops
More prisons for criminals
Soccer fields
Recreation
TV, DVDs
Bicycles
Learn more languages
Give water to poor
Give electricity free
Build packing/storage facility
Provide jobs
Improve welfare services

Housing
More policemen
Better municipal and emergency services
Water for all
Non racial affirmative action
Education
People's opinions will matter
Cheaper transport services
Government will pay for medical aid
A better life for all

Safer South Africa
Better health awareness
Faster reactions from public services
No racial aheadness
Better services
Faster services
Faster law suits
People choose the political cabinet and ministers
Equal rights
More job opportunities
Fix buildings and roads across South Africa
Stop living in the past
Harsher punishments for rapists and murderers

No apartheid
More houses
Swimming baths
More shops and clothing stores
Safety in the town and farms
Gold
Meet singers
Bigger schools
Clinics
Bigger hospitals
Libraries
More books
More teachers e.g. black, white, coloured
Learn more languages e.g. Xhosa, English, Afrikaans
Bigger dental surgeries
Bigger waste refuse dumps



Department of Social Development
Private Bag x901
PRETORIA
0001

Toll Free no: 0800 60 10 11
Website address: www.socdev.gov.za

