

Child trafficking focus

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THE Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) in conjunction with the department of social development have made an appeal to the public to hit "the red light" on child trafficking.

In light of National Child Protection Week May 25-31, the JCWS and the department have centred the campaign around informing the public and creating awareness about the brutality of sexual exploitation of children.

Spokesman of the JCWS Marihet Infantino said there was already an increase in child trafficking in SA and neighbouring countries.

"The theme focus for Child Protection Week, 'Caring Communities Care for their Children' aims to create awareness within the public and to educate families and their kids about the dangers involved," she said.

The department has said the

WORLD CUP: *Sexual exploitation to increase*



snip Mngadi said the department was working closely with NGOs and faith-based organisations to implement child protection programmes.

Child Protection Week campaign was initiated as a way of emphasising the role of the wider community in keeping children safe.

Spokesman for the social development department, Zanele Mngadi said in terms of our Constitution the state had an obligation towards the protection of children from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

"The Child Protection Week campaign was initiated in 1997 and has now launched the campaign on Facebook," she added.

Infantino said recently there had been plenty of children who jump the border and end up being sexually exploited and then used for trafficking.

She added that with the Confed-

KEEP KIDS SAFE. Teach your children their full names, address, and home telephone numbers.

erations Cup just around the corner, sexual exploitation of children is expected to rise dramatically.

The country is expecting to receive an influx of foreign soccer fans

that possibly include paedophiles who use events of this magnitude to abduct children.

"In preparation for the Confederations Cup and the 2010 World

Cup, brothels have already moved their businesses closer to the stadiums, children will be at high risk during these events," said Infantino. - lauren@citizen.co.za