

**YOUNG NURSES INDABA (YNI) - MEDIA STATEMENT  
RE: MINISTER OF HEALTH CALLS NURSES "DEVILS IN WHITE"**

Thursday, 12 May 2016

**BACKGROUND:** The NDoH has failed dismally to provide Nurses with uniform and protective clothing to prevent cross infection and uphold the rights of patients to be treated by well identified personnel. The ANC led government has ensured that this essential need to supply Nurses with uniform is omitted despite the fact that the previous regime upheld this good and safe practice. Today, 12 May 2016 on International Nurses Day Nurses after Nurses were instructed and forced to wear white clothing to impress the Minister who is failing to provide them with uniform only to be disrespected by the same Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi by being called "DEVILS IN WHITE".

YOUNG NURSES INDABA does not only condemn the utterances by the Minister of Health which are a clear transgression of our Human Rights as NURSES. The condescending name calling amounts to hate speech and perpetuates violence against NURSES by those they treat and the community at large. It is grossly irresponsible for the Minister to behave in this manner following deaths and attacks of NURSES by patients and their families on his watch.

YOUNG NURSES INDABA rise on a point of order and demand that the minister withdraws his reckless statement and make a public apology to the NURSES of South Africa that remain vulnerable working in unsafe hospitals and clinics under his leadership. If the Minister fails to correct this by Monday, YNI will be lodging a formal complaint with the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

[#NursesAreHumanToo](#)  
[#HandsOffOurNurses](#)  
[#PayOurNurses](#)

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