

## Girl Child gets reasonable education in South Africa

*Report by Precious Ramushu*

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on the launch of the State of the World's Children, 2004*

On 11 December 2003, a number of very excited children gathered at the Goethe Institute in Johannesburg. Under discussion were girls, their education and their development - especially in developing nations. It is/was such a crucial issue that people in high authority were willing to talk to learners. We were a little disappointed that the advertised guest, Mr Kader Asmal, Minister of Education, was unable to come. Luckily there was a representative.

Children and adults spoke and asked questions. It appears the girl-child gets a reasonable education in South Africa. Statistics seem to bear this out. A high percentage of girls is enrolled at schools. The questions are though - do they complete their schooling? Do they feel successful? Are they successful? The splendid day in the sun allowed all of us to realize again how important co-operation is.

Note:

Precious Ramushu one of the panel of eight children and young people who debated the issue of girl's education in South Africa with Thami Mseleku, Director General in the National Department of Education and a panel of education and children's rights experts. She is also one of the winners of the Model UN competition for schools.