

## Children in crisis

**T**HE ANNUAL South African Child Gauge, published by the Children's Institute at the University Cape Town, has become a vital instrument for us to understand the status of our children.

Its figures are rarely anything short of shocking, placing in perspective how painful it can be to be a child amid high poverty and dangerous levels of violence.

But the purpose of the gauge is not only to give us facts and figures to equip us with truth to present to those in authority. It's also, primarily, about working towards the dream of full human rights for all South African children. In other words, its role cannot be undermined. This is one of the most important publications of the year.

Reflecting on just over 18 million children in South Africa, the gauge, for instance, shows us that almost two-thirds are now on child support, most of them not living with a working parent.

That tells us a great deal about how the adverse socio-economic conditions in the country are damaging our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

The institute's work on the gauge helps us to understand. And once we have that, the responsibility turns on us to lobby the government to change the status quo.

## Say sorry to Diana

**S**UDDENLY, James Hewitt is a man to be remembered – for betraying someone with honour.

Doubtless Princess Diana's former lover won't be in a hurry to appear in public again after the disclosure that he had tried to sell private letters sent to him by Diana and Prince William.

Not that he did so openly – the letters were offered secretly to the highest bidder in the US. At first he denied the underhand move but was forced to come clean when confronted by a newspaper.

It goes almost without saying that developments will be closely followed by the British taxman.

In 2003, he attempted to sell the letters for £10 million but later retracted.

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