

PUPILS LEARN TO TALK ABOUT RAPE



Kids at Camp I Am light a candle of hope at their meeting.

By TSHEPO MOGOTSI
RAPE has been a burning issue in Mzansi for a long time and it's important for youth to talk about it.

For this reason, Camp I Am, which deals with different issues every year, will be giving youngsters a platform to discuss gender violence this year.

The camp, which takes place during the school holidays in Orange Farm, south of Joburg, was started during the 2010 Soccer World Cup and has in the past dealt with issues such as protecting the environment and climate change.

Founder Kai Crooks-Chissano told *Daily Sun* that she

is committed to bringing the best out in the kids.

"Despite the places our kids come from, they are very talented and just need to be nurtured," she said.

The kids come from 30 schools in the Orange Farm area. Most of the discussions they have at the camp are in line with what they do in life orientation at school.

Grade 10 pupil Andile Myeni (15) has been involved with the camp since 2011.

"Before the camp, I struggled with public speaking but since I joined I have had no problem because of all the debates we have.

"At school I am consid-

ered one of the best pupils in debating competitions and it's all thanks to the camp," he said.

Crooks-Chissano said they present the content in a way that is appropriate for pupils.

"We try to break down the information according to different ages, which helps pupils understand what is being discussed.

"Some kids might have been sexually violated without realising it was wrong and we want them to understand this," she said.

The camp is run together with Soul City, Love Life and the basic education department.