

# SCHOOL SCENARIO

## periods for hope

### **Scenario 1:**

Ziyanda is sitting in class. When she gets up from her seat, there is blood on her school skirt. Ziyanda has not realised but two boys have. These two boys begin to make sexual comments in a sarcastic way. Ziyanda does not understand what they are talking about but begins to feel uncomfortable.

**What do you do in this situation?**

### **Scenario 2:**

You have a good female friend named Mihlali. Mihlali and you are in the same Natural Science class and sometimes when you're absent from class, she leaves homework in your locker. This is different from Mihlali who never misses a day of school. However, one week in June, she misses three days of school. You begin to wonder where she is and so you ask one of her friends. Her friend tells you that Mihlali has gotten her period for the first time and that her father makes her stay at home because she is unclean and cannot work during this time.

**What do you do in this situation?**

# ANSWERS

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### Scenario 1:

Ziyanda is sitting in class. When she gets up from her seat, there is blood on her school skirt. Ziyanda has not realised but two boys have. These two boys begin to make sexual comments in a sarcastic way. Ziyanda does not understand what they are talking about but begins to feel uncomfortable.

### What do you do in this situation?

- You ask to speak to Ziyanda privately and tell her that she has leaked all over her skirt.
- You then either help her to the nursing station to get a sanitary product or advise her to change her own.
- If you feel Ziyanda might be uncomfortable talking to a girl, you ask a female teacher or her friend to assist. You can call the boy learners out on their behaviour.

### Scenario 2:

You have a good female friend named Mihlali. Mihlali and you are in the same Natural Science class and sometimes when you're absent from class, she leaves homework in your locker. This is different from Mihlali who never misses a day of school. However, one week in June, she misses three days of school. You begin to wonder where she is and so you ask one of her friends. Her friend tells you that Mihlali has gotten her period for the first time and that her father makes her stay at home because she is unclean and cannot work during this time.

### What do you do in this situation?

- The myth that girls are unclean limits Mihlali's access to education and this is a form of violence from Mihlali's father. Although it would be tricky to meddle with the father's strict rules, the myth of girls being unclean on their period is something you understand has a negative impact on education.
- So because of this, you collect homework or other important information from the Natural Science class and leave it in Mihlali's locker.
- When Mihlali returns from school, you can tell her that you'll support her by ensuring she has access to the parts of class she misses every month.
- This is important when ensuring she stays in school.