

## Xenophobia on Putco Buses.

Dear Barbara

Thank you so much again for all your support - it is so good to know that there are people in RSA who are willing to stand up for the abuse of foreigners and the violation of their basic rights. I'm sure that what happened to our nanny is not isolated and I would hope that all employees who observe this would take action immediately. Although Thandiwe, who works at Putco bus company in the drive report section (I assume that from her e-mail label) did not inform me of any specific action she took apart from asking us to get their names(which as you mentioned would be very hard to get), I believe she must have pulled some strings and spoken to people, since there has been a remarkable change in the behaviour of the bus driver this morning who picked her up for the first time in months and was totally quiet the whole time without mocking her or doing what he has done before.

See below what I sent Tandiwe.

I will stay in touch, but so far it seems your efforts and mine (and our prayers) have paid off.

Johan

Dear Thandiwe

Thank you for your prompt response yesterday in dealing with the evil of xenophobia that stuck its head out in the Putco bus company. Our nanny arrived on time this morning for the first time in months and was not traumatized again but happy. She told us that she was at the bus stop in Nelson Mandela Drive, Pretoria, before 6am this morning and the bus that has been passing her without stopping, stopped this morning to pick her up. He was also not rude to her like before - she is convinced that these drivers must have been spoken to by someone in authority since there was such a big difference in their response. The other commuters asked her if she was OK after the mocking and trauma of yesterday and tried to comfort and support her - which is really encouraging to know after everything that happened. I told her to still get the registration numbers of the bus drivers that are abusive or pass her by. I will contact you again as soon as there is anything and will also hopefully be able to provide you with registration numbers. I have to mention that the bus driver that picks her up in the afternoons at 16:45 Pierre van Ryneveld has always been very kind to her. I still hope that she would also in future be able to buy her own bus tickets and not be refused just because she is from central Africa and cannot speak a local dialect (apart from English of course in which she is very proficient).

I will also let the people I contacted at the UN and State Department for Xenophobia attacks know that you have stepped in and dealt with

this situation.

Kind regards

Johan Kriel

Hi Johan

I'm glad that things appear to have changed for the better. Remember too, that I tweeted that letter to PresidencyZA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again. I will of course take Roy's advice in future and send the complaint to the UNHCR and not the HRC. Their conduct was worse than disgraceful. I was shocked and very angry.

We have been down (internet) since this morning due to a Seacom cable problem but have been assured that at 12:30pm the fault would have been repaired. I will tweet your response soon thereafter.

Regards

Barbara Volkwyn