

Concern about graffiti

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Messages on the walls of a neglected Plumstead building have caught the attention of residents, who claim that they might attract more crime in the area.

The messages are displayed on the old Central Primary School building in Plumstead, which has been left empty and neglected for many years, dating back to apartheid.

The school is between Mile End and Edgeware roads in Diep River, close to the railway line.

Some of the messages read, "So you are not foreigners or guests but rather you are the children of the city of the holy ones. With all the rights as family members of the household of God you are rising."

"How do you feel about more compassion? God put individuals on places for a reason."

"Compassion: a strong feeling of understanding, pity or sympathy for the suff (ering)"

The messages have been written by one of 13 homeless people who are living in the toilets and showers of the neglected building.

Ray Reed, one of the neighbouring residents, says residents are concerned that the graffiti could



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attract crimes such as drug selling and prostitution.

The Bulletin spoke to two of the homeless who live in the building.

Lyndon Hendricks, 29, said there were about 13 people living in the toilets and showers of the school. He has been living in the building for about five and a half

months, he said.

Mr Hendricks has been living on the streets for more than 10 years. He grew up in Lavender Hill, and said he had to flee, after being involved in a gang shootout.

"I wasn't part of any gangs but my cousin was. He got out of jail in 2005 and he came to visit me. Next thing they just came from nowhere

and started shooting and I was shot in the leg. That's when I had to leave Lavender Hill. I've been living on the street since. I don't do drugs. Just cigarettes," he said.

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