



Zuid-Afrikaanshe Boer Republics

The BELA Act as Cultural Assimilation

Purpose

This attachment examines the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act (2024) as an example of contemporary policies contributing to cultural assimilation of the *Boervolk* through threats to mother-tongue education.

Overview

The BELA Act amends the South African Schools Act (1996) by granting provincial education departments authority to determine school language and admission policies (Clauses 4 and 5). While aimed at inclusivity, critics contend it centralizes control, endangering single-medium Afrikaans schools essential for Boer cultural continuity, including transmission of Scriptural principles in the mother tongue.

Key Impacts

- Projected decline in Afrikaans-medium public schools.
- Erosion of parental/community control over education in the mother tongue (UNDRIP Art. 14).

- Perceived as forced assimilation by prioritizing English for "transformation" (UNDRIP Art. 8).

Criticism Organizations such as AfriForum and Solidarity describe the Act as an "attack on Afrikaans education". Analysis compares it to historical assimilation policies.

UNDRIP Relevance

- Article 8: Protection against forced assimilation.
- Article 13: Right to revitalize and use indigenous languages.
- Article 14: Right to establish educational institutions in mother tongue.

Sources

- BELA Act text (Government Gazette, 2024).
- AfriForum and Solidarity statements (2024–2025).
- Video analysis: "BELA Bill as Cultural Genocide" (YouTube, 2024).