



Commission for Gender Equality
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

Media Statement

For Immediate Release: 12 May 2021

To: Editors, Producers and Reporters

CGE celebrates International Day of Nurses and Midwives

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) wishes to mark the International Nurses Day and the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, by commending all nurses and other health practitioners for their role in the fight against Covid-19. During these difficult times, nurses have been in the frontline to save lives and protect citizens against the global pandemic.

The theme for this year's International Nurses Day is, "Nursing: A voice to lead Lead-A Vision for Future Healthcare. Like doctors and other health care workers, nurses are at the forefront of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic." (WHO, 12 May 2021).

"The Commission appreciates both women and men in the nursing profession, who for decades, have been the face of South Africa's health sector. They have carried out our nation on their shoulders through the hardest of times, especially during the global COVID-19 pandemic", said CGE Chairperson Ms. Tamara Mathebula.

The CGE is committed to advancing gender equality and calls on all stakeholders and government to resource our health system and capacitate it to deliver quality care to communities. As nurses continue to work in the cold face of the epidemic, the CGE firmly believes that they must have access to sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) so they can safely provide care.



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CGE thanks nurses and midwives and implores South Africans to give the greatest respect to them for their courage and dedication to the profession. The CGE further extends the same courtesy to all health practitioners in the country as they continue to risk their lives and those of their families in ensuring a healthy nation.

ENDS,

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The Commission for Gender Equality is established in terms of Section 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in order to promote respect for gender equality and the protection, development and attainment of gender equality.

Twitter Handle: @CGE_ZA. Facebook Page: Gender Commission of South Africa. Toll Free Number: 0800 007 709. GBV Toll Free Number: 0800 428 428, Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150 Witness, Survivors and victims of GBV can send Please Call Me at *120*7867#