



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

**21 August 2021**

**For Immediate Release**

**CGE RESPONDS TO THE GRUESOME MURDER OF A FINAL YEAR LLB STUDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE**

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) will reach out to the leadership of the University of Fort Hare following the gruesome murder of a female student whose body parts were found in a bag this week. The CGE is saddened by this senseless killing, which adds to the list of gender -based violence (GBV) murder that took place during this year's women's month.

"These grim developments have darkened the meaning of women's month and we view the continued killings of women as an act of confrontation to the law by GBV perpetrators" said CGE chairperson, Ms. Tamara Mathebula. In the past three years, the CGE has been conducting legal hearings to assess gender transformation and gender-based violence at public universities and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges. Amongst other things, the hearings sought to ascertain vulnerabilities and GBV risks experienced by women in institutions of higher learning. More than 15 Vice Chancellors appeared before the commission to help the commission understand gender related problems at their institutions.

One of the numerous recommendations we made, was for the Department of Higher Education and Training to institute policies and procedures to deal with the scourge of gender-based violence at institutions of higher learning.



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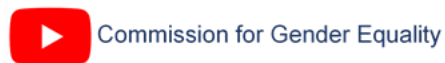
We urge the Higher Education Ministry to speedily ensure the implementation of the recommendations we have made in this area by various institutions. We further urge institutions of higher learning and members of civil society to engage students on programmes that seek to fight GBV. "We applaud the SAPS for the speedy arrest of the man suspected of having committed this murder, and call on the court to deny him bail," Mathebula added. The CGE is pleased by the swift action on the part of the University to offer trauma counselling support to students, and we call on other service providers to assist the university in this regard.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Head of the CGE, Mr Nceba Mrwebo will attend the suspect's bail hearing at the East London Magistrate's Court on Monday, 23 August 2021, to support the victim's family and emphasise the CGE's call for the suspect to be denied bail.

**Issued by Commission for Gender Equality**

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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 to promote respect for gender equality and the protection, development, and attainment of gender equality.

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#