



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

## **Media Release**

**For Immediate Release: 31 August 2021**

**To: Editors, Producers and Reporters**

### **COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY TO HOST A WEBINAR ON CHALLENGES AND VULNERABILITIES OF WIDOWHOOD: THE IMPACT OF PATRIARCHY ON WIDOWS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) will on Thursday – 02 September 2021 – host a webinar to discuss challenges experienced by widows in the South African society. A panel of speakers from non-governmental organisations, Department of Justice, and National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders will lead discussions on their loved experiences and existing support mechanisms for widows.

The purpose of the webinar will open a dialogue on societal stereotypes, myths, isolation, discrimination and harmful cultural practices experienced by widows. Furthermore, the webinar will highlight the role of women in sustaining these discriminatory practices, and raise awareness and empower men and women to become aware of the torment, cruelty, violation of rights and abuse of widows in the name of culture.

#### **The Panellists are:**

1. Reverend Mamorwa Gololo - Naomi Widows Forum
2. Awelani Madira – Widowed Foundation
3. Ms. Jakkie Wessels - Department of Justice
4. Nkosikazi Ngonyama - National House of Traditional & Khoisan Leaders
5. Dr. Nthabiseng Moleko – Deputy Chairperson, Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)
6. Mbangiseni Dzivhani – Author, Widow

#### **Facilitator**

1. Ms Dibeela Mothupi – Commissioner, Commission for Gender Equality.



The Commission hopes to package recommendations and outcomes of the webinar to change misconceptions, bring together different religions and cultures, influence the discourse at institutions of Higher Learning, and the content of curricula of Gender studies and related disciplines.

**END,**

**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#