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# NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

02 SEPTEMBER 2021

EDITION 10



@CGE\_ZA

## CGE Pushes for Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights

### Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights In South Africa



CGE chairperson Ms. Tamara Mathebula during the webinar on SRHR

The Commission for Gender Equality brought together stakeholders from across the gender sector to discuss the state of sexual and reproductive health rights for women in South Africa. The deputy minister of social development Ms. Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu provided a keynote address during the Tuesday webinar.

Bogopane-Zulu called on the gender sector to work together to change societal myths and misconceptions that continue to promote discrimination against young girls, "We still have situations where young girls below the age of 16 fall pregnant, and the parents allow the boy's family to pay them for the damages, therefore concealing and promoting statutory rape, and it is mostly women who allow and defend these cultural practices," the deputy minister said.

"Mostly we talk about young girls falling pregnant and attach the stigma to them. But nothing is said about the men and boys who make them pregnant" Bogopane-Zulu added.

Mr. Muzi Ndlovu, director of health education at the department of basic education, told the webinar that learner pregnancy is still on the rise in schools despite government having policies in place. "60% of children who start Grade 1 fall pregnant before Grade 12, and a high number of their pregnancies are caused by older men" Ndlovu said.

CGE chairperson Ms. Tamara Mathebula said the discussion on sexual and reproductive health rights, was a continuation of the commission's work to monitor policy implementation to promote the health rights of disadvantaged women and girls.

## Economic empowerment drive for women in the North-West

The CGE North-West office held outreach stakeholder engagement to promote women's economic empowerment last week in Lebaleng. They partnered with the provincial Department of Social Development, the Small Enterprise Development Agency, Department of Rural & Agricultural Development, Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism.

"We assisted our stakeholders in reaching out to women in rural areas, and share with them information about various funding programmes they run, which target women" said North-West Provincial Manager, Ms. Joyce Khutsoane. "All the partners we invited will play a role in availing funds for women with skills, we want women to be economically active" Khutsoane added.

## RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

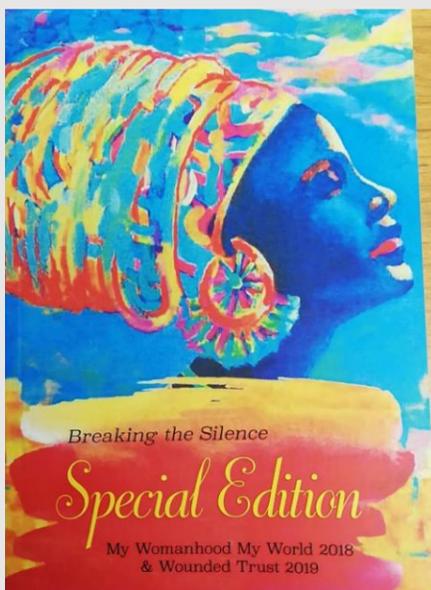
The Commission for Gender Equality would like to announce the following staff resignations. We thank the colleagues for their contribution during their employment with us, and wish them success in their future endeavours:

Mlondolozu Vava – Legal Officer, KwaZulu Natal Office.  
Tsietshi Shuping – Legal Officer, Northern Cape Office

The Commission would also like to announce the appointment of Ms. Mikateko Shipalana as Communications Administrator at head office, effectively from 01 September 2021.

We are pleased to welcome Mikateko and wish her a successful stay with us.

## Keneilwe's story writing success



Keneilwe Moamogoa of the Free State office is elated to have her short story published in a collection of short stories on the role of women in society. Here is what she had to say:

"I was nominated for the story '*Dark clouds to Sunrise*'. The Story was inspired by one of the dear women who is strongest, powerful, and determined in life. Even when she falls into the pit, she manages to pull herself together to gain more strength to fight back is remarkable women who never allows her challenges to block her purpose in life, she went through the most but never give up her dream. I salute to all women who got burn but never allows their scars of the fire shut their dream because they became true fierce in life"  
– By Keneilwe Moamogoa, Free State Office.